



# Sierra

Newsletter of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Group

## Special points of interest:

- Special Issue with Annual Ballot for Executive Committee Nominees
- The Nation is at a Turning Point on the environment. Remember to Vote on November 7th!

## Inside this issue:

2012 Executive Committee Candidates	1
PA House Endorsements	2
PA Senate Endorsements	4
2013 Sierra Club Calendar Order	5
Congressional Candidate Endorsements	6
Eastwick Community Threatened by Development	6
SPG Executive Committee Election Ballot	7
SPG County Committee Contacts	7
Obama & Casey Endorsed for Re-election	8

## 2012 Sierra Club Group Executive Committee Exercise Your Vote — Ballot on Page 7

### Deborah Barndt

I have lived in Bucks County since 2003, when I earned my MS in Physician Studies. I joined the Sierra Club in 2005; after the Sierra Club Bucks Group was disbanded, I remained active with the Sierra Club Pennsylvania chapter. I attended Sierra club leadership training in 2009; I also served on the Pennsylvania Coal Team under Randy Francisco, where I worked with other team members and other groups, such as Physicians for Social Responsibility, and had the honor of attending a lecture on coal by Dr. James Hansen. I currently serve Sierra Club as a member of SPG ex-com, and as co-vice chair of Sierra Club Bucks Committee. I work full-time as a PA; in addition to serving the Sierra Club, I am a member of The Union of Concerned Scientists, and the Bucks Transition Group. I also volunteer for the Doylestown Democrats.

### Pat Beaudet

I have been a volunteer for the Sierra Club for almost 20 years. My first undertaking was to recruit 75 volunteers for Earth Day on Belmont Plateau in 1992. My contributions to SPG have largely focused on organization, events, communications and fundraising. I have done

several “stints” as newsletter editor; organized successful Earth Day events in the 90’s, and worked to make the group leaders a cohesive, effective group. I held the chair position for 7 years and am happy to have turned it over to a younger member of the ex-com in January 2012. I have also represented the group at the PA Chapter meetings numerous times. My goal now is to stay on the executive committee as a “senior” member who has a broad knowledge of how the Club works at the national, chapter and group levels.

### Bill Brainerd

I’ve been active in the Sierra Club nine years. I’m political co-chair of the Southeastern PA Group. I and two of my colleagues interview candidates and recommend for or against endorsement to the Group and the State Chapter. In 2012 we’re endorsing at least 23 candidates for PA House, PA Senate, and US Congress. Since May 2006 I’ve coordinated an environmental lecture series at the Main Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia. Our November 19, 2012 lecture will be our 41st. Attendance averages 40. I lead hikes in central Delaware County, where I live, from spring to November. Usually

we walk 2-3 miles. The hikes are open to members and non-members. Attendance averages 8. I also attend meetings of the PA Chapter four times a year and serve as Chapter secretary. I have been an active fundraiser for both the Group and the Chapter contacting past donors by phone.

### Emily Davis

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on the Executive Committee of the Southeastern PA Group. I have enjoyed outdoor activity all of my life including camping, canoeing and snorkeling so my interest in conservation activities followed naturally. Through my work as an educator at the Boston Museum of Science I was involved in activities around the first Earth Day and that began a lifetime of effort to reduce my carbon footprint. I have lived in Philadelphia since 1984 and have been involved with a variety of volunteer activities including the board of Habitat for Humanity-West Philadelphia and the Session and Board of Deacons at my church, and board of a democratic club and a Democratic committee person. I am a member of a community garden and serve on the Com-

(Continued on page 2)

munity Harvest committee. I am also a sculler and am active in the management activities of the boat house.

#### **Mathew Himmelein**

Mathew has been a grassroots volunteer for more than 7 years on the Southeastern Pennsylvania Group of the Sierra Club, and an Environmental activist since birth. Having grown up in Philadelphia to parents in the peace, women's rights, and labor movements he has a lifetime of knowledge and passion for the issues that affect us all, especially in the environmental arena. This background, and environmental education at Temple University, drives him to help change the ugly status-quo of our environmental stewardship toward a new clean energy green jobs future our planet and people deserve. He has worked and volunteered with SPG for 7 years; specifically working for the Sierra Club and the BlueGreen Alliance and sitting on the Group Ex-Com contributing to the fight for our environment locally. For the last year he has chaired the Southeastern Pennsylvania Group where he has dedicated to making SPG a leader for the environment locally.

#### **Jeanette MacNeille**

A lifetime Sierra Club member, I take part in community and creek clean ups. I actively work for clean air and testify frequently at EPA hearings. I Co-Chair the SE PA Political Committee, which researches and interviews candidates at all levels of government. I am Borough Council President in Millbourne, PA. Recent environmental initiatives include: new trash/recycling cans reducing litter by 50%, improved curbside recycling; removal of invasive plants via goat herd rather than herbicides; passage of Act 167 ordinance for storm water control; planting of 150-300 native trees this year; authorized an energy audit and implemented its top recommendation: buying/upgrading the street light system, saving \$6,000 annually and reducing energy use by more than 20%. Completed a transit-oriented development plan for 18 acres near the Millbourne Station including a creek-side trail, a 'Complete Street' for bike/ped/walking as well as driving, recreational space and a 50-foot buffer for Cobbs Creek.

#### **Allan Walters**

Allan Walters is a retired sociologist and lives in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia. Previous work experience included a national, survey organization at Temple University and a consulting firm measuring IT expenditures and customer satisfaction in both the US and internationally. He is currently a member of Summit Presbyterian Church and chair of the Social Action and Environment Committee. As a previous member of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Climate Action Network he delivered a number of talks on Climate Change to individual Quaker Monthly Meetings. He installed a "white roof" on his own home and has sought to replace household systems with more energy efficient versions. He has attended numerous lectures and conferences on climate change and environmental issues. As member of the Sierra Club he participated in lobby days in Harrisburg and assisted Bill Brainerd in interviewing candidates for public office in the PA Legislature and the US Congress.

## **Southeastern Group's Endorsed Candidates for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives**

District 13—**Eric Schott**  
D challenger

Schott has taught social studies for 38 years in the Avon Grove School District. He was on the London Grove Parks and Recreation Committee 14 years, helping create a large forested park. He's knowledgeable about farmland easements, which save Chester County's rich soil as they save open space. An advantage of Act 319 Clean and Green easements is they can be revoked by the landowner.

District 26—**Mike Hays**  
D challenger

He's a Spring City Borough council member. As chair of its sewer committee he's aware of the problems of the Borough's 1920s treatment plant and combined sewer outfalls, which send untreated sewage into the Schuylkill in all but the smallest storms. There is no need for a Marcellus shale gas drilling moratorium to revise regulations because we know enough now to revise them. On global warming states must lead because

Congress is paralyzed.

District 31—**Steve Santarsiero**  
D incumbent first elected 2008

His HB 2414 would amend the recently passed Act 13, Marcellus shale legislation, to increase the bond a drilling company must pay to cover cleanup costs. It increases setbacks from water supplies. It restores to localities some zoning control over well siting. As a Lower Makefield Supervisor he persuaded colleagues to inven-

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

tory Township GHG emissions, set a target for their reduction, and prepare an action plan. He's on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

**District 70—Matt Bradford**  
D Incumbent first elected 2008

He was solicitor for the Norristown Solid Waste Authority. He had the good fortune to be named to the Appropriations Committee his first term in the House. His HB 2415 would end criminal penalties for doctors who disclose to patients what frackwater chemicals are making them sick. The bill is part of the Marcellus Compact of five amendments to Act 13, Marcellus shale legislation, sponsored by Democrats. In 2010 he voted for moratorium on new leases of state land for gas drilling and for a severance tax.

**District 141—Tina Davis**  
D incumbent first elected 2010

She was member and chair for five years of the Bristol Township Council when she helped stop an ethanol plant on 114 undeveloped acres along the Delaware River, despite high unemployment in the Township. She's introduced a bill encouraging governments and citizens to adopt zero waste policies, to reduce landfill volumes, incineration, and tipping fees.

**District 148—Mary Jo Daley**  
D Open Seat

Daley was for 20 straight years chair of the Narberth Borough Council. Narberth is an island of green with a big recreation area at its center. She has good command of local government issues like recycling and stormwater management. When the Sierra Club Building Environmental Communities campaign had an office in Narberth, 1993-4, Daley was active, volunteering for a leadership position.

**District 149—Tim Briggs**  
D incumbent first elected 2008

He's a outspoken on the issue of Marcellus shale. He favors drilling and leasing moratoria, a severance tax, disclosure of frackwater chemicals, stricter regulations on frackwater disposal, and requiring an air quality permit for drill pads. He voted against the last two state budgets for their funding cuts to the Department of Environmental Protection, among other reasons. He sponsors a bill to require the state to buy Energy Star appliances for its buildings and set energy efficiency standards for small appliances like a furnace fan, TV, DVD player, hot food holding cabinet, and fluorescent lighting.

**District 154—Steve McCarter**  
D Open Seat

McCarter retired as teacher from Lower Merion High School after 34 years. He's a lifelong liberal active on committees of the Democratic Party, PA State Education Association, Township Library, Historical Society and Sustainability Issues.

**District 156—Bret Binder**  
D challenger

Binder knows Marcellus shale gas drilling can both help and hurt an economy by discouraging tourism and straining infrastructure. He's knowledgeable about leasing or buying solar power with government help. Binder thinks global warming deniers might be convinced to change their ways by economic arguments.

**District 157—Paul Drucker**  
D challenger elected 2008, defeated 2010.

Drucker is a lawyer who while in office commuted to Harrisburg daily by train, refusing a state car. The Sierra Club endorsed him in 2010. He was

the first Democrat ever elected to Tre-dyffrin Council and to the state House from District 157. His bill to exempt school districts from their state-imposed spending cap for green amenities to school buildings passed the House unanimously. He got \$1 M from Governor Rendell for a solar array atop the Paoli superfund site. He is a vocal supporter of a severance tax on natural gas.

**District 164—Margo Davidson**  
D Incumbent first elected 2010

Her principal interest is helping black women entrepreneurs, but she organized a community cleanup and she voted to increase the share of the impact fee designated for Growing Greener and four times for an adequate severance tax. She voted not to divert conservation funding to natural gas projects.

**District 166—Greg Vitali**  
D incumbent first elected 1992

Vitali is peerless in the PA House. He was the first to introduce a global warming bill in the House. The bill became law, and he sat on the panel to implement it. He had the idea, later adopted by DEP, to offer townships money to prepare GHG action plans. Two years ago his bill for a moratorium on leasing of state land for gas drilling passed the House. He led against SB 367, which encourages state colleges to lease their land for gas drilling. He led against HB 1659, which sets impossible deadlines for the processing of applications for drilling permits and lets DEP hire private contractors to do the processing. He leads on HB 2113 to require air quality permits on drilling well pads.

**District 170—Brendan Boyle**  
D incumbent first elected 2008

Rep. Greg Vitali speaks well of him. Boyle calls himself a Green Dog, one

(Continued)

(From preceding page)

of a group of legislators concerned about the environment. He voted against Act 13, the Marcellus shale bill, because it deprives municipalities of control over the siting of gas wells and the impact fee was too small, especially because it gave so little to Growing Greener. He supports public transportation funding.

District 172—**Kevin Boyle**  
D incumbent first elected 2010

He's the brother of Brendan Boyle, D-170. He beat former House Speaker John Perzel, damaged by scandal, in 2010. The district is as gerrymandered as any in the state. Boyle voted not to divert environmental funding to gas drilling and against preemption of local zoning authority over drilling. He also voted for a severance tax and a higher impact fee on natural gas drillers.

District 188 —**Jim Roebuck**  
D incumbent first elected 1985

Roebuck has a PhD in history from the University of VA and taught at Drexel 14 years before being elected. He almost always votes for the environment. In the Marcellus shale debate he voted against diversion of conservation funding to balance the budget

and an end to floor debate. He voted for an end to expedited permit reviews. He voted for a severance tax, or, failing that, an impact fee.

District 190—**Vanessa Lowery Brown**  
D incumbent first elected 2008

Before being elected to the legislature in 2008 she was a full-time community activist. She's still much involved in meeting the needs of the people of her district. Her only child has asthma, proof to her of the importance of a clean environment. She is working to bring a farmer's market to her district.

District 194—**Pamela Delisio**  
D incumbent first elected in 2010

She was CEO of several retirement homes for 30 years. She doubts that a tax on natural gas would drive drillers out of the state. In addition to a cleanup bond, she thinks drillers should have to post a bond for damage done while the well is in use in case they go bankrupt. She opposes transfer of control over drilling from the municipality to the state. Recycling saves the City money because the materials collected can sometimes be sold and there is less trash to be disposed of, hence less tipping fee to be paid.

198 **Rosita Youngblood**  
D incumbent first elected 1994  
N Philadelphia

In the Marcellus shale discussion she voted for a severance tax and a fair impact fee. She voted for increased setbacks of well pads from water sources and not to raid conservation funds for well construction. In 2010 she voted to require makers of computers and TVs to fund recycling programs, and she voted for a moratorium on leasing of state land for Marcellus drilling. In 2008 she voted to require electric utilities to install smart meters which report the cost of electricity at any moment.

202 **Mark Cohen**  
D incumbent first elected 1974  
North Philadelphia

Cohen has supported home weatherization and hybrid cars for energy efficiency and renewable sources like solar. In 2012 he sponsored a bill to give a tax credit for half the cost of an electric car charging station. He co-sponsors Rep. Vitali's bill for a severance tax on natural gas and Rep. Dermody's bill to increase setbacks for gas wells in residential areas

## Endorsed Candidates for the Pennsylvania Senate

1 **Larry Farnese**  
D Incumbent first elected 2008

He holds the seat formerly occupied by Vince Fumo. Farnese upset a well-known union leader to win it. In the debate over Marcellus shale he consistently voted not to divert revenue from environmental programs to the general fund. He voted for a moratorium on new leases of state land for drilling,

higher cleanup bonds, increased setbacks between homes and water wells, and continued local zoning control over the siting of gas wells.

17 **Daylin Leach**  
D Incumbent first elected 2008

He taught constitutional law at Cedar Crest and Muhlenberg Colleges. He represented the 149th House district

for six years before being elected to the Senate, introducing more pro-environmental legislation than any other representative. In the Senate he's introduced bills to give physicians more freedom to disclose fracking chemicals to patients and to require more frequent DEP inspection of gas wells, increase water source setbacks, and restore local zoning authority over

(Continued on page 7)

## *2013 Sierra Club Calendars*

As the holiday season and new year approach, you'll want to order wall and engagement calendars for your friends and family who appreciate the natural world, stunning photography, and gifts that are both practical and beautiful. And they help support the Southeastern PA Group. Use the order form below to get your calendars today!

Calendar	Price	# Calendars	\$ Total
Wilderness (Wall)	\$12.95	x _____ =	_____
Engagement (Desk)	\$13.95	x _____ =	_____
		Subtotal	_____
Subtract discount:	15% for Sierra Club members 20% for at least 10 calendars = 25% for 25 or more calendars		( _____ )
		Subtotal	_____
Add Sales Tax - Philadelphia 8% (outside Philadelphia 6%)			_____
Add mailing charge:	\$4.50 for first calendar plus \$1.50 for each additional		_____
		GRAND TOTAL	_____

Please make your check payable to **Sierra Club - Southeastern PA Group**:

Include - Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone : \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this order with your check to:**

Sierra Club Southeastern PA Group  
 c/o Bill Brainerd  
 991 Palmers Mill Rd., Apt. 1  
 Media, PA 19063

For information, contact Pat Beaudet, [pbeaudet@juno.com](mailto:pbeaudet@juno.com) or 267-970-9856; or  
 Bill Brainerd, [wbrainerd3@gmail.com](mailto:wbrainerd3@gmail.com) or 610-325-3127.

## Southeastern PA Congressional Candidates Endorsed

**CD-01 Bob Brady**  
D Incumbent first elected 1998

Brady co-sponsored bills to install electric car charging stations in federal parking lots and to repeal an exemption for hydraulic fracturing in the Safe Drinking Water Act. He also co-sponsored another bill that would provide incentives to preserve land easements. He voted against a bill to require unnecessary cost-benefit analysis of federal regulations.

**CD-02 Chaka Fattah**  
D Incumbent first elected 1995

Fattah co-sponsored the clean water protection that extends coverage of the Clean Water Act to all waters of the U.S. in response to US Supreme Court excluding up to 20 million acres from CWA protections. He cosponsored a bill to form a Delaware River Basin Restoration Program to make grants for the improvement of water quality and wildlife habitat, and for flood control. In 2011 he voted against a bill that would require approval by both House and Senate within 70 days of

any new federal regulation, allowing either chamber to nullify any new rule. He voted not to exempt the federal government from having to pay attorneys fees when it loses in court.

**CD-06 Manan Trivedi**  
D Challenger

He's a primary care physician at Reading Hospital. He was a Marine Corps doctor in Iraq 2001-03. He understands the need for efficiency if the US is to be energy independent, new-able energy infrastructure will create jobs that can't be sent overseas. Coal worsens respiratory disease. Global warming is a public health issue because it causes famine, drought, and emigration. Incumbent Gerlach's 2011 environmental score was 34%.

**CD-07 George Bady**  
D Challenger

He's chair of the Radnor Township Democrats and a Center City lawyer. He was on the Democrats' legal team in 2000 for Bush v Gore. After his father died of lung cancer he sued

Brown and Williamson for its so-called light cigarettes because he thought he could win. Ultimately a court said they couldn't be advertised as less harmful than ordinary cigarettes. Global warming is real and caused by humans. Coal is a major source of GHGs and air pollution hence a threat to health. Electric cars are one answer. Build the Schuylkill Valley Metro if enough people will ride it. Incumbent Meehan's 2011 environmental score was 17%.

**CD-13 Allyson Schwartz**  
D Incumbent first elected 2004

She co-sponsors the Clean Water Protection Act and bills to create new wilderness areas, to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and to instruct the Secretary of Interior to protect roadless areas in our national forests. Another bill would provide incentives to preserve land easements. In 2011 she voted against repeal of the Antiquities Act which lets the President create national monuments without Congressional approval.

---

## Eastwick Community Threatened by Development

By **Robin Mann**

The Eastwick Friends and Neighbors Coalition (EFNC) sprang into action last spring in response to the proposed development of 128 acres on green-space abutting the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in SW Philly. Thanks to Councilman Kenyatta Johnson, the rezoning proposal was tabled to get input from the community on the development and the serious flooding conditions with which they've coped with for years. City Council has scheduled the hearing on Eastwick flooding for October 9.

Many are unaware of the horrendous treatment Eastwick endured in the 1950's when the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority seized 2,500 acres of land, including the land now at issue, by eminent domain forcing out 10,000 residents, razing houses, tearing up streets, and destroying the fabric of a stable and remarkably well-integrated community. Since then, the Eastwick community and neighboring Heinz Refuge have been disproportionately burdened with environmental problems like chronic flooding, air pollution from airport and highway traffic, and toxic contaminants from the two Super-fund sites in the Darby

Creek area. The Refuge is important to the region's ecology and the nation's lands legacy.

**Take action today!** Sierra Club members are urged to contact their City Councilperson and urge them to (1) oppose both the rezoning for the Korman development and the transfer of the remaining greenspace to the airport; and (2) to embrace a process for planning and problem-solving in Eastwick that befits a city that aspires to be recognized as the "greenest city in the nation."

**SPG Executive Committee Ballot 2013—2014 Term**

The Executive Committee is elected by the membership to set conservation priorities and oversee the management of the Group.

**Instructions:** Vote for no more than five candidates. If you are a single member household, record your votes in the first column; if you live in a two-member household, record your respective votes in the two columns.

**Clip the ballot,** fold in half, tape shut and enclose in an envelope along with the mailing label from your newsletter, or write your name and address on a slip of paper and attach.

**Mail to:** SPG Election, P.O. Box 34659, Philadelphia, PA 19101-3459, before December 31, 2012.

	First Member	Second Member
Pat Beaudet	_____	_____
Deborah Barndt	_____	_____
Bill Brainerd	_____	_____
Emily Davis	_____	_____
Mathew Himmelein	_____	_____
Jeanette MacNeille	_____	_____
Allan Walters	_____	_____



**SPG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The SPG Executive Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of the month in the offices of Clean Air Council, 135 S. 19th Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA at 6 PM. All members are invited to attend. To confirm date and time, contact Chair Mat Himmelein, [mathew.himmelein@gmail.com](mailto:mathew.himmelein@gmail.com), or 215-815-7757.

**BUCKS COUNTY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

Sierra Club members residing in Bucks County should contact Dave Meiser, [dhmeiser@comcast.net](mailto:dhmeiser@comcast.net) for information on local activities.

**CHESTER COUNTY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

Sierra Club members residing in Chester County should contact Mary Ciarrocchi at [italiangrden@comcast.net](mailto:italiangrden@comcast.net) or Leslie Siebert at [siebertles@gmail.com](mailto:siebertles@gmail.com) for information on local activities.

**SIGN UP FOR THE E-NEWSLETTER**

SPG publishes an online newsletter once or twice a month. To get on the list, send your name and e-mail address to Pat Beaudet at [pbeaudet@juno.com](mailto:pbeaudet@juno.com).

*(Continued from page 4)*

the siting of gas wells.

**19 Andy Dinniman**  
D Incumbent first elected 2006

In three terms on County Council he played a major role in writing Landscapes, the County's pioneering open

space plan. In a 2006 special election he won his Senate seat by upsetting Republican Carol Aichele, now Secretary of State. His SB 352 would put a moratorium on new leases of state land for gas drilling. He'd tax a driller who withdraws more than 750,000 gallons of water from a single source. He knows new gas pipelines can't be kept out of the County but can be

regulated. Counties should be able to tax gas reserves as they now tax coal reserves. He'd repeal that part of Act 13 depriving local governments of the power to zone out drilling.

# Sierra Club

Southeastern Pennsylvania Group  
P.O. Box 34659  
Philadelphia, PA 19101-4659

Fall 2012

---

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Permit No. 4559

---

*To explore, enjoy, and protect the earth*

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern/>

## IN THIS ISSUE

SPG Executive Committee Nominees .....	1
Endorsed PA House Candidates .....	2
Endorsed PA Senate Candidates .....	4
Sierra Club 2013 Calendars .....	5
Congressional Candidate Endorsements .....	6
Eastwick Development Call to Action .....	6
Executive Committee Election Ballot .....	7
SPG County Contacts .....	7

To sign up for online newsletter send email to [pbeaudet@juno.com](mailto:pbeaudet@juno.com)

### **President Barack Obama and U.S. Senator Bob Casey Endorsed by Sierra Club for Re-election**

Read more in Pennsylvania Chapter's  
Election Issue of SYLVANIAN!



**Remember to Vote on Tuesday  
November 7th**

This year's election will prove to be a crucial  
one for the environment, our families, and  
the future!

