



Sierra Watch

Newsletter of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Group

Special points of interest:

- Special Issue with Annual Ballot for Executive Committee Nominees
- All politics is local, remember to Vote in the General Election on November 5th!

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2013 Sierra Club Group Executive Committee Exercise Your Vote — Ballot on Page 7

John Butler

John Butler holds a B.S. from Georgia Tech and worked in inventory control, planning and purchasing, in the corporate world. His background taught him the value of conservation and efficient use of our natural resources.

He is currently the VP of Preserve Our Pennsylvania Towns, a Climate Change Project Presenter, certified as a Tree Tender with PHS, volunteer at the PRC weekly farmers market, member of the Brigantine Green Team and a consultant in utility cost reductions and sustainability.

He was a Marple Commissioner for sixteen years and some of the accomplishments were revising the storm water management controls, impact fee on new development to fund capital improvements in parks and recreational facilities.

I want to make better use of the internet to promote conservation to our members and get their feedback on their areas of interest they want for the Sierra Club. It is an organization I am proud to be a member of and would be proud to serve.

Anne Lovatt

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for about 20 years and became active in it about 6 years ago when I campaigned for Al Gore in 2000. I've had a love of nature since I was a child and started hiking and camping with the Girl Scouts at about ten years old. Still my favorite past-time.

I was at the very first Earth Day celebration on Belmont Hill in Philadelphia in 1972. I joined the SPG ex-com because of concerns with global warming and clean energy, hoping to make a difference. I have served as secretary, led hikes for our local outings, attended the chapter meetings and help wherever I'm needed.

I now have the honor of serving as chairperson of the group and am learning how to lead the group as best as possible. I would like to continue in this capacity and do much more.

Dennis Winters

Working since the original Earth Day to protect the natural environment, and as a member of the Sierra Club since 1980, I have been active with Club as

either a volunteer leader, an employee, or a contractor. I am a past Chair of the Pennsylvania Chapter and have also served as the chapter's Political Chair. Currently I am Vice-Chair, Conservation Chair, and Treasurer of the Southeastern PA Group here in the Philadelphia area.

In 2011, I received a lifetime achievement award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club for "dedicated volunteer service and outstanding work in pursuit of the conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's environment."

I also served 10 years as president of the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia, 2 years as president of the Green Woods Charter School board of trustees, and 6 years as chair of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's Regional Citizens Committee.

Jim Wylie

Jim is a graduate of Bucknell University with a BS in Electrical Engineering, holds a graduate certificate in Sustainable Development from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. Having spent 28

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years with Burroughs/Unisys, Jim is a full-time environmental advocate and part-time managing partner at Hybrid Cycles in West Chester, web designer and sustainability consultant.

Jim is an officer of West Chester BLUER and chair of the Transportation subcommittee. BLUER is a Borough subcommittee advocating the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. An active leader of the Sierra Club of Chester County and a contributor to the PA Clean Air Team, he works to promote clean energy and reduce pollution from fossil fuels.

"I'd like to increase the awareness of environmental issues impacting our area, including local pollution downriver, downwind and across the planet. Sierra Club has the scope and resources to make a difference in our lives and our children's lives."

Emily Davis

My interest in nature and the environment developed from childhood

scouting, camping and canoeing experiences. My lifestyle is an ongoing effort to reduce my foot print. I have had a number of experiences that might qualify me for the Executive committee of the Sierra Club of Southeastern Pa. These include serving on the boards of several organizations (local Habitat for Humanity Chapter, a Girl Scout Council, a wild-life area advisory council, church councils).

I am active in politics as committee person in my democratic ward and a member of Liberty City Democratic Club.

My professional life has been primarily in education, first as a museum educator, then in several positions relating to professional development and training of teachers. I am retired now and have spent the past two summers developing interpretive signs and programs for a state park in Maine as a volunteer.

Leonard Finegold

I just retired from teaching at Drexel University after many years in biophysics research on membranes and recently how creatures detect magnetic fields. I've also done research on lichen communities in the Antarctic, although never got there!

I have been a Sierra Club member for some 35 years, and have served on our Southeastern Group as a board member. I organized one of our annual dinners, for vegetarians and others. My contribution to the group would be as a member-at-large.

I was brought up in what was the largest city in the world, so I don't know where my interest in nature and the outdoors came from. I have backpacked on the Appalachian Trail, and down the Grand Canyon on a Sierra Club trip. Alas, 50% of knees permit only Bill Brainerd's local hikes, and car camping in Western Deserts, preferably without a tent.

LECTURE ON GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

Ms. Genna Reed of Food and Water Watch traveled by train from DC to Philadelphia to speak on September 23 to the Sierra Club of Southeastern PA and The Coalition for a Sustainable Future of the Community College of Philadelphia. Her topic was genetically engineered foods.

GE or GMO (genetically modified organism) foods contain foreign DNA that gives them a desired trait such as immunity from herbicides or pesticides. Monsanto's Roundup-Ready corn is undamaged by application of its herbicide Roundup (glyphosate) even as weeds die. Other GE crops are undamaged by application of pesticides that kill the corn borer or boll worm. Common

GE plants are corn and high fructose corn oil, cotton, soybeans, alfalfa, squash, and papaya. Bruiseless apples and potatoes may soon be marketed. There are no GE animals yet, though a salmon with DNA from Chinook and Atlantic salmon is being developed.

Europe has approved just two GE foods for cultivation, while the United States has approved nearly one hundred varieties.

Federal government regulation of GE crops is weak. EPA, FDA and USDA rarely say no. Tests are conducted and reported by the company, not the government. There are no tests after the crop has been ap-

proved.

By design or accident GE foods have taken over the world. 95% of seeds for corn are manufactured by six big GE companies. Farmers have to buy new seed yearly. If GE plants are found in his/her fields without being purchased, a farmer can be sued, even if the seeds blew there.

GE crops don't increase yields, which continue to rise at the rate they did before dominance of GE crops. They don't save farmers money because GE cost more than normal seeds. Also Roundup is so widely used 14 species of weeds have developed resistance and must be fought

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with additional herbicides. GE crops aren't good for the environment. They promote the use of herbicides which kill food for monarch butterflies and some stacked varieties contain neonicotinoids that kill bees. Crop rota-

tion and diversity produce better yields.

26 states including PA have introduced bills to require labeling of GE foods. CT and ME passed them but with a requirement one or more

neighboring states must pass the same law. None has. A labeling initiative in CA failed 53% - 47%. The PA bill is SB 653.

Southeastern Group's Endorsed Candidates in the 2013 General Election

Downingtown Borough Council Chester County

Ann Feldman, (D) Incumbent

She's founder and leader of Save Kar-don Park, 50 lovely acres of willows, ponds and greenspace near downtown where the Borough wants to build 310 apartments in multistory buildings. Feldman and friend Sarah Brown recruited well-known lawyer Sam Stretton to sue her colleagues pro bono in Orphans Court and won. The judge said that since the land was given to the Borough for a park or bought with state money to be used for park acquisition, it had to stay a park. The Borough appealed to Commonwealth Court, and the case is now back in Orphans Court. She opposes Borough plans to build in another park a skateboard arena that could damage an underground stream feeding a trout hatchery. She opposes a road that could bisect a third park. She questions a plan to build a backup water supply for the Borough using groundwater when the town has contaminated fill sites.

Phoenixville Borough Council Chester County

Kyle Guie, (D) Open Seat

On Council before he was forced to quit because of a long commute, he proposed a bike share program, electric outlets in a Borough parking lot, LEED standards for a new govern-

ment building, and a community garden. He worked for the Lancaster Farmland Trust saving agricultural land through easements and promoting best agricultural practices. He works for Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management helping municipalities apply for grants and suggesting transportation options. He praises State Senator John Rafferty for proposing the state spend more on transportation than the Governor proposed. The solution to global warming is urban revitalization and mass transit.

Tredyffrin Township Council Chester County

Mark Freed, (D) Challenger

He's a Philadelphia lawyer spending 80% of his time on environmental cases. He was lead counsel for the Southeast Region DEP in water and waste management civil cases. He's argued before PA Supreme Court and the federal Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He volunteers for the Philadelphia Global Water Initiative working for clean water and sanitation worldwide. He was on DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Board. In *Payne v Kassab* SCOPA established that the Equal Rights Amendment of the PA Constitution, Section 1 Article 27, has real legal force. It allowed DEP to refuse a permit for a landfill if the environment would be harmed, even if it complied with all other laws.

West Chester Borough Council, Chester County

Bill Scott, (D) Open Seat

He was on Council 1998-2006, part of the time as vice chair. He's a long-time member of the Sierra Club. He cofounded Friends of West Chester Parks and was for years active in 2020, a group implementing Chester County's comprehensive plan, one of the first to propose growth boundaries. He was on Council when it founded Borough Leaders United for Emissions Reductions, which convinced Council to put solar panels atop its new parking garage and buy more fuel-efficient vehicles. He'd cover the Wyeth brownfield with solar panels. He says he's more a planner than an environmentalist, but nature and greenspace are central to his urban vision.

West Vincent Township Council Chester County

Ted Often, (R) Open Seat

He's a highway engineer who manages stormwater during road construction. Often his company's customer is the state. He's knowledgeable of best practices like a silt fence, settling basin, or porous pavement. He chairs a Township task force to teach people alternate means of trash disposal like recycling and composting. West Vincent has fewer than 5,000 residents so

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has no recycling pickup. Otteni dislikes global warming deniers. Act 13 went too far in denying local government control over the siting of gas wells. He's the kind of moderate Republican for which West Vincent is known. The Township passed an open space bond issue and belongs to the Phoenixville Area Regional Plan. Noted environmentalist Claire Quinn, an incumbent Councilmember, recommends him for Council

Delaware County Council

Bill Clinton, (D) Challenger

As the only Democrat on the Upper Providence Council he proposed a Township-wide system of walking and biking trails to increase access to the newly-acquired 30-acre Lavin Tract. Backlash from residents who imagined intruders on their property led Republicans on Council to withdraw their support, though two helped him draft the trail plan. He wants to make global warming a priority issue for County Council. Goals must be set, plans written. He's aware of the close relation between air quality and health.

Haverford Township Council Delaware County

Gerard Hart, (D) Challenger

He's a salaried physician in a low income section of Philadelphia, where he sees many kids with asthma. One of his campaign issues is support for The Circuit, a 17-organization group working for more bike and hiking trails in Philadelphia. At one time he rode frequently. Global warming is a compelling issue deserving attention. Green roofs are a way to reduce stormwater runoff. Recycling saves government money by reducing the tipping fee on trash. More people recycle when they don't have to separate plastic from glass from metal.

Marple Township Council Delaware County

John Butler, (D) Challenger

He's on the board of the Sierra Club of Southeastern PA. He was on Council 16 years but was defeated for a fifth term. By profession he's an energy analyst whose job is to reduce electricity use. On Council he persuaded colleagues to buy renewable power, replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs, and replace traffic lights with LEDs. He asked them to do an energy audit of Township buildings. He distributed free water-efficient showerheads and persuaded colleagues to pass an ordinance that substantially lowers the amount of permissible runoff from development. He's a Climate Change Project presenter and Tree Tender of the PA Horticultural Society.

Millbourne Borough Council Delaware County

Jeanette MacNeille, (D) Incumbent

She's political cochair of the Sierra Club of Southeastern PA. For the last four years she's chaired the Council. She brought recycling to this borough of fewer than 5,000 residents, did an energy audit of the Borough Hall, installed energy-efficient streetlights and water-efficient toilets, reimbursed the public transportation expenses of Borough employees, planted 160 trees on public land, hired goats not machines to remove invasives from the banks of Cobbs Creek, and got grants for an environmental lecture series on Cobbs Creek and a transit-oriented development on the vacant Sears property that includes a trail and Creek access.

Radnor Township Council Delaware County

Diane Edbril, (D) Open Seat

She was the first executive director of Cease Fire PA. She helped expose corruption that led to the dismissal of

the Township Manager. Greg Vitali praises her. Global warming is a major problem and humans are largely responsible. She knows that green roofs capture runoff and cool building interiors, that recycling saves the Township money by lowering its tipping fee and profiting from the sale or recyclables.

Radnor Township Council Delaware County

Elaine Schaefer, (D) Incumbent

She's chair of the most environmental township in the County. Before her election she cofounded and led the Radnor Land Conservancy for six years. Under her the Council passed a strengthened tree ordinance that holds money in escrow to replace newly-planted trees in case they don't survive, participates in the TreeVitalize and One in a Million tree-planting programs, and hires a part-time arborist to advise residents and Council members. Radnor culls deer. A Green Council meets regularly with Township officials to lower greenhouse gas emissions. The Council wants to extend its popular rail-to-trail and buy 65 acres of open space.

Upper Darby Township Council Delaware County

Barbara Ann Keffer, (D) Challenger

She led the successful effort to switch her Township, notoriously resistant to change, to single stream recycling. For her work she got \$5,000 from Bank of America. The money had to be given to a nonprofit of her choice, so she chose the Darby Creek Valley Association, whose annual stream cleanup she now directs. She also led efforts to block development on two of the largest undeveloped tracts in the Township. Both developments are on hold. Man is responsible for most global warming. Excessive stormwater runoff is the result of overdevelopment and unmaintained storm drains.

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Abington Township Council Montgomery County

Lori Schreiber, (D) Incumbent

She persuaded colleagues to buy renewable power for the Township, helping to win a free solar panel for the library. In her newsletter to constituents she promotes work of the Township Environmental Advisory Board and Shade Tree Commission. She's knowledgeable about stormwater management with rain barrels, rain gardens, and pervious cover.

Ambler Borough Mayor Montgomery County

Jeanne Sorg, (D) Open Seat

She's the wife of former 151st House district Representative Rick Taylor, whom the Sierra Club twice endorsed and who is managing her campaign. She wants a sustainability plan for Ambler like Cheltenham's. To that end she'd do an energy audit of borough government, turn off lights and computers, and buy hybrid vehicles. She'd learn about ICLEI, a group

that helps government lower their greenhouse gas emissions. She'd tell constituents how they can lower their own GHG emissions.

Cheltenham Township Council Montgomery County

Mickey Simon, (D) Incumbent

In twelve years on Council he's supported expansion of the Township's park system, a riparian buffer ordinance to keep development away from streams, and the first sustainability plan adopted by a township in the region. He was Cheltenham's delegate to the Route 611 Multimunicipal Planning Group. Shirley Curry, wife of retired environmental hero Larry Curry of the 154th state House district, praises Simon.

Lower Moreland Township Council Montgomery County

Jill Blumhar, Incumbent

She has a BS in geology and works for an environmental consulting firm doing Phase I and II due diligences on properties for sale. She's on the County Planning Commission and the

board of the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, an exceptional hiking spot. Leslie Richards, County Commissioner, praises her. Because 80% of Township homes recycle, she argued unsuccessfully for trash pickup once rather than twice a week, lowering truck emissions. She helped establish a 27-acre park.

Upper Moreland Township Council Montgomery County

Lisa Romaniello, (D) Incumbent

She cofounded the Route 611 Multimunicipal Planning Group in which Upper Moreland, Jenkintown, Hatboro, Horsham and Cheltenham were to discuss shared problems of stormwater and transportation. It was the first regional planning group in the area. Ultimately it dissolved because governments were unwilling to take joint action. She favors a stormwater authority with taxing power. She chaired the Willow Grove Redevelopment Authority. She voted against weakening water quality regulations even though EPA had approved.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

Representative Greg Vitali has introduced HB 100 in the House. It would raise the amount of electricity utility companies like PECO must generate from clean, nonpolluting Tier I fuels listed in the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Act. Those fuels are solar voltaic and thermal, wind, low impact hydro, geothermal, biologically derived methane, fuel cells, biomass, coal mine methane, and black liquor from PA.

The Beyond Coal Campaign (BCC) wants HB 100 to pass and is

preparing to lobby legislators to that end. BCC is starting with the Senate, where Daylin Leach--eastern Montgomery and northern Delaware Counties, is about to introduce a companion bill to HB 100. Supporters say the best way to pass this important legislation is to build support among Republicans on board, so BCC is targeting these Republican senators:

- **Stewart Greenleaf, 12th District, Upper Montgomery and lower Bucks**
- **Charles McIlhenney, 10th District, Upper Bucks**
- **Dominic Pileggi 9th District, Lower Delaware and Chester Counties**
- **John Rafferty, 44th District, Northern Chester and Southern Montgomery**
- **Tommy Tomlinson, 6th District, Lower Bucks**

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Each is a moderate, judging by his environmental voting record in recent sessions. The Sierra Club endorsed Greenleaf and Rafferty in 2010. BCC is not targeting Ted Erickson because he has already agreed to cosponsor Leach's bill and isn't running for reelection.

BCC is also targeting Democratic

senator Anthony Hardy Williams-- southwest Philadelphia and eastern Delaware, whose support is less certain than that of other southeastern Democratic senators.

BCC is holding a houseparty in each senator's district, inviting Sierra Club members who are also constituents to lobby the senator in his district office. One such lobbying delegation is about to visit Senator Pileggi. BCC

thinks houseparties are a good way to recruit volunteers. It thanks Sierra Club members who offer to host a party.

The process is slow. We'll still be visiting senatorial offices six months from now. Our hope is to pass a renewable energy bill early in 2014, under a new governor and legislature.

Sierra Club and Friends Show Support for New EPA Rules During July's Welcome America Festival

In response to the prompting of the Pennsylvania Chapter, volunteer activists from Southeastern PA Group organized a very successful awareness-raising event during the "Welcome America" festivities held over the July 4th weekend. The Sierra Club's event, co-sponsored by the Delaware Riverkeepers, held at Penn's Landing, was designed to inform the public about the need to protect our waterways from toxic pollution from under-regulated coal plants. New rules were proposed by the EPA in April, and the Sierra Club wanted the public to know how important these new pollution standards are.

Our event featured a large "Living Mural" with a beautiful fish crafted by volunteer Bhawna Kasliwal on one side, and a message authored by Gillian Norris on the other—"Arsenic, Mercury, Boron and Lead—

Seep from Power Plants into watersheds—Support EPA Regulations to keep rivers clean—Our kids healthy, our environment Green".

On July 5, Robin Mann held a press conference, and gave a clear message to the public-- "1982 was the last year the EPA upgraded the safeguards for coal plants dumping toxic byproducts into our rivers and streams. Those current standards don't place ANY limits on the toxic

metals they can release!" While Robin was speaking, other volunteers held up the fish mural, and reversed the mural on cue, revealing the message on the other side. On both days, our volunteers, cheerful in spite of the heat, handed out flyers to the public, and got comment cards signed. This event got coverage on 6ABC TV and made Inquirer reporter Sandy Bauer's blog!

Thanks, volunteers!



Sierra Club Past National President Robin Mann addresses media and EPA regulations supporter at Penn's Landing.

SPG Executive Committee Ballot 2013—2014 Term

The Executive Committee of eleven members is elected by the membership to set conservation priorities and oversee the management of the Group. This year there are six positions open on the Executive Committee.

Instructions: Vote for no more than six 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
John Butler	_____	_____
Ann Lovatt	_____	_____
Dennis Winters	_____	_____
Emily Davis	_____	_____
Jim Wylie	_____	_____
Leonard Finegold	_____	_____



SPG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The SPG Executive Committee normally meets on 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 Ann Lovatt, annlovatt@verizon.net, or 610-308-2840.

BUCKS COUNTY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Sierra Club members residing in Bucks County should contact Dave Meiser, 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 or Jim Wylie at jim.wylie@verzion.net, 610-692-2831.

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.

Sierra Club

Southeastern Pennsylvania Group
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Fall 2013

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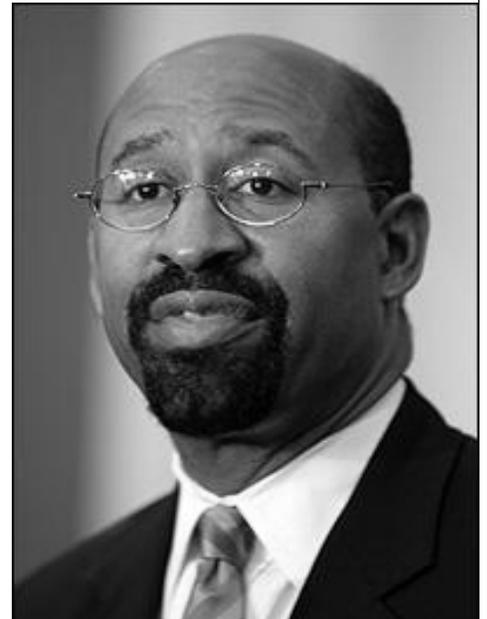
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To sign up for online newsletter send email to pbeaudet@juno.com

Remember to Vote on Tuesday November 5th

Every election in a democracy is a critical one for the environment, our families, and the future!



Sierra Club Recognized Philadelphia's Mayor Michael Nutter with a national Distinguished Achievement Award at a September 21, 2013 ceremony.