



Group News

FROM AROUND THE STATE

Northwest Jersey Group

(Sussex and Warren Counties, approximately)

Web site: <http://pepin.home.att.net>. We are also accessible from the NJ Chapter Web site.

OFFICERS:

Chair: Ellen Pepin 973-252-5137
 epepin@worldnet.att.net
Vice Chair: Joseph Pepin 973-252-5137
 pepin@worldnet.att.net
Treasurer: Donna Rubin 973-726-9278
Secretary: Debbie Hambright 973-729-8015
Political Chair: Dean Shemenski 908-684-1515
 dshemenski@billbehrle.com
Publicity Chair: Claire Cifelli 973-726-8606
Outings Chair: Vacant

Attention: Northwest New Jersey needs a strong Sierra Club to protect its environment from the challenges of increasing over-development. We need to have the commitment and talents of all of our members. We have a need for people to help us in our conservation efforts and we also need the help of people who are willing to serve as outings leaders. Please help us by completing the survey below and sending it back to Ellen Pepin, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna NJ 07876.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Our general meetings generally take place in Sparta, at 8pm. Please call for the dates and meeting place.

Jan 15: Pot luck supper at home of Ellen and Joe Pepin, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna, NJ Please call Ellen Pepin if you need directions.

NORTHWEST JERSEY GROUP ELECTION:

The ballot published in the Oct-Dec issue of this newsletter was **FLAWED**, so the election must now (sadly) be **REPEATED**. Group members should please clip and return the ballot below, by **Feb 28**, to: Sierra Club Group Ballot, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna, NJ 07876-1002.

GROUP BALLOT for Northwest Jersey Group

Executive Committee:

Vote for two candidates, maximum. The first column of boxes is for "individual" members. Family (joint) members are entitled to express two opinions by using both columns. (To learn more about the candidates, contact Ellen Pepin at 973-252-5137.)

- Ellen Pepin
 Joe Pepin
 Write in: _____
 Write in: _____

Your membership # _____

(found on the address label of this newsletter or your SIERRA magazine)

Volunteer Interest Survey - Northwest Jersey Group

NEW MEMBERS AND OLD . . . PLEASE HELP US UPDATE OUR VOLUNTEER DATABASE!!!

Grassroots action made the Sierra Club what it is today—the premier national organization working for, and winning, environmental reforms in our communities, our states, our nation, and our world. Let us know how you would like to be involved. Please fill out the form below and return to Ellen and Joe Pepin, 4 Cathy Place, Succasunna NJ 07876-1002.

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 E-mail: _____

SKILLS • KNOWLEDGE • ABILITIES

I would like to volunteer the following skills:

- Accounting/Bookkeeping
 Computer Expertise
 Cooking
 Data Entry
 Event Planning
 Fundraising
 Grant Writing
 Graphic Design
 Law
 Medicine
 Performing Arts
 Photography
 Political Organizing
 Public Speaking
 Research
 Teaching
 Visual Arts
 Web Design/Maintenance
 Word Processing
 Writing/Journalism
 Other: _____

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

I would participate in the following activities:

- Attend a Sierra Club Meeting
 Attend a Community Meeting
 Answer the Club's Phone
 Work at a Mailing Party
 Testify at a Hearing
 Phone Calling
 Fundraising
 Write Letters
 Perform Legal Services
 Greet People at Meetings
 Work at a Sierra Club Booth at Fairs and Events
 Positions
 Other: _____

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Sussex & Warren
Hunterdon County Group: Hunterdon
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth & Ocean
Central Jersey Group: Mercer

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

Hunterdon County Group

OFFICERS:

Chair: Ruth Prince 908-284-9103
 ruthp2@earthlink.net
Political Chair: Arnold Kushnick
 apkushn@eclipse.net
Co-Treasurers: Jeannie Geremia
 jeannieg@ptd.net
 and Arnold Kushnick
 apkushn@eclipse.net

For meeting times and locations, please contact Ruth Prince.

ACTIVITIES:

• **The Musconetcong Mountain** 90-acre proposed development in Holland Township received conditional pre-approval from the Holland Planning Board in October, despite massive citizen opposition and excellent media coverage. However, the approval imposed many conditions which may not be met, and there were legal irregularities in the approval process. Friends of Holland Highlands is mounting a legal challenge to the approval, and we continue to aid them. In further opposition to this proposed development, representatives of the Club's Hunterdon County Group and Chapter, in concert with Rutgers' Environmental Law Clinic, held a meeting with DEP in October regarding their practice of issuing stream encroachment permits for detention basins discharging to C1 streams. We have made it clear that if DEP issues a stream encroachment permit for this development, we will challenge it.

• We provided testimony at the Hunterdon County October DEP hearing on the draft NJPDES permit for the Milligan Farms development. Since Sydney Brook received a C1 designation in a DEP proposed rule entering the state register on November 18, 2002, we requested that discharge permits affecting this and other newly designated surface waters be frozen until final rule-making.

• During October we provided support to our endorsed political candidate.

• We respond to many citizen requests for advice regarding a broad range of environmental issues.

• We will be participating in Hunterdon County's Master Plan revision process, and will be involved with a County effort to design technically sound model ordinances for our municipalities to adopt as desired.

North Jersey Group

(All of Passaic County, Bergen County except for the eight southern towns mentioned in the Hudson-Meadowlands Group's description, below)

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Betsy Kohn 201-461-4534
 BetsyKohn@aol.com
Vice Chair: Hugh Carola 201-692-8440
 HCarola@aol.com

Conservation

Co-Chairs: Tom Thompson 201-848-1080
 etrans743@aol.com
 and Alexandra Sola 201-229-9638
 SOLAA7@aol.com

Membership Chair: Ellen Friedman 201-587-1263
 EFrie@rcn.com

Outings Chair: Kerry Miller
 ksmiller2@juno.com

Political Chair: Michael Cino 201-750-0447
 miata7@aol.com

Secretary: open position

Treasurer: Mary Ellen Shaw 201-489-1588
 MaryEllenShaw@msn.com

Highlands Committee: Bill O'Hearn 973-962-0562
 william_ohearn@juno.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CONSERVATION MEETINGS: Held at least four times a year (once every quarter). For date and location contact Betsy Kohn, Ellen Friedman or Hugh Carola (see above).

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held once a month at 7:30 pm on the following THURSDAYS and at the locations indicated:

Jan 23 at Paramus Public Library, E-116 Century Road, Paramus: "We are the Sierra Club" - an introduction to the conservation issues and hiking opportunities in northern New Jersey - video and discussion led by Betsy Kohn.

Feb 20 at Bloomingdale Senior Citizens Center, 101 Hamburg Tpke, Bloomingdale: "The Lure of Caves and Caving" - a slide presentation by longtime caver Adrian Sira, author of "A Guide to Responsible Caving" and instructor of vertical caving, about the fragile environment of caves and the adventure of exploring them. His talk will also include his 1991 caving experience in the Soviet Union.

Mar 13 at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood: "The Future of the Meadowlands" - a panel discussion with representatives from Hackensack Riverkeeper and the NJ Meadowlands Commission on the new Master Plan for the Meadowlands (to be published in early 2003). The plan, the first one to be drawn up since 1970, seeks to preserve 7,000 acres of wetlands and shift district development to brownfields and upland areas.

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30 pm on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of the month (EXCEPT JANUARY: SECOND Wednesday!) at Pompton Lakes Public Library, 333 Wanaque Avenue, Pompton Lakes, NJ. Everyone interested in Highlands conservation is invited. For information or to check the meeting schedule, contact Committee Chair Bill O'Hearn at 973-962-0562 or william_ohearn@juno.com

BECOME A SIERRA CLUB VOLUNTEER! Help with conservation issues to save our woodlands, wetlands and watersheds, and protect the Hackensack and Ramapo Rivers. Join the Highlands Committee (see above). Choose an issue to work on, such as water quality, air quality, brownfields redevelopment, environmental justice, nuclear energy, population, transportation, urban renewal, or wildlife and endangered species. Participate in our political endorsement process and help us interview State Assembly and Senate candidates next year. Work on public education programs, publicity, tabling at special events, river cleanups, petition drives, or fundraising. To find out how you can help, please contact Betsy Kohn or Ellen Friedman or Tom Thompson (see above).

E-MAIL NOTICES: If you would like notices of meetings, hikes and issue alerts, please send your e-mail address to BetsyKohn@aol.com. NB: it will not be shared with anyone else.

NORTH JERSEY GROUP ELECTION:

The ballot published in the Oct-Dec issue of this

The Survey Form above is relevant to ALL our Groups. Consider completing it!