

GROUP NEWS

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Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

This Group is reorganizing itself so that new members and leaders are very welcome.

OFFICERS:

Acting Group Chair: Steve Ember 732-926-8964
sehiker@yahoo.com

Group Vice-Chair: OPEN POSITION

Conservation Co-Chairs: Debbie Cohen
dabblerdeb@aol.com
Kathy Haskell
kmhaske5@aol.com

Political Chair: Dennis Anderson
dennisaza@aol.com

Treasurer: Steven Zawid
steven.e.zawid@intel.com

Programs Chair: Steve Ember
sehiker@yahoo.com

Membership Chair: Blair Weig
gverne@bellatlantic.net

Secretary: OPEN POSITION

Publicity Co-Chairs: Kristy Thronson
kthronson@earthlink.net
Michael Patton
mikepatton@att.com

ISSUES: (1) Coordinating efforts with the Hunderton County Group in opposing the extensive Solberg Airport Expansion in rural Hunderton County. Implementation of these plans will lead to noise, fuel and light pollution, increased traffic and adverse impacts on residential home values.

(2) Fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains, and steep slopes to protect threatened and endangered species in Somerset and Middlesex Counties. Stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and pushing through permits and variances to construct new homes.

(3) Continuing to monitor the environmental/health impact of the US National Stockpile Center in Hillsborough, which contains the largest depository of mercury in the nation. Assuring proper containment for existing mercury while lobbying for removal of mercury to another more suitable site.

(4) Stopping the Green Brook Flood Control Project. Besides wasting enormous amounts of taxpayer funds, this project will eliminate 100 acres of wetlands, build miles of tall unsightly levees, and increase development pressure in the area where people are now hesitant to build.

Openings: The newly re-organized Raritan Valley Group welcomes new members and activists. Currently, the positions of Group Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary are open. If you are interested in participating in the group's activities or filling any of the open positions, please contact Steve Ember, the Acting Group Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7pm, on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month, at the Somerset County Library on 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7pm, on the SECOND TUESDAY of the month, at the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church at 409 Mountain Avenue in Bound Brook. Take the Mountain Avenue exit off Route 22 towards Bound Brook. The church is on the right hand side at the first stop light (Union Avenue - Route 28).

April 9: The Amazon: Ted Settle will speak about his boat trips down the Amazon River with the NY Botanical Society. He will also present a video that he created and narrated which depicts aspects of the natural world as well as activities of the indigenous people.

May 14: Sierra Club Basics: Lori Herpen of the Sierra Club will speak and show a video about the Sierra Club - Who We Are - What We Do! Everyone is urged to participate and share their stories and viewpoints because we are a member/volunteer driven organization.

June 11: Benefits of a Four-day Workweek: Dan Aronson, Professor of Economics and Environmental Science at Raritan Valley Community College, will be speaking about the environmental benefits of reducing the work week, including reduced emissions, fuel consumption and road congestion.

BALLOT FOR RARITAN VALLEY GROUP OFFICERS (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)

Please vote for up to six candidates, and return the ballot by May 30 to: Raritan Group Ballot, c/o Bonnie Tillery (Chapter Secretary), 389 Sawmill Rd, Hamilton NJ 08620.

Steve Ember Kristy Thronson
 Debbie Cohen Michael Patton
 Kathy Haskell Write in: _____
 Steven Zawid Write in: _____

(The second column of boxes is for second members of family memberships.)

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth and Ocean Counties, approximately)

Web site: <http://njsierra.enviroweb.org/~njshore/>

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Steve Knowlton 732-747-7011
knowlton@worldnet.att.net
77 Church St., Fair Haven, NJ 07704

Vice-Chair: George Newsome 732-949-0812
newsome1@optonline.net

Secretary: Judy Maxcy 732-458-5074

Conservation:

Monmouth Co.: Steve Knowlton (see above)
Ocean County: Michele Dillon 732-341-7699
mdillon@americom.net

Ocean County

Section Chair: Michele Dillon (see above)

Webmaster: George Newsome (see above)

Treasurer: Judy Maxcy (see above)

Political Chair: Laura Bagwell 732-741-8678
lbagwell@rcn.com

Outings Chair: Mike Verange 908-902-0718
mverange@aol.com

Membership: George Newsome (see above)

Program Chair: Regina Maurer 732-335-1183
rmaurer@sprintmail.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 8pm 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, please call Regina Maurer at 732-335-1183, or visit our web site.

April 22: Geronimo Country: Arizona, the Grand Canyon State, has served as a crossroads where many different cultures and traditions have met and combined into a unique and colorful history, and present. From the 21 Indian tribes who own more than a quarter of the state's land, to the animal inhabitants (such as elk, coyote, bighorn sheep, mule deer and bald eagle) that roam the publicly owned lands, this state continues to play a lasting role in our country's ongoing history. Join us as group member Dennis Anderson shares his slides and recollections of his travels and years living in Southern Arizona.

May 20: Spring Green Night: PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN SCHEDULE—THIS IS THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH!!! Here is your chance to do something positive for the environment. We will present current environmental issues—you will write letters to elected officials and others. We supply the pens, paper, and stamps!

June 24: Let It Burn???: Should all forest fires be extinguished? Or do fires serve a natural purpose in forest ecology? Join us in learning what role fire plays in the forests of New Jersey and how it can be managed in such a densely populated state (no, we don't "let it burn" here!). Our speaker is Steve Maurer, Assistant State Fire Warden with the Bureau of Forest Fire Management, NJDEP. He will give us an overview of forest fire management practices in NJ, and may even share some tales of his adventures fighting fires, both here and out West.

SPECIAL EVENT:

June 8: Environmental Service Program: The Red Bank Environmental Commission has received a matching grant from the NJDEP to create a nature trail on a vacant lot on the river, creating public access to the river. The grant only covers the cost of the design work in this year's phase, and volunteers are needed to help implement the design. Volunteers will clear shrub and non-native plants, and prepare a trail approximately 100 feet long. The lot is located at 100 Locust Avenue, off Shrewsbury Avenue, in Red Bank. Volunteers are requested to bring work gloves, rakes, shovels, clippers and other digging implements, if they can. If you would like to help, please RSVP to Marty Judd, at 732/957-1493, or mjudd@worldnet.att.net, no later than Thursday, June 6.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Group's Executive Committee and Conservation Committee meet monthly at members' homes. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please call Steve Knowlton at 732-747-7011.

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

West Jersey Group

(Camden, Gloucester and Burlington Counties, approximately)

Web site: users.snip.net/~ginacee/home.htm

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Gina Carola 856-848-8831
ginacee@snip.net

Vice-Chair: (vacant: volunteer needed)

Secretary: Karen Zbikowski 856-667-8853

Treasurer: Trish Clements 856-768-5639
psclcm@aol.com

Publicity Chair: Bud Kaliss 856-428-8071
budmilmilbud@yahoo.com

Political Chair: Marie Hageman 856-589-0606
(vacant: volunteer needed)

Pinelands Rep: (vacant: volunteer needed)

Conservation Chair: Cathy Wisel 856-596-2771

Membership Chair: Mike Brown 856-547-9221
eyebrown@snip.net

Fundraising Chair: Reiss Tiffany 856-829-6405
r-stiffany@home.com

Programs Chair: Diane Gruszewski
skil@snip.net

Outings Chair: (vacant: volunteer needed)

Inner City Outings: Jennifer Grenier 856-582-5512
and Maxine Vogt 856-779-9156

GENERAL MEETINGS: are held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND TUESDAY of each month, at the Unitarian Church, 401 N. Kings Highway (Rte. 41), Cherry Hill (located between Rte. 70 and the convergence of Rtes. 38 and 73, just north of a traffic light at Chapel Avenue). Handicap accessible parking and entrance in rear of building.

April 9: Population Issues: The world population is 6.2 billion and growing. How does this affect us here in New Jersey and what can we do about it? Learn more about this Sierra Club major priority campaign of population stabilization/reduction of excessive consumption. Presented by Bonnie Tillery, Population Coordinator, NJ Chapter Sierra Club.

May 14: "Voices of the Earth": Diane McColley, a professor of English at Rutgers University's Camden campus, studies ecological issues in literature. In a talk titled "Voices of Earth: 1600-2002," McColley will explore the way that authors and poets have written about the environment and ecological issues over time.

June 11: To be announced. Check the web-site.

July and August: No meetings. Please join us on an outing.

ACTIVITIES:

The West Group is working to prevent the environmentally dangerous Delaware Deepening. We are also working on developing an Inner City Outings program and are looking for volunteers. Contact Maxine Vogt (above) or Jennifer Grenier (above) to help.

South Jersey Group

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

OFFICERS:

Group and Outings Chair: Tom Boghosian 609-272-9005
boghosia@atlantic.edu

Vice-Chair: Donna Strack 609-927-6344
dnzi@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Fred Akers 856-697-3479
akers@gowebway.com

Political Chair, Calendar Sales: Dick Colby 609-965-4453
dick.colby@stockton.edu

Membership Chair: Gary Roman 609-625-3438

Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Akers 856-697-3479
akers@gowebway.com

Cape May Issues: Douglas Jewell 609-463-8423
jewell@avaloninternet.net

Environmental Education Forum at Stockton College on Saturday, April 13: Club members are welcome to attend, without charge, a day-long series of workshops on topics ranging from the Pine Barrens to Global Warming. Booths will offer representatives of Water Watch, NJ PIRG, Clean OceanAction, and the Pinelands Preservation Alliance. Contact: Scott Ackerman: envledforum@yahoo.com

MEETINGS: Group meetings are usually held on the THIRD MONDAY of each month, at 7pm, usually at the Warren Fox Nature Center, Atlantic County Park, Estell Manor (4 miles south of Mays Landing on NJ Rte 50 — milepost 15). Best to call one of the officers to confirm each meeting - or (better yet!) send your e-mail address to dick.colby@stockton.edu and be put on a distribution list for notices of each meeting.

April 15: What to do about ATVs: Fred Akers, our Conservation Chair, will lead a discussion of Club, State, and regional governmental policies toward permitting the use of these noisy, polluting, and terrain disrupting abominations.