

GROUP NEWS

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May 14: The population of the world is 6.3 million and growing. How does that affect us here in New Jersey and what can we do about it? Learn more about the Sierra Club major campaign on population stabilization and reduction of excess consumption through this slide program presented by Bonnie Tillery, Population Issues Coordinator for the NJ Chapter.

June 11: We are delighted to welcome Senator Thomas H. Kean, Jr. as our guest speaker this evening. Senator Kean is serving his first term in the New Jersey State Senate representing District 21, which includes 16 towns in Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union counties. In January 2003 he was unanimously selected by Republican Committee members to fill a vacancy in the Senate left by the resignation of Richard H. Bagger. Senator Kean serves on the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee and the Senate State Government Committee. He will share his view of the environmental issues currently before our legislature. You will have an opportunity to learn and to ask questions.

July and August: No general meetings are scheduled. Have a great summer! See you in September!

Central Jersey Group

(Mercer County, parts of Somerset and Middlesex)

WEBSITES: www.sierraactivist.org
www.sierraactivist.org/getbusy

Co-Chairs: Harold Rapp 609-671-0435
HalRapp@aol.com
and Ed Pfeiffer 609-581-1660
ECPfeiffer@aol.com

Treasurer: Bill Wowk 609-587-0502
bwowk@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Laura Lynch 609-882-4642
llynch@mail.med.upenn.edu

Membership Chair: Corinne Egner
conskayakr@aol.com

Programs Committee: Ken Mayberg 609-443-9138
kjmberg@aol.com
and Lisa Ridge
lisa.haile@worldnet.att.net

Publicity Coordinator: Janet Black
jblack8084@aol.com

Political Committee: Tom Zolandz 908-874-4194
earthsounds@yahoo.com
and Kelly McNicholas
kellymcnicholas@hotmail.com

Outings Chair: Ken Mayberg 609-443-9138
kjmberg@aol.com

Wildlands Coordinator: Dave Mattek 609-737-1342
MattekDC@aol.com

Parks & Biodiversity Issues: George Schindler
GESchindlerJr@worldnet.att.net
and Pat Sayles
Plsayles@aol.com

Advisor: Mary Penney
Penney4Thoughts@aol.com

GENERAL MEETINGS:

We hold our meetings at the Mary Jacobs Library in Rocky Hill the SECOND WEDNESDAY of the month from September to June. We do not hold meetings in July or August, but often plan a group picnic or activity. We meet in the community room on the second floor at 7:30pm. We welcome everyone at our meetings and hope you can participate in some way. We are involved in many conservation issues at the local, state and national level.

Driving Directions: North on Rte. 206 to just beyond Princeton Airport. Turn right (or east) at traffic light on Rte. 518. Travel east on Rte. 518, which becomes Washington Street as you go into Rocky Hill. Library will be on left (setback from road). Park in lot and come to second floor community room. South on Rte. 206 past Montgomery Cinema and Shopping Center on left. At next intersection, get in left lane (WaWa on corner) and turn left on Rte. 518. Travel east on Rte. 518, which becomes Washington Street as you go into Rocky Hill. Library will be on left (setback from road). Park in lot and come to second floor community room.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Apr 9: The Sourland Region spans over 60 miles in seven municipalities-Montgomery, Hillsborough, East Amwell, West Amwell, Lamberville and Hopewell Township and Borough. It has undergone many changes and development in the past 100 years. Our guest speaker will be Jim Luce, Princeton Professor Emeritus, and author of New Jersey's Sourland Mountain. Come learn about such fascinating topics as Sourland "Ghost Towns," the Lindbergh Family and surviving villages.

May 14: Rick Cooper, a professional entomologist will discuss integrated pesticide management for your home and lawn. Rick will provide valuable information for the homeowner who wants to manage the chemicals used in the home.

June 11: Our speaker tonight will be from the Nature Conservancy and the program is about the Pine Barrens. We will discuss the ecology, culture and history of this precious and irreplaceable area.

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES: We experienced the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh by kayak and canoe last fall. Now is your chance to help spruce-up the banks of the Crosswicks Creek. This will be a joint project with Friends of Hamilton/Trenton Marsh. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 26. Please check our web site for further details or send an e-mail to HalRapp@aol.com with the title "Earth Day Volunteer."

Raritan Valley Group

(Middlesex and Somerset Counties, approximately)

OFFICERS AND CONTACTS:

Chair: Steve Ember 732-926-8964
schiker@yahoo.com

Vice-Chair: open position!

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

Membership Chair: Sandi Lowich
abstract46@aol.com

Political Chair: Dennis Anderson
dennisaza@aol.com

Programs Chair: open position!

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

Secretary: open position!

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

Webmaster: Don McBride
dtmcbride@yahoo.com

ISSUES:

We are fighting development along streams, wetlands, flood plains and steep slopes. Group members are involved in local issues, answering questions for concerned citizens regarding development and stewarding local master plan initiatives. This includes working to protect threatened and endangered species in these areas. Help us stop developers from buying sub-standard lots and obtaining permits and variances to construct new homes.

We are coordinating efforts with the Hunterdon County Group in opposing the extensive Solberg Airport Expansion project in rural Hunterdon County. Implementation of these plans will lead to noise, fuel and light pollution, increased traffic and adverse impacts on residential home values. A large underlying aquifer may also be affected.

We are monitoring the environmental/health impact of the US National Stockpile Center in Hillsborough, which contains the largest depository of mercury in the nation. We are calling for proper containment of the existing mercury while we lobby for removal of the mercury to a more suitable site.

We want to stop 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.

We have discussed various wildlife matters at our general meetings. Although the Black Bear issue has been prominent, we have identified a link between the development and hunting industries. At this point, we are continuing to have discussions without any specific actions planned. So far, we have been able to include various points of view and encourage other members to join in our dialogue.

Calling All Volunteers: The Raritan Valley Group welcomes you to our activities. Currently, several positions are open. If you are interested in participating in our activities or filling any of the open positions, please contact Steve Ember, the Group Chair.

GENERAL MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND TUESDAY of the month except for July and August. Currently, meetings are being held 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). The public is invited and refreshments are served.

Executive Committee Meetings: Held at 7pm on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month except for July and

August. Currently, meetings are being held at the Somerset County Library on 1 Vogt Drive in Bridgewater. All Sierra Club members are invited to attend. Please contact us first in case there is a change of plans.

April 8: Scenery and Geology of the Southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Martha Oliver Withjack and Jim Grieshaber will present slides of their trip to California in December 2002 and January 2003. The slides show the remarkable scenery and geology characteristic of the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains. Included are views of Mt. Whitney, the highest point in the lower 48 states; Death Valley, the lowest point in the western hemisphere; and Sequoia National Park, home of the largest living objects on earth. The diverse climate, vegetation, and geology of the area provide a varied and beautiful display of nature that is both provocative and fascinating.

May 13: Bicycling and Camping in Norway. Ken Mayberg, Outings Chair of the Central Group, will show slides from his exhilarating trip through Norway. Come and share his stories from an amazing adventure.

June 10: Energy Efficiency and a Shorter Work Week. Dan Aronson, a Professor at Raritan Valley Community College, will conduct an interactive session with us. Energy efficiency can enable us to improve quality of life while reducing costs. In turn, reductions in household costs can enable us to use increases in labor productivity to reduce the work week without a cut in pay. Sound too good to be true? In the 1st half of the 20th century, the work week fell by 25% while total pay increased. Currently, all other industrialized nations are reducing work time, leaving Americans as the most over-worked in the industrialized world.

Jersey Shore Group

(Monmouth and Ocean Counties)

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

OFFICERS:

Group Chair: Dennis Anderson 732-888-3158
dennisaza@aol.com
612 Second St., Union Beach, NJ 07735

Vice-Chair: George Newsome 732-308-1518
newsome1@optonline.net

Secretary: Judy Maxcy 732-458-5074

Conservation:

Monmouth Co: Steve Knowlton 732-747-7011
knowlton@worldnet.att.net
(vacant)

Ocean County:

Ocean County Section Chair: (vacant)

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
mjverange@aol.com

Membership Chair: Steve Treson 732-933-1487
xstre@comcast.net

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

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 8pm on the FOURTH MONDAY of each month - except in 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 28: Travel Time Join us for an interesting and enlightening visit to the land of the kiwi, New Zealand. Group member Marty Judd will stimulate our travel urge with slides of his vacation to this exciting land.

May 19: 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 23: What's Bugging New Jersey Now? The latest foreign insect to invade the Garden State is the Asian longhorned beetle. Join us as we learn about this potential scourge, and what is being done to stop it, from Barry Emens of the US Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection & Quarantine unit.

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 regarding the Conservation Committee, or Dennis Anderson at 732-888-3158 for the Executive Committee.

Group meetings offer interesting speakers, involvement, friendship, and usually food!