



Jersey Shore News

News Letter of the Jersey Shore Group

Vol. 2 No. 1

September 2001

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Jersey Shore Group Events

MONMOUTH COUNTY SECTION

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 8 P.M. on the FOURTH MONDAY of each month (except July, August, and December) at the Old Wharf House, Old Wharf Park, Main Street and Oceanport Avenue, Oceanport, NJ. Come early to socialize and enjoy refreshments. For directions and information, go to our website <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~njshore/> or call Marty Judd at 732-957-1493.

Monday, September 24, 8:00 P.M.: Does the high cost of electricity have you down? Rick Brooke from Solar Energy Applications of New Jersey, will talk about solar energy programs in the State. (See page 2)

Monday, October 22, 8:00 P.M.: You Are What You Eat. Learn the truth about genetically modified foods. Our speaker is Diane Beeny, GM Food coordinator for the New Jersey Chapter.

SPECIAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT: Coffee house with folk and Irish music and lots of goodies to be held on Friday, October 26 from 8:00 - 11:30 pm at St. James Episcopal Church, 69 Broad Street, Eatontown. Suggested donation is \$10.00 per person. Bring your friends. For info call Mary Lanko at 732-462-2199 or Diane Doolittle at 732-765-0053.

Monday, November 26, 8:00 P.M.: Autumn Green Night. Your chance to do something positive for the environment. We will present current environmental issues - you will write letters to elected officials and others.

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A Message from the Jersey Shore Chair

At last count, the Jersey Shore Group's membership was 2,867, up 16% from the same time last year. We are growing. That is not a surprise, considering what our political leaders in the State and the Federal governments are doing.

This is our second issue. Again the \$800 cost of the newsletter is funded by the NJ Chapter. Our budget does not allow us to fund the newsletter ourselves. If you appreciate the newsletter and our efforts in the local community, would you please send us a contribution? Checks should be sent to our Treasurer, Judy Maxcy, 1000 Tammy Court, Brick, NJ 08724, payable to the Sierra Club, Shore Group.

If you are driving in the metropolitan area, you must be noticing the effects of sprawl. We do our best to oppose it by participating in public meetings, talking to elected officials, and spreading the word in the news, but sometimes we should be more forceful, and go to court. If that seems like a good idea to you and you are willing to contribute towards a litigation fund so we can hire attorneys when needed or assist citizens in a private lawsuit, please contact me. We can discuss how you can help.

Hope to see you at a meeting soon,

Sierra Club Endorses Candidates for the Upcoming Elections By Laura Bagwell, Political Chair

The New Jersey Sierra Club has been interviewing candidates who would like the Club's endorsement for the election this November. The process is mostly complete, and we would like to announce the choices we have made so far.

This year the Club's State Chapter Political and Legislative Committees put together a list of important environment issues and created a questionnaire. The issues related to bills in the legislature dealing with sprawl, Highlands protection, family planning, clean air, and the Delaware deepening project. The questionnaire was mailed out to the candidates running for office and the local political committee interviewed those who responded. Votes by the local political committee, state political committee and executive committee decided which

candidates would receive the Sierra Club endorsement.

After reviewing the responses to the questionnaires and interviewing the candidates, the Sierra Club has endorsed those candidates who will support our initiatives and those who voted for the environment while in public office. So who did we endorse? See page 4, *Sierra Club Endorses*

Hikes

Yes, we do get outdoors. Our hike leader, Mike Verange, plans hikes in the two county area. In addition, you will find more outdoor activities in the Jersey Sierran and the Sierra magazine. This year hike participants will be asked to sign waivers. If you would like to help out and be a leader, we would love to have your help. For confirmation or questions please call, Mike Verange, (908) 902-0718, or email mjverange@aol.com

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Solar Generated Electricity, Now More Affordable

by Steve Knowlton

On March 1, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities announced a rebate program to help make clean energy affordable. This rebate program applies to solar energy (photovoltaic) systems, as well as fuel cells, small wind, and sustainable biomass technologies. The utilities will reimburse the customer \$5.00 per watt of system rated output for systems up to 10 kilowatt (KW), or, 60% of the installed cost, whichever is less. For higher rated systems, the rebate per watt is lower. Now more people can afford to install photovoltaic systems, a pollution free means of generating electricity. No global warming gases, no smoke, no use of non-renewable fuels.

To illustrate the savings, consider a 2.4 KW system. First calculate the net cost, then the savings. The actual rated output of one 2.4 KW system I looked at, was 2,256 AC kilowatts. Assuming that the system could be installed for \$22,000, the rebate would be \$11,280 ($\$5 \times 2,256$). Therefore, the net cost to the customer would be \$10,720. According to a brochure from a solar panel vendor, this system, if installed along the NJ coast, should produce an average of 260 kilowatt hours and be worth approximately \$28.60 per month or \$343 per year. To achieve this output, the orientation of the panels must be south, the tilt must be at the latitude angle (approximately 40 degrees), and there must be no obstructions such as trees or buildings.

These savings would repay the system cost in 31 years, or the return would be 3% on the investment per year. Returns will be larger if and when energy costs rise. Viewed from an environmental point of view, those who install the systems are helping to save the planet from global warming, reduce pollution, and conserve non-renewable fuels.

This is but a sketch of the program. Some information can be obtained via the Internet at <http://njcleanenergy.com/> and <http://www.state.nj.us/bpu/>. On September 24, the Shore Group will have an expert in the business speak to us at our general meeting. We hope to see you.

Conservation in Action

It has been a busy year for our conservation activities. We continued work in Jackson, in opposition to an 825-unit planned retirement community and golf course on 650 acres in Cassville. As a result of our work, the work of nearby residents, and the work of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the developer is being required to survey the land for endangered and threatened species. We also expect that it will have to reconfigure the golf course to avoid crossing some of the wetlands. The project is still before the Jackson Planning Board and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Janet Gearman, a Club member, is our point of contact and of great help.

This year we assisted local citizens to voice their concerns about another development planned in Jackson, a project called Four Seasons at Metedeconk. The project is on 415 acres containing wetlands adjacent to the Metedeconk River, near the Metedeconk National Golf course. Unfortunately we became active late in the process. In April 2000 the DEP issued a permit for the project, and in December 2000 the Jackson Planning Board gave conditional approval. We still have concerns because endangered or threatened species have been reported in the general vicinity of the site. Stan Greberis is leading the local citizens group.

In Monmouth County, we continue to urge that large portions of the former Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital be set aside for open space or continued farming. Instead, the town wants to use the open space for a golf course. A golf course is not the best use because it uses a lot of water and depends on toxic pesticides. The golf course would be next to the streams that feed the Swimming River Reservoir. Steve Knowlton is heading the Club effort. He gets a lot of help from Harold Zullo, who is leading a group of concerned citizens.

This year the Shore Group joined with other groups in opposition to the planned Middletown Town Center on 132 acres along route 35 just north of Kaness Lane. Traffic from the project will clog route 35. Instead, it would be better to reduce the scope for the project or have the space left open. Laura Bagwell is our spokeswoman.

The Group is taking action to urge a restrained response to the West Nile Virus. We are urging the Monmouth County Mosquito Extermination Commission to minimize the use of pesticides by cleaning catch basins and educating the public to remove stagnant water on their property. We are distributing form letters so county residents can request advance notification of spraying and also ask that the county not spray their property. Jean Roy is our spokesman.

We continue to watch for issues of State and National concern. For example, we recently wrote to Congressmen Saxton and Smith, urging them not to give the President Fast Track authority to expand NAFTA. We are not against free trade, but the agreements should not undercut our hard-won environmental laws.

Please join us in the Conservation Committee. The Monmouth County Conservation committee meets monthly, September through June. Contact Steve Knowlton, (732) 747-7011. For Ocean County, contact Michelle Dillon, (732) 341-7699. If you would like to make a difference, we can help you. NIMBY (not in my backyard) is not a bad word to us. Let's see if we can do something months or years before a project starts and not wait until the bulldozers arrive.

Hikes *Continued from page 1*

Sunday, September 9, 2001, Brookdale Community College/Thompson Park

Please join us on a moderate 6 mile hike that follows part of the perimeter of the Swimming River Reservoir. Hiking shoes are preferred. Please bring a drink and a snack. Take Garden State Parkway to exit 109. Head west on Monmouth County route 520, approx. 2 miles to Brookdale Community College entrance. Make first right and proceed to parking lot #1. Meet in back right corner at 9 A.M.

Sunday, October 7, 2001, Allaire State Park

Special interest - geology. Moderate 5 1/2 mile hike is located in the northern fringes of the Pine Barrens. Please bring a drink and a snack. Hiking shoes preferred. Meet at 9 A.M. at the large dirt parking lot, on the right, off Hospital Road, in Wall Township. Take exit route 34S off Garden State Parkway, exit 98. Turn right onto Allenwood Road. At "T" intersection, Ramhorn Road, turn right. Make left onto Hospital Road. The parking area is approx. 1 mile ahead on the right

Sunday, November 25, 2001, Manasquan River Reservoir

Special interest - birds. Easy 5 mile circular hike. One of the largest reservoirs in the area. We may observe water fowl. Please bring bird books, binoculars, drink and snack. No hiking shoes required. Great family hike. Meet at 9 A.M. at the main entrance of the reservoir, on Windeller Road. Take Garden State Parkway to exit 98. Head west on I-195 to exit 28 (route 9). Go north on route 9. Take first right onto Georgia Tavern Road. Go approx 1/2 mile and take next right, Windeller Road. Main entrance will be approx 1 1/2 miles on your left. Meet in the parking area on the far left toward the back.

Candidate Statements

Steve Knowlton

Background: Trustee of Lunch Break (90 - 93); President of Board of Lunch Break (92-93); life member of Sierra Club since 1984; chair of group Executive Committee since 1998; retired attorney.

In the last three years, I have enjoyed devoting large amounts of my free time to the activities of the Shore Group. During this time, we have taken an active role in fighting sprawl and saving open space. I would like to help more people become involved in our activities. We are not just conservation or going for a hike. We offer many opportunities for participation. Let's grow.

Stan Greberis

I founded the Turkey Swamp Alliance. We interact with Green Acres, Fish and Wildlife and local officials. I worked with government agencies to prohibit ATV's from using an environmentally sensitive site in Howell Township, Monmouth County.

I have worked with Sierra on trying to protect 420 acres in Freehold Township from development. The area is thought to be home to endangered and threatened species. We were successful in temporarily stopping the project. Due to our efforts the project will comply with the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program. I would work to highlight weaknesses in existing environmental laws and work to strengthen them.

Diane Doolittle

Member of ExCom since 1999; Wetlands Issues coordinator; member of Conservation Committee; Clearwater festival coordinator (2001).

Statement: I have played for and arranged the music program for the Shore Group's musical fundraisers, the Coffee Houses in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. I especially enjoy helping the Shore Group in this way and am now planning this October's event.

Fritz Schwager

Generally, I want to be on the board to work with like-minded people to realize a better environment. Specifically, I would like to see more local Sierra-sponsored activities. Through previous involvement organizing events, finding speakers, writing articles and mailing newsletters, I'm aware of jobs that can become tedious if not shared. I'm all for distributing the "load" and keeping tasks from being boring and mundane. Previous board experience includes:

Jersey Shore Group Ballot for Executive Committee

The following five (5) candidates, listed in random order, have been nominated for four (4) openings on the Sierra Club's Jersey Shore Group Executive Committee (ExCom). Spaces are provided for write-ins. Vote for four (4). The positions are for two year terms, beginning January 2002.

	*	Steve Knowlton
	*	Stan Greberis
	*	Diane Doolittle
	*	Fritz Schwager
	*	Judy Maxcy
	*	_____ (write in)
	*	_____ (write in)

* For vote of second member of joint membership.

Provide your membership number (**required**) _____
 Can be found on the address label of *Jersey Sierran* and *Sierra Magazine*

Return ballot in a sealed envelope to: Barbara Springer, ATTN: Elections Committee, 8 Whitesands Way, Little Silver, NJ 07739. **Your ballot must be received by December 3, 2001.**

- Audubon Society - upstate NY chapter - included running a 100 acre reserve/environmental center
 - managing the Oneonta (NY) Farmer's Market: advertising, facilities & vendor setup
 - editor & activities organizer for the Oneonta Rights Coalition (human rights and environmentalism)

Judy Maxcy

I have been on the ExCom for the past two years and would like to serve for another term. Being on the ExCom has helped me to become a more active member in the group than I was before being elected to the committee. I have helped the group by doing some tasks that needed to be done, such as, serving as Secretary by taking minutes for meetings, being a member of the election committee last year and helping out at various events sponsored or attended by the group, most recently at the Clearwater Festival.

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Sunday, December 9, 3:00 P.M.: No regular meeting in December, so celebrate the season by joining the Shore Group at our annual Holiday Party. This will take place at 3:00 P.M. in Freehold at the home of George Newsome. Need more information? please call George (732-308-1518) or Steve Knowlton (732-747-7011).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Group's Executive and Conservation Committees meet monthly. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call Steve Knowlton at 732-747-7011.

OCEAN COUNTY SECTION: Conservation/Business Meeting held the **SECOND THURSDAY** of each month in the Toms River area. For more information, please call Michelle Dillon at 732-341-7699.

Jersey Shore Group Events

Sierra Club Endorses

The Sierra Club endorses Jim McGreevey for Governor and the following candidates in the Shore area. In the 10th district, Timothy Ryan for Senate, David Wolfe and James Holzapfel for Assembly, in the 11th district, Steve Corodemus and Tom Smith for Assembly, in the 12th district, John Bennett for Senate and William Scherer for Assembly, and in the 13th district, Kevin Graham for Assembly.

Please vote in November and please support the environment.

Support the Shore Group!

Buy a Jersey Shore Group T-shirt - only \$12! Available at general meetings or by contacting Steve Knowlton. The T-shirt features the Sierra Club logo on the front, and the Jersey Shore Group logo on the rear. Be seen to support YOUR Jersey Shore Group.

Contact Information

The various activities of the Jersey Shore Group are organized by the following chairs

Group Chair	Steve Knowlton	732-747-7011, knowlton@worldnet.att.net
Vice Chair and Membership	George Newsome	732-308-1518, meiden@cybercomm.net
Secretary	Judy Maxcy	732-458-5074
Political Chair	Laura Bagwell	732-741-8678, laura.bagwell@ncr.com
Monmouth County Conservation	Steve Knowlton	732-747-7011, knowlton@worldnet.att.net
Ocean County Conservation	Michelle Dillon	732-341-7699 mdillon@adelphia.net
Ocean County Section Chair	Michelle Dillon	See above
Webmaster and Newsletter layout	George Newsome	732-308-1518 meiden@cybercomm.net
Treasurer	Judy Maxcy	732-458-5074
Outings	Mike Verange	908-902-0718
Program Chair	Marty Judd	732-957-1493 mjudd@worldnet.att.net
Wetlands Issues	Diane Doolittle & Joe Galacki	732-765-0053 d.doolittle@worldnet.att.net

Steve Knowlton can be reached at 77 Church St, Fair Haven, NJ 07704; Judy Maxcy at 1000 Tammy Court, Brick, NJ 08724.

Visit our website at <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~njshore/>