



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 Shemanski	908-684-1515
	dshemanski@billbehrl.com	
Publicity Chair:	Claire Cifelli	973-726-8606
Outings Chair:	Jim Palmer	908-852-6966

Call to Action: 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. We would also like to see more people attend our monthly meetings. Come and meet your fellow Sierra Club members.

LOCAL ISSUES:

Route 15 Widening: from Wharton to its terminus at Rte. 206. The widening will not only disturb the central part of the highlands, but will lead to more sprawl development and more congestion. Anyone interested in helping please call Ellen Pepin.

Highlands Protection: A new Highlands Committee has been formed to seek protections for this valuable resource. If you are interested in helping please call Ellen Pepin.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

Our general meetings take place on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month in Sparta. Meetings are at 8pm. Please call for the meeting place. The next general meetings will be:

April 17: Hamburg Mountain: Dennis Miranda will talk about the latest happenings concerning the IntraWest development on Hamburg Mt. He will also talk about the wildlife of the area.

May 15: Endangered Species: We will have a representative of the NJ Division of Fish Game and Wildlife who will give us a presentation on the endangered species of NJ.

June 19: The topic is TBA. Please call or go to our website for further information.

Hunterton Group - Newly Forming!

(Hunterdon County, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Acting Chair:	Ruth Prince	908-284-9103
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The Hunterdon County group has just formed, following a unanimous vote by the Chapter Executive Committee on November 10, 2001. Our meetings take place at 7pm on the THIRD WEDNESDAY of each month at the Flemington Public Library, 118 Main St at the corner of Maple Ave. and Main St, Flemington.

Upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

April 17, May 15, June 19

Our group membership is currently concentrated in Raritan and Readington Townships, with some members from Clinton Township. In order for our group to better address all of Hunterdon County's issues, we request and encourage members from other Hunterdon County Townships to join us at our meetings. Please also feel free to email the acting chair, Ruth Prince, at princepho@sprintmail.com.

LOCAL ISSUES:

The proposed expansion of Soleberg Airport in Readington Township, funded by the New Jersey Division of Aeronautics, is a critical issue for the County. While this privately owned airport currently occupies only 57 acres, the private owner's complete holdings are 726 acres. The owner has been attempting to expand since 1969. The acreage includes state-endangered grassland habitat - which supports state-endan-

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

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

Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson 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

gered avian species, as well as wetlands and other environmentally sensitive elements. Readington Township has so far worked very hard to maintain its rural and historic character, and has been very aggressive in acquiring farmland and open space. The Township Committee has attempted to negotiate fairly with the owner, to acquire the property at fair market value and allow the continued use of the airport for recreational aircraft, under municipal control. The owner appears intent on runway expansion, which in the short term will invite business jets, larger aircraft and helicopters. In the long term, the acreage could be used for the many types of commercial development that accompany airport expansions. Note that both the LaGuardia and Morristown Airport sites are less than 700 acres.

Our Group's focus will be to encourage more balanced media coverage of this issue via press conferences and editorials, support and encouragement of the Readington Township Committee's eminent domain approach, community outreach, and participation in the public hearings. The Raritan Valley Group will be joining us in this important endeavor.

We continue to be involved in the Raritan Township proposed re-zoning of the Flemington Fairgrounds. The unique zoning designation being proposed could be used elsewhere in the Township to the advantage of developers. We support the Citizens for Parkland lawsuit against the Raritan Planning Board, and will continue to apply pressure to avoid further development and sprawl in our "hotbed of development" Township.

TRAINING and OUTREACH:

We plan on membership drives to increase our effectiveness in the County. We will also pursue training from our more seasoned Chapter members to increase our effectiveness. We will be conducting some educational outreach in the warmer months, to include a workshop on sustainable and pesticide-free gardening and landscaping. We also hope to put together a stream cleanup with a watershed association in the county.

North Jersey Group

(Northern Bergen and all of Passaic Counties, approximately)

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

Membership Chair: Ellen Friedman 201-587-1263

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Political Chair: Sue Hinsman 973-636-9166

suzieq@att.net

Outings Chair: Kerry Miller

ksmiller2@juno.com

Secretary: Sue Hinsman 973-636-9166

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Treasurer: Mary Ellen Shaw 201-489-1588

MaryEllenShaw@msn.com

Highlands Committee: Bill O'Hearn 973-962-0562

william_ohearn@juno.com

Invitation for all to attend an award ceremony and hike for Bergen County Executive Pat Schuber.

Date: June 1, National Trails Day

Place: Ramapo Reservation (by Scarlet Oak Pond)

Time: 10:30 am

Award and tree planting ceremony for various Bergen officials at 10:30 followed by a hike for all who attend. For more information, contact Tina Schvejda.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND CONSERVATION MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30 pm on the THIRD MONDAY of the month

at a location and time to be determined. Contact Betsy Kohn, Hugh Carola or Tom Thompson (see above) for more information.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

For the convenience of members, general meetings are held twice a month in two different locations — on the SECOND THURSDAY at the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue in Englewood, 201-567-1265; and on the THIRD THURSDAY at the Oakland Public Library, Municipal Plaza in Oakland, 201-337-3742. The meetings begin at 7:30 pm. Programs and locations are indicated below.

April 11: (Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood): "Tropical Ecology: Rainforests of the Amazon and Costa Rica" - slide presentation by naturalist and hiker Peter Kukle, based on his experience in these regions. With special attention to the vegetation, wildlife (especially monkeys and birds), and problems of deforestation.

April 18: (Oakland Public Library): "Tropical Ecology: Rainforests of the Amazon and Costa Rica" (see above, Apr 11).

May 9: (Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood): "Campaign to Close Indian Point" - presentation by Kyle Rabin of the Hudson Riverkeeper about efforts to shut down the nuclear plant, pending a full review of its vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, its security measures and evacuation plans. With some 20 million people located within a 50-mile radius of the plant, many New Jersey communities can play a key role in this campaign.

May 16: (Oakland Public Library): Program to be arranged.

June 13: (Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, Englewood): "Fixing Mass Transit in North Jersey (so folks will gladly leave their cars at home)" - a presentation by Ralph Braskett of the Committee for Better Transit about what realistically can be done to build a European-style integrated public transit system. With a review of the region's transportation history, public and private operators, decision-making, and future plans.

June 20: (Oakland Public Library): "Fluttering Gems of New Jersey," presented by Chris Williams of the North American Butterfly Association.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH CONSERVATION ISSUES AND POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS:

We are currently working to protect Sterling Forest, the Ramapo Watershed, the NJ Highlands, and the Meadowlands, and to keep commuter ferries and buses out of Palisades Interstate Park, and to save the Hackensack River's Van Buskirk Island as a passive park. We are also meeting with candidates for public office as part of Sierra Club's political endorsement process. If you would like to become more active and help with these efforts or with other issues, e.g., air or water quality, endangered species, transportation or environmental justice, please contact Betsy Kohn, Hugh Carola or Tom Thompson (see above).

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE: If you are interested in protecting the NJ Highlands from inappropriate development, come to a Highlands Committee meeting. To learn more, please contact Bill O'Hearn, Highlands Committee Chair at 973-962-0562 or william_ohearn@juno.com

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

Hudson-Meadowlands Group

(Hudson County and southern Bergen County: Lyndhurst, Rutherford, East Rutherford, Carlstadt, Ridgefield, Edgewater, Cliffside Park and Fairview)

OFFICERS (Provisional):

Chair: Steve Lanset 201-860-9870

slanset@hotmail.com

Vice Chair Louise Taylor 201-224-3754

& Membership: l.g.taylor@erols.com

Political Chair: Bob Honsinger 201-886-0919

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Treasurer: R. Jim Legge 201-876-1734

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Secretary: Tina Munson 201-941-5784

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Programs Chair: Joy Brown 201-886-8107

Outings Chair: Doug Held 201-610-9541

dritchardh@hotmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:

April 22: At St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Center, 8th and Washington Sts., Hoboken, 7:30 pm. Topic to be announced.