

May 13: At St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Center, 8th and Washington Sts., Hoboken, 7:30 pm. Topic to be announced.

NEWS:

Keep up with Group happenings at warp speed! Please send your e-mail address to Steve Lanset (slanset@hotmail.com) and you will be added to our distribution list. We are especially trying to network members who share similar environmental interests and to call meetings on shorter (two or three weeks) notice than usual. We are currently working on the Meadowlands Mall, Liberty State Park, and green transportation issues. Members are invited to help with these or other local issues.

Essex County Group

(Essex County, approximately)

OFFICERS:

Chair: Richard Isaac 973-716-0297
risaacx@aol.com

Membership: George Cluen 973-744-7430
gcluen@hotmail.com

Conservation: Chris Weis 973-746-0459
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and Kyle Lischak 973-218-9388
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Political: Janine Schaeffer 973-736-0898
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and Bob Wolff 973-509-7331
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Media: Camille Gutmore 973-667-2203
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Outings: Dave Ogens 973-226-7107
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Programs: Sue Slotnick 973-564-9589
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Treasurer: Lori Tanner 973-857-0519
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Secretary: Bob Wolff
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Envl. Justice: Dawn Breeden 973-763-8968
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Rahway River: Kirk Barrett 973-313-1218
kbarrett@cimic.rutgers.edu

ACTIVITIES: Working with the Sierra Club Loantaka Group to preserve wetlands in the Passaic River Basin, continuing to ensure that the Essex County Park and Open Space Trust Fund is implemented in a fair and consistent way, and addressing environmental justice issues.

****OPENINGS**** The Group has openings for those interested in our Wetlands Campaign Committee and for those who interested in environmental justice (EJ) issues! For those interested in our Wetlands Campaign, contact Kyle at 973-218-9388, or at: k.lischak@worldnet.att.net. For those interested in learning more about EJ or other environmental issues, contact Rich at 973-716-0297, or at: risaacx@aol.com for details! Thanks!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30 pm the FIRST MONDAY of the month. Please contact Rich at risaacx@aol.com or 973-716-0297 for the location, which may vary.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND THURSDAY of the month at the Verona Park Boathouse, corner of Lakeside and Bloomfield Ave., Verona (unless otherwise specified). For directions, please call Sue, 973-564-9589.

April 11: Spring has sprung and one of its early harbingers, bees, are busy harvesting pollen and nectar from early flowers. Join Joe Lelinho to hear about these gentle, hard working little creatures. Joe will bring an active hive whose queen will be laying eggs and newborn bees will be emerging from their cells daily.

May 23: Tour Montclair's Presby Memorial Iris Gardens at the height of their blooming season. This unique display garden was established in 1927 to honor Frank H. Presby, one of the country's leading horticulturists and a founder of the American Iris Society. Presby features a collection of approximately 6 species and over 2,000 varieties of world-famous irises, some dating back to the 1500's. A docent led tour at 6:30 pm will enlighten you to the diversity of the elegant and playful rhizome, the iris. Please note the different date and time for this month's General Meeting.

June 13: Farmland: Over the past 40 years, New Jersey has lost thousands of acres of farmland to industrial, commercial and residential development. This rapid development has brought former urban/suburban dwellers to communities where land is in active agricultural production creating a crisis to conserve the agricultural land base. Join Gregory Romano, from the State's Department of Agriculture, Farmland Preservation, in a dialogue of how to support the agricultural industry for which New Jersey was nicknamed.

Loantaka Group

(Morris and Union Counties, approximately)

web site: www.enviroweb.org/njsierra/loantaka

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Paul Sanderson 908-233-2414
paulmsanderson@aol.com

Treasurer: Jack Kopp 732-381-4919
jmk259@home.com

Secretary: Gail Chase 973-267-5769
chasegail@aol.com

Conservation: Open Position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson.

Morris County: Open Position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson.

Union County: Open Position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson.

Highlands Coordinator: Phil L'Hommedieu 973-425-2808
plhommedie@aol.com

Legislative Chair: Ken Johanson 908-464-0442
kjohan@home.com

Political Chair: Meiling Chin 908-490-1054
chinmeiling@yahoo.com

Programs & Calendars: Bob Johnson 908-771-9676
robert.johnson@comcast.net

Membership: Open position. If you are interested, call Paul Sanderson

Publicity Chair: Janice La Gala 973-895-2143
jlagala@cs.com (before 9pm)

Greenbrook: Bob Muska 908-665-2296
rmuska@erols.com

Invasive Plants: Franz Leinweber 973-328-4625
fjleinweber@aol.com

Air Quality: Bob Campbell 908-273-5720
wrobc@intac.com

The Loantaka Group Officers welcome the chance to meet you and to introduce ourselves at one of our general meetings. Please see the meeting schedule below and join us!

We have some open positions on our Executive Committee. If you are interested in becoming more active, please contact Paul Sanderson. Members are always welcome to attend an Executive Committee meeting.

To join our mailing list, send a blank email to: Loantaka-Group-Announcements-subscribe@topica.com

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Meetings are held on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm in the Library of the Chatham. You are invited to join us.

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Meetings are held on the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month at 7:30 pm in the Library of the Chatham, 214 Main St. (Route 124), Chatham. Everyone is welcome! Library phone: 973-635-0603

MEETING SCHEDULE:

March 13: National Outings: Have you ever considered going on one of the many National Outings that the Sierra Club offers each year but needed some incentive? Or are you an armchair traveler that enjoys seeing photographs that someone else has taken on their travels? Whichever you may be, come out for a scenic and informative slide presentation that Peter Weckesser has compiled from the 12-plus National Sierra Club Backpack and Service Outings that he has participated in over the years.

April 10: Watershed Protection: Michelle Burke, from the Great Swamp Assoc., will talk about watersheds, non-point source pollution and water runoff. Michelle also has a watershed model that shows visually how non-point source pollution effects the environment.

May 8: To be announced. Please refer to the website.

June 12: Meet Senator Bagger: Our very special guest will be Senator Richard Bagger. He was elected to the NJ State Senate in November 2001. During his 10-year tenure in the Assembly over 121 bills of which he was the prime Assembly sponsor became law, including measures concerning energy policy, open space preservation, and state budget. Senator Bagger is concerned with environmental issues and will share his experiences with us and answer questions.

There are no meetings in July or August. Enjoy the summer and we will see you in September!

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

web site: www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy

OFFICERS:

Chair: Mary Penney 609-688-0282
Penney4thoughts@aol.com

Vice Chair: Temporary Vacancy

Conservation Chair: Laura Lynch 609-882-4642
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Membership Chair: Corinne Egner
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Programs: Don Griffin
dgriffin@dvic.com

Ken Mayberg
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Publicity Coordinator: Janet Black
jblack8084@aol.com

Treasurer/Calendar Sales: Bill Wowk 609-587-0502
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Political Chair: Tom Zolandz 908-874-4194
earthsounds@yahoo.com

Outings Committee: Don Griffin (see above)
and Marv Levy 609-397-2951
mlevy1@eclipse.net

Park Issues Liaison: Pat Sayles 609-737-3753
plsayles@aol.com

Legal Issues: Ed Pfeiffer 609-581-1600
ECPFEIFFER@aol.com

Public Lands Issues: Dave Mattek 609-737-1342

GENERAL MEETINGS:

We hold our meetings at the Mary Jacobs Library in Rocky Hill the SECOND WEDNESDAY of each month at 7:30 pm. We welcome everyone to attend our meetings and help in some way. We are working on several critical issues: Reducing gridlock and sprawl in Central Jersey, Alternatives to the NJDOT routing of the Millstone Bypass, Water Quality, Access to public spaces, many more.

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS: North on Route 206 to just beyond Princeton Airport. Turn right (or east) at traffic light which is the intersection with Route 518. South on 206 to just past the traffic light for the Montgomery Cinema, turn left (or east) at the next traffic light which is Route 518. Travel east on 518 to downtown Rocky Hill. Library will be on left (setback off road). Park in lot and come to the second floor community room.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

April 10: Thelon River Sanctuary: Join us as we canoe the Thelon River Sanctuary in Canada's Northwest Territories. Kevin McCarthy will lead us on a slide show exploration of this vast wilderness. Enjoy the adventure, wildlife, geography and historic sites of this remote Arctic River.

May 8: "Living with Black Bears in New Jersey" - a slide presentation by Steve Ember of the Bear Education and Resource (BEAR) Group about the current bear situation, dos and don'ts when encountering a bear, and how we can peacefully coexist with bears. There was a move to hunt the black bear in New Jersey until this dedicated group, and many other citizens put pressure on Former Governor Whitman to declare a one -year moratorium on the hunting of black bears. There is no charge for this program and the public is cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

June 12: Appalachian Trail Program: Experience the Appalachian Trail (AT) through the slides of longtime hiker Don Griffin as he explains the project to improve the AT and get it away from main roads in certain sections. Learn tips for hiking the AT through New Jersey as well as other sections.

EARTH DAY EVENTS:

Join in the effort to improve Cadwalader Park in Trenton. This extraordinary park, designed by Frederick Law Olmstead, is about to celebrate its 100th birthday on May 25 with a huge festival and we're helping with the facelift! Volunteers are needed on Saturday, April 13 and Saturday, April 27 from 9am to 2pm to help with tree planting, weeding, painting and more. Please dress comfortably, bring along work gloves and water to participate! Hand tools, such as small shovels and troughs are also needed if you have them. Groups will meet near Ellarslie Museum on Parkside Avenue, Trenton. Check our website for detailed directions and times: www.english.upenn.edu/~llynch/sierra

WHALE WATCHING TRIP TO CAPE MAY!

Plans are underway to organize a whale-watching excursion on the popular Cape May Whalewatcher. Last year, the group had a great time so we are planning a repeat trip on June 2. See our website for registration and trip times. Send an e-mail to our membership chairwoman Corinne if you want to attend at conskayakr@aol.com

Sierra Club NJ Enjoy it...Protect It T-shirts.
All cotton t-shirts printed in earth tones are available while supplies last! The shirts were designed by wildlife artist Bea Bork and feature a bold design with a black bear, American Kestrel, and Blue Heron. Please specify size: s/m/l/x-large. Please send \$10.00 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling to: Sierra Club-Central Jersey Group PO Box 392 Rocky Hill, NJ 08553. Include name, address and phone number please!

(Continued on page 8)