



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 (in absentia!)	
	epepin@worldnet.att.net	
Vice Chair:	Open position!	
Treasurer:	Donna Rubin	973-726-9278
Secretary:	Debbie Hambright	973-729-8015
Political Chair:	Dean Shemenski	908-684-1515
	dshemenski@billbehrl.com	
Publicity Chair:	Claire Cifelli	973-726-8606
Outings Chair:	Open position!	

NEWS: As you can guess, the Northwest Group is suffering "growth pains." Ellen and Joe Pepin are leaving New Jersey for a better economic climate! It takes active volunteers to operate the Sierra Club, people interested both in local issues (see below), and in the regional and statewide issues discussed at monthly Chapter ExCom meetings and pursued by our Issue Coordinators. Please read the editorial in this issue of the JS, and call Ruth Prince or Rich Isaac or any other officer if you want more information or would like to take part.

LOCAL ISSUES:

One issue we have been involved with is the proposed plan to widen Rte 15 from Wharton to its terminus at Rte 206. The widening of Rte 15 will not only disturb the central part of the highlands, but will only lead to more sprawl development and more congestion. Since Gov. McGreevey and the DEP have come out with their anti-sprawl plans and the "BIG Map" it may be a little easier to block those plans.

A second issue concerns the air quality in parts of Warren County. This is greatly affected by power plants across the river in Pennsylvania, one in Martins Creek and the other in Portland.

We have also helped a small number of families in Washington Twp. (Warren Co.) whose wells are polluted with the chemical MTBE. We provided support in appealing to local authorities and DEP for immediate help.

Sussex County officials seem to be trying to head off any state control of the Highlands region, which is a good deal of the county. There have been meetings of a new Open Space Committee and the County Strategic Growth Advisory Committee. Also, the Freeholders have passed a resolution stating that local officials should make up the majority of any agency that oversees development in the county. Their goals are not matched to the goals of the Big Map. We would like to hear from people who would be willing to attend meetings of the Freeholders and/or the Strategic Advisory Committee.

MEETINGS:

Our general meetings take place in Sparta. Please call for the meeting place.

Hunterdon County Group

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Ruth Prince	908-284-9103
	ruthp2@earthlink.net	
Political Chair:	Arnold Kushnick	
	apkushn@eclipse.net	
Treasurer:	Arnold Kushnick	
	apkushn@eclipse.net	

For meeting times and locations, please contact Ruth Prince.

ACTIVITIES:

We are involved with the development of the Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan, an effort that has been funded by the state DCA. This is a multi-year process (as all planning is!) beginning with defining the broad goals followed by the specifics for the county, as well as environmental indicators, looking at build-out analyses, etc. Since municipal representatives will be involved throughout this process, we are hoping that this plan will actually be followed. Our group continues to be the only environmental advocacy group present. We have also joined the County Planning Board's Environmental Toolbox Subcommittee spearheaded by one of our freeholders. We review draft ordinances designed to be environmentally protective and legally

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR GROUP (BY COUNTY)

Northwest Jersey Group: Sussex & Warren
Hunterdon County Group: Hunterdon
North Jersey Group: Passaic & most of Bergen
Essex County Group: Essex
Hudson-Meadowlands Group: Hudson & SE Bergen
Loantaka Group: Morris & Union
Central Jersey Group: Mercer
Raritan Valley Group: Somerset & Middlesex
Jersey Shore Group: Monmouth & Ocean
West Jersey Group: Gloucester, Camden & Burlington
South Jersey Group: Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland & Salem

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

defensible, which our municipalities can then use as needed.

We have opposed several DEP permits for groundwater allocation and stream encroachment throughout the county, using technical and regulatory arguments.

We have done childrens' environmental education at community and kids day events in the county, and would be happy to do more of the same at other events. Please contact Ruth Prince for information.

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	
	Anne Summers	201-825-8395
	annesumers@aol.com	
Membership Chair:	Ellen Friedman	201-587-1263
	EFric@rcn.com	
Outings Chair:	Ellen Blumenkrantz	
	eblumenkrantz@hotmail.com	
Legislative Chair:	Patrick Maloof	201-405-0970
	patrickmalooof@yahoo.com	
Political Chair:	Charlotte Foale	201-921-3059
	cfoale@aol.com	
Secretary:	open position	
Treasurer:	Mary Ellen Shaw	201-489-1588
	MaryEllenShaw@msn.com	
Highlands Committee:	Open position!	

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

GENERAL MEETINGS:

Held at 7:30 pm on the SECOND THURSDAY as indicated below. For directions or other information, contact Betsy Kohn (see above)

No general meetings in July and August.

Sept 11: at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center, 443 Van Nostrand Avenue, Englewood: Foreign Flora: Invasive Species in the Palisades - a slide presentation by Nancy Slovik, Director and Naturalist of the Greenbrook Sanctuary, on the accelerated appearance of non-native species and their ecological impact; plus current research on why this is happening and what's being done (new techniques).

HIGHLANDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS: Held at 7:30 pm on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month at Pompton Lakes Public Library, 333 Wanaque Avenue, Pompton Lakes. Open to all interested in Highlands conservation. For information, contact Bill O'Hearn at 973-962-0562 or william_ohearn@juno.com

LOCAL ISSUES: On our radar screen is the proposed development of Camp Todd's 73 acres in Oakland, now before the planning board. We are also concerned about the proposed 100-unit complex with 195-car parking lot on six acres lying inside 100 acres of Green Acres parkland in Franklin Lakes. To build the access road, the developer is asking to divert parkland which, if allowed, would be the first use of Green Acres parkland for private purposes. Another concern is the proposal to build a golf course and 103 luxury homes in the middle of Sterling Forest. If you would like to know more, please contact Betsy Kohn or Tom Thompson (see above).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: This summer and fall, you can work on our campaign to reinstate Bergen County's open space trust fund (which expires at the end of 2003). Or help endorse and elect pro-environment candidates to public office. Or work to conserve the Ramapo or Hackensack River watersheds or the NJ Highlands; or help with tabling at public events, publicity, river cleanups, petition drives, or fundraising. Or you can focus on an issue, such as air quality, environmental justice, nuclear energy, population, transportation, urban renewal, water quality or another of your own choosing. To find out more, please contact Betsy Kohn or Charlotte Foale 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. (It 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:

Chair:	Louise Taylor	201-224-3754
	l.g.taylor@erols.com	
Treasurer:	Open position!	
Secretary:	Tina Munson	201-941-5784
	artina@rcn.com	
Programs Chair:	Open position!	
Publicity:	Open position!	
Political Chair:	Open position!	
Membership:	Louise Taylor	201-224-3754
	l.g.taylor@erols.com	

NEWS: As you can guess, the Hudson-Meadowlands Group is suffering "growth pains." It takes active volunteers to operate the Sierra Club, people interested both in local issues (environmentally responsible development of the Hoboken waterfront area, oversight of Liberty State Park, motivations for using public transport, local parks, Meadowlands issues, etc.), and people interested in the larger regional and statewide issues discussed at monthly Chapter ExCom meetings and pursued by our Issue Coordinators. Hudson (and southern Bergen) County always presents interesting political election endorsement issues. Please read the editorial in this issue of the JS, and call Rich Isaac or any other officer if you want more information or would like to take part.

Essex County Group

(Essex County)

OFFICERS:

Chair:	Richard Isaac	973-716-0297
	risaacx@aol.com	
Vice-Chair:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913
	schatzidog@earthlink.net	
Conservation:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913
	schatzidog@earthlink.net	
Political:	Janice Desir	973-678-4580
	jtdesir@eden.rutgers.edu	
	Bob Wolff	973-509-7331
	robert_wolff@urcorp.com	
Media:	Camille Gutmore	973-667-2203
	cgutmore@hotmail.com	
Outings:	Dave Ogens	973-226-7107
	bandit29@aol.com	
Open Space:	Michel Cuillerier	973-736-0913
	schatzidog@earthlink.net	
Treasurer:	Lori Tanner	973-857-0519
	LJensen@montclairlaw.com	
Secretary:	Bob Wolff	973-509-7331
	robert_wolff@urcorp.com	
Fundraising:	Kim McGuire	973-275-1030
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Programs:	Sue Slotnick	973-564-9589
	PSue82@juno.com	
Membership:	Janine Schaeffer	973-736-0898
	jschaeffer@sealtechcompany.com	
Consumption:	Mike Minaides	973-470-0793
	msminaides@hotmail.com	
Rahway River:	Kirk Barrett	973-313-1218
	kbarrett@cimic.rutgers.edu	

ACTIVITIES: Working to preserve wetlands in the Passaic River Basin and remaining forested areas in Essex County, 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 (EJ) issues.

****OPENINGS**** The Group has openings for those interested in our Environmental Justice Campaign, our Wetlands Campaign, and for those who interested in recycling and consumption issues! For those interested in helping please contact Rich at 973-716-0297, or at: risaacx@aol.com for details!! Thanks!!