



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 4th!

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2014 Sierra Club Group Executive Committee Election — Exercise Your Vote Ballot on Page 7

Patricia Beaudet

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since the early 90's and on the Executive Committee since 1998. I have held many roles including newsletter editor, events coordinator, and Group chair. During my time with the Club, I have learned a lot about how things work and am able to contribute that knowledge as a member of the Ex Com. I am still serving as newsletter editor and enjoy working with the other communications volunteers to keep our members informed.

Bill Brainerd

I've been active in the Sierra Club about 12 years. I'm political co-chair of the Southeastern PA Group. This year SPG endorsed 20 candidates, a process that usually includes a questionnaire and interview. In addition, I am secretary for the PA Chapter.

I have helped to organize an environmental lecture series at the Community College of Philadelphia. For the last 8 years we've hosted 6 lectures a year. Attendance averages 35 people.

Between April and November I lead a hike every other weekend near my home in Delaware County. I strive to live a sustainable lifestyle. I ride my bicycle everywhere!

Mathew Himmelein

Mathew has been an organizer for 10 years with Sierra Club, and an Environmental Activist since birth. Having grown up in Philadelphia to parents in the Peace, Women's Rights, Environmental and Labor movements he has a lifetime of knowledge and passion for the issues that affect us and our planet. His degree in Environmental Policy and work on Environmental Education as President of Students for Environmental Action at Temple University prepared him to help change the ugly status-quo of our environmental stewardship toward a Clean Energy-Green Jobs future our planet and people deserve.

"I have volunteered with the Sierra Club Group Ex-Com contributing to the fight for our environment locally for almost 10 years. I have fought hard against Fracking, and have helped focus the Sierra Club on addressing this issue more

forcefully. Please vote for me for another 2 year term on the Sierra Club's Southeastern PA Group Ex-com."

Mike Hoppus

My interest and love of nature is the reason I studied Oceanography (BS) and then Forestry (MS) and became a professional forester, specializing in natural resource surveys. This allowed me to work throughout the US and other countries, observing and discussing major issues...mostly the degradation of forest and wetlands. I worked for the US Forest Service for 23 years, the US EPA for three years and the state of MN for 5 years. As a Sierra Club member, I participated in being the Chapter Chair of the Park City Utah chapter, worked to get Senator Reid elected...to get 700K acres of Nevada wilderness, worked to get Red Rock wilderness designation for UT and other areas.

Jon-Paul Jaworski

Jon-Paul holds a B.S. in Life Sciences from the Pennsylvania State University and has worked in R&D as a Biochem-

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ist and Cell Biologist at GSK for over 12 years. Growing up on the shores of Lake Erie in northwest PA, Jon-Paul has a deep appreciation for the value of clean water and healthy habitats for all walks of life, as well as the need to speak out and take action to protect these natural resources.

The bug for activism took hold during his undergrad years as a member of Eco-Action, Penn State's grassroots environmental club, where he took part in a multitude of actions and campaigns to educate and promote awareness around eco-stewardship. Currently living in Conshohocken PA, he has recently been

working with a core group of Bucks and Montgomery County residents to connect SPG goals and initiatives to the Philadelphia suburbs.

David K. Moscatello, Ph.D.

Dave Moscatello earned a B.S. in Microbiology from Penn State, and a Ph.D. in Biology with a focus on cancer cell biology from Purdue University. After teaching at Purdue and Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, he returned to research at the Kimmel Center Institute at Thomas Jefferson University, moved to the Coriell Institute for Medical Research, and recently re-

tired as Chief Scientist at American CryoStem Corporation.

Dave joined the Sierra Club in 1984 and has been active in the Indiana and New Jersey chapters. He planned to become more active after he retired. He believes that proper regulation of all forms of fossil fuels, from exploration to final waste disposal, will expose the fossil fuel-based economy as the unsustainable, uneconomic folly that it is. In conjunction with the rapid improvements in solar and wind power, He thinks we can transition to a greener civilization much more quickly than naysayers might think.

Air Pollution September's Educational Program

Marilyn Howarth, MD, spoke on air pollution to the Sierra Club on Monday September 15 at the Center for Business and Industry, 18th and Callowhill Streets. She directs the Center for Excellence in Environmental Toxicology (CEET) at Penn, one of 21 environmental health centers around the US funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH). CEET studies the effects of pollution on cells, children, lungs and genes.

The Clean Air Act of 1970 and subsequent amendments in 1990 have successfully reduced air pollution nationally. Why then have health problems like asthma not decreased?

Air pollution causes cancer, heart disease, and lung diseases including asthma. In parts of Philadelphia 21-27% of people have asthma, one of the highest rates in the US, where the average is 9.3%. Plus, there are significant disparities between neighborhoods.

Transportation, both on-road (trucks) and off-road (trains, ships,

planes), emit 65% of hazardous air pollutants in PA, 68% in NJ. Transportation and power plants are the main sources of small particulate matter which had been found to be the cause of disease, not larger particulate matter

Why isn't our air cleaner?

(1) Some dirty air floats in from abroad. 8% of CA's air pollution is from China, the world's largest polluter.
(2) EPA hasn't set standards for many hazardous air pollutants.

(3) Standards for criteria pollutants, especially ozone PM 2.5, are lax. Enforcement is left to states and is discretionary.

(4) Power plants and refineries are exempt. States seek compliance with no sense of urgency, rather than enforce the law.

(5) President Obama's new rule requires only an average reduction of power plant carbon emissions of 30%. Some plants may not have to change.

(6) There are no federal indoor air quality standards, though commonly used cleaners and pesticides contain carcino-

gens and any chemical spread by an aerosol is sure to enter the lungs. Someone pointed out the School Reform Commission will not allow NIH to measure the indoor air quality of Philadelphia school buildings. Howarth said many schools have mold.

The U.S. needs to develop the political will to build enough wind, solar, or geothermal installations to take the place of coal. She favors nuclear energy because the number of people injured by a coal-burning power plant rivals the number injured by a nuclear accident.*

*Sierra Club opposes nuclear energy. Visit www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern for a more detailed review of this lecture and for information on upcoming lectures.

Southeastern Group's Endorsed Candidates in the 2014 General Election

U.S. House of Representatives

District 1: Bob Brady (D), Incumbent League of Conservation Voters Score¹ (LCV): 83% (life time) 89% (2013). As minority chair of the House Committee on and reduced paper use by Congressional staff. In 2013 he voted against offshore drilling and a budget resolution that would have decimated EPA funding. He voted to continue an EPA study of and promulgation of rules for fracking.

District 2: Chaka Fattah (D), Incumbent LCV Score: 89% (life time) 89% (2013). Before being elected to Congress he served in the PA House and Senate. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee. His Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program offers grants to local governments trying to save energy.

In 2012 he voted not to eliminate climate change education conducted by the National Science Foundation, the President's authority to create national monuments under the Antiquities Act, and the law forbidding cars in wilderness areas.

District 6: Manan Trivedi (D), *Open Seat*

Born in Berks County, he currently lives in Birdsboro and practices internal medicine in Pottstown. He served in Iraq as a marine battalion surgeon. He believes it is part time to act on climate change. He supports the EPA carbon rule and believe we can cut CO₂ emissions by raising CAFÉ standards and providing incentives for renewable forms of energy.

District 16: Tom Houghton (D), chal-

lenger

Tom Houghton has served in the PA House. He has been active in his community in environmental issues including an open space bond. He supports the EPA carbon rule and wants to ensure its enforcement. The district is currently represented by Joe Pitts (R) LCV score 4% (life time) 8% (2013).

District 7: Mary Ellen Buchanis (D), Challenger

The district is currently represented by Pat Meehan (R) LCV score 7% (life time) 11% (2013).

Ms. Balchunis taught political science at LaSalle. She supports a fracking moratorium and recognizes the seriousness of the climate change issue and the need for action.

She shows commitment to environmental issues but is not endorsed because of lack of political record. The Sierra Club lends activity short of endorsement to her challenge.

Pennsylvania Senate

District 4: Art Haywood (D), *Open Seat*

Mr. Haywood is chair of the Cheltenham commission and of the committee that prepared one of the first sustainability plans adopted by a township in the region. He supports an extraction tax and a budget that gives DEP enough money to enforce drilling regulations.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives

District 31: Steve Santarsiero (D), incumbent
Environmental Score²: 100%

As a Lower Makefield supervisor, later

chair, he led the successful effort to make the Township a Sierra Club Cool City. In Harrisburg he's on the Transportation and Environmental Resources and Energy committees. He was a leader in the fight against Act 13. He supports a comprehensive study of the effects of fracking and the Delaware River Basin Commission fracking moratorium.

District 70: Matt Bradford (D), incumbent

Environmental Score: 100%

Mr. Bradford's proudest environmental moment was House passage in his first term of HB 2235 which established a three-year moratorium on leasing state land for drilling. He cosponsors bills to increase the amount of renewable electricity in PA, reserve Oil and Gas Fund money for conservation only, and stop leasing permanently. In Harrisburg, he declines a state car and cost of living allowance, and he voluntarily pays for part of his health insurance.

District 141: Tina Davis (D), incumbent

Environmental Score: 100%

As a Bristol Township supervisor, she helped block Dow Chemical's plan to build an ethanol plant on 114 acres of undeveloped land along the Delaware River, a politically courageous act because the plant would have brought jobs to a low-income area. She introduced a resolution asking state agencies to develop zero-waste programs. If it reaches the floor she'll vote against HB 2354 to require legislative approval of DEP's plan to cut CO₂ emissions by 30%.

District 148: Mary Jo Daley (D), incumbent

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Environmental Score: first elected in 2012.

While a Narberth Borough council member, she expanded business and plastic recycling. As a Sierra Club member, she was active in door to door work, volunteering as a team captain. She is a co-sponsor of HB 100 (amends Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act). She knows Marcellus shale is a threat to climate change because of accidental methane emissions.

District 149: Tim Briggs (D), incumbent

Environmental Score: 100%

Mr. Briggs earned a BA in political science is from West Chester and his law degree from Temple. Briggs is the primary sponsor of HB 1324 sets efficiency standards for appliances not covered by federal law, eg, TVs, DVDs, fluorescent lights, or furnace fans. He cosponsors HB 1579, requiring the Department of Health to identify and disclose to landowners the medical risks of proximity to gas drilling.

District 153: Madeleine Dean (D), Incumbent

Environmental Score: 93%

Ms. Dean from graduated LaSalle University and Widener Law School. She supports a 3% severance tax on top of the existing 1.9% impact fee on natural gas, the money to go to education and environment. She cosponsors HB 100 to raise the amount of wind and solar electricity that power companies must generate. She cosponsors HB 1500 to prevent diversion of Oil and Gas Fund money to the General Fund.

District 154: Steve McCarter (D) incumbent

Environmental Score: Elected 2012

Mr. McCarter is a retired high school civics and history teacher. He believes we must factors that cause climate

change and consider the effects of climate change in future planning. He is a co-sponsor of HB 100 and serves on the Environmental Resources & Energy committee. He has also introduced several bills related to environmental issues.

District 156: Sandra Snyder (D), Challenger

Ms. Snyder is lawyer working in municipal and criminal law She worked in Professor Ken Kristl's Environmental Law Clinic at Widener. She chairs the East Goshen Conservancy (ECG), a group of unpaid citizens trying to conserve natural resources. EGC comments to the Township on development plans. It also educates citizens and business people on environmental issues such as the importance of riparian buffer.

District 161: Leanne Krueger-Braneky (D), Challenger

For eight years, Ms. Krueger-Braneky directed the Sustainable Business Network which rates businesses on their attention to environmental and sustainability issues in their business practices. She helped found the Green Energy Task Force. To her, climate change is a huge problem for which humans bear much of the blame.

District 163: Vince Rongione (D), *Open Seat*

Mr. Rongione earned a BA in philosophy and law degree are from Villanova. Until he decided to run for this seat, he was a product liability lawyer. He has considerable support from the House Democratic Campaign Committee and from unions. He would to see transportation funding move from support of automobiles to other forms that use less energy. He also wants to cut emissions that cause climate change

District 166: Greg Vitali (D), incumbent

Environmental Score: 99%

The environment knows no firmer friend. He was the first to introduce a global warming bill in the legislature. He's prime sponsor of HB 100, to require utilities to generate 15% of their electricity from renewables, HB 1500, to prevent the legislature from diverting Oil and Gas Fund royalties supposed to be spent on conservation to the General Fund, HB 950 to lease no more state land for drilling, and HB 1579 to require land lessors to be warned of the health risks of gas drilling.

District 175: Mike O'Brien (D), incumbent

Environmental Score: 90%

His HB 1194 requires pharmacies to take back unused prescription drugs they sold so the drugs won't be flushed down the toilet. He cosponsors HB 100 to raise the amount of wind and solar power utilities must generate and HB 1500 to stop indefinitely the leasing of state land for gas drilling. In 2010 he voted to ban TVs and computers from landfills and require manufacturers to recycle them.

District 188: Jim Roebuck (D), incumbent

Environmental Score: 98%

Like many of his colleagues he thinks it's a poor choice to subsidize gas drilling but not education, so he favors an extraction tax. He's concerned about the environmental impact of gas drilling and wants drillers held accountable. He favors increased state funding for renewable energy and cosponsors HB 100, which raises amount of wind, solar and geothermal electricity a utility must generate. He cosponsors HB 950 to lease no more state land for drilling.

District 194: Pam Delissio (D), Incumbent

Environmental Score: 93%

She's a graduate of Penn State and worked for many years in long term

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care of the elderly. She supports campaign finance and reapportionment reform. She favors a 4.99% tax on natural gas and no impact fee, since all wells pay the same impact fee regardless of the amount of gas they produce. She recently voted against HB 2354 to give the legislature veto power over any DEP plan to cut carbon emissions from power plants.

District 198: Rosita Youngblood (D),
Incumbent
Environmental Score: 88%

She cosponsors HB 1579, a bill to require the state Department of Health to

study and identify the health effects of gas drilling and warn homeowners of them. In 2012 she cosponsored HB 1580 to raise the amount of electricity utilities must generate from wind and solar sources. In 2010 she voted for HB 2235, imposing a three-year moratorium on leasing of state forest land for gas drilling.

District 202: Mark Cohen (D), Incumbent
Environmental Score: 90%

He favors a 50% tax credit for the cost of installing an electric vehicle charging station. He favors a moratorium on new drilling permits while a commis-

sion studies the effects of drilling on water and air, disclosure of fracking chemicals, bonding requirements, impact on communities, and the rights of land lessors, neighbors, and those who own surface but not mineral rights.

1. <http://scorecard.lcv.org/>
2. <http://www.conservationpa.org/marcellusscorecard/>

Tom Wolf is our Choice for Governor



The PA Sierra Club's decision to endorse Tom Wolf (D) for governor was based on several factors, but most importantly, the critical need to replace an incumbent governor who consistently puts corporate interests over those of the environment and public safety.

Wolf, a successful businessman from York County and former PA Secretary of Revenue, holds positions on the environment are generally progressive, despite his unwillingness to support state-

wide bans or moratoriums on fracking. Wolf is on record for supporting restrictions on natural gas extraction in state parks and critical watersheds, and advocates investment and incentives for the development of alternative energy production. He embraces efforts to transition energy production from coal, oil and gas to clean and renewable alternatives such as wind, geothermal and solar, and recognizes the need for state government to address the very real threat of climate change. He supports local zoning for gas drilling as well as removal of the physician's "gag rule" exempting drillers from disclosing the chemicals they use in fracking.

Wolf's plan for a severance tax on natural gas would direct most of the revenue to public education and a portion of the

wide bans or moratoriums on fracking.

Wolf is on record for supporting restrictions on natural gas extraction in state parks and critical watersheds, and advocates investment and incentives for the development of alternative energy production. He embraces efforts to transition energy production

funds to localities and to the Department of Environmental Protection for enforcement. Some of the proceeds will also be invested in clean energy research and incentives, leading to "green energy" jobs.

Wolf said he would welcome the advice and counsel of the Sierra Club to help figure out "how to do things right" on the many environmental issues facing Pennsylvania, and lists John Hangar, Katie McGinty and John Quigley as environmental advisors.

As governor, Tom Wolf said that he would appoint qualified people to lead the departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources and would appoint experienced agency heads that are committed to using sound science in their decision-making.

The People's Climate March

PHL Area Volunteers Lead The Way

A coalition of Delaware Valley volunteers from environmental, faith, academic and social justice organizations joined forces to promote and help transport people to the People's Climate March on September 21st in New York City - the largest climate event in history. About 35 Sierra Club volunteers (thank you) joined forces with 350/Philly to fill 16 buses for the day trip. I am happy to report that no one was left behind and all had a positive and moving experience at the march - along with 400,000 of our new friends.

SPG sponsored riders from the Philadelphia Vet Center and the community of Eastwick - a waterfront community that is on the front lines of climate disruption.

The turnout for **the march exceeded everyone's expectations** with reports of 400,000 people jamming the 3 mile march route and staging area as well as many side streets.

Check the SPG website for a few pic-



tures taken by our marchers as well as links to news articles about local actions - pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern/Events.html#pcm

The climate movement is building and Sierra Club of Southeastern PA is proud to be a part of it. Watch for actions we

will be organizing to promote the transition to clean energy, protest for environmental justice and call attention to the impacts for mining and drilling for fossil fuels.

Carbon Rule Work Continues

We reported in the summer issue that the EPA has proposed a rule to limit carbon emissions by existing power plants. Known as the Clean Power Plan, it is the single most important step the EPA can take under current law. The rule sets state level reduction targets, but allows each state to develop its own plan for meeting them.

The targets which seek to reduce emissions 31% from 2005 levels by 2030 are not enough to address Pennsylvania's contribution to global warming - 1% of global emissions - but are a good start. Sierra Club helped bring hundreds of rule supporters to late July hearings in Washington D.C. and Pittsburgh to rally, testify and help build support.

Testimony at both hearings was overwhelmingly in favor of the rule.

Sierra Club has also been working to help secure citizen comments about the rule to the EPA. The October deadline was recently extended to December 1st.

If you would like to learn more, go to www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule for brief layman-readable FAQs about the proposed rule and detail on how to submit comments.

On September 25th, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held a hearing to gather input on how Pennsylvanians think DEP should respond to the rule. Industry

expressed legalistic and economic concerns while a larger number of environmental, faith-based, academic, public health and other organizations testified about the need to address climate change.

Governor Corbett has signed on to a letter with 14 other Republican governors opposing the rule. The letter does not express any concern about climate change or carbon emissions.

The EPA is directed to finalize the rule by summer 2015 after taking stakeholder feedback into consideration. States then have a year to develop their plans, with implementation required in 2017.

SPG Executive Committee Ballot 2014—2015 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, 2014.

	First Member	Second Member
Patricia Beudet	_____	_____
Mathew Himmelein	_____	_____
Jon-Paul Jaworski	_____	_____
William Brainerd	_____	_____
David K. Moscatello, PhD	_____	_____
Mike Hoppus	_____	_____



SPG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The SPG Executive Committee normally meets at 6:45 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in attending call the number below for the meeting location. All members are welcome to attend. To confirm date, time, and location contact, Anne Lovatt, Group Chair at, annlovatt@verizon.net, or 610-308-2840.

BUCKS COUNTY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Sierra Club members residing in Bucks County should contact Jon-Paul Jaworski, jpjaws77@gmail.com 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 Beudet at pbeudet@juno.com.

Thanks to Pat Beudet, Sue Edwards, Jim and Gary Lytle, Karen Melton, Dennis Winters, and Jim Wylie for making this issue of the WATCH possible.

Sierra Club

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Philadelphia, PA 19101-4659

To explore, enjoy, and protect the earth

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

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

Remember to Vote on Tuesday November 4th

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