

M A S S A C H U S E T T S

SIERRAN

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Reaching More Than
26,000 Sierra Club Members
in Massachusetts

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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2006

Mary Ann Nelson, Chair
chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org
617-442-0123

Blossom Hoag, Vice Chair
vice-chair@sierraclubmass.org

Don Carlson
dcarlson@sierraclubmass.org

John Deacon
jdeacon@sierraclubmass.org

David Heimann
dheimann@sierraclubmass.org

Deborah Holt
dholt@sierraclubmass.org

John Kyper
jkyper@sierraclubmass.org

John Lewis
jlewis@sierraclubmass.org

Phillip Sego
phil@sierraclubmass.org

CHAPTER STAFF

James McCaffrey, Director
office@sierraclubmass.org

LEADERS LIST

For information on local environmental issues, membership, meetings, outings, and any other Sierra Club events, call or write the group or issue leaders listed below.

GROUP LEADERS

Cape Cod Group
David Dow, *Acting Chair*
ddow@sierraclubmass.org

Greater Boston Group
John Lewis, *Chair*
jlewis@sierraclubmass.org

Pioneer Valley Group
Elisa Campbell, *Acting Chair*
ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org

Blackstone Valley Group
Wendy Rowland, *Acting Chair*
wrowland@sierraclubmass.org

Essex County Group
Kevin McCarthy, *Chair*
kmcCarthy@sierraclubmass.org

CHAPTER ISSUE LEADERS

Conservation Chair
Gilbert Woolley
gwoolley@sierraclubmass.org

Energy Chair
David Heimann
dheimann@sierraclubmass.org

Legislative Action Committee
Leslie Doyle
doyleleslie@yahoo.com

Outings Chair
Deborah Holt
dholt@sierraclubmass.org

Political Committee Chair
Phillip Sego
phil@sierraclubmass.org

Public Lands & Open Spaces Chair
Elisa Campbell
ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org

Transportation Chair
John Kyper
jkyper@sierraclubmass.org

Population Chair
Anita King
413-268-9212

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Maine Sierra Club
44 Oak Street, Suite 301
Portland, Maine 04101
207-761-5616

New Hampshire Sierra Club
40 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-8222

Vermont Sierra Club
73 Center Street
Rutland, VT 05701
802-651-0169

Rhode Island Sierra Club
298 West Exchange Street
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645 Farmington Ave
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Developers Get Streamlined Permitting Plus Delisting of Spotted Turtle

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

Developers and pro-business interests recently pulled off a one-two punch to environmental protection: the streamlining of environmental permitting in Massachusetts, and the removal of protection (by "delisting") of spotted turtles. Combined, these two changes may increase an already alarming rate of open space loss and habitat fragmentation throughout the Commonwealth.

On August 2, Governor Romney signed new legislation that facilitates the permitting for commercial development and home-building industries in Massachusetts. While streamlined permitting can be good (if it guides development, reduces bureaucratic delays, and provides assistance and clarification for developers and communities), it is imperative that the permitting process not undermine existing environmental protections. The new law enables developers to proceed with projects *while an appeal is pending*. Environmental damage could be irreversible even if a community or citizens prevail in a fight against a developer. The law also establishes new ways for developers to fight these challenges in court, including "options" for where a developer can appeal. A developer may be able to "shop" their case to the court system most likely to rule in their favor.

According to research conducted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, we lose about 40 acres of open space to development in the Commonwealth every day. We don't know how many towns will fully adopt the new expedited permitting process, but at least *some* will, and that could be bad news for wildlife habitat around the state.

Habitat loss — fragmentation and resulting road kill — is the primary threat to spotted turtles. It was listed as a "species of

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ON THE COVER: Produce ready for delivery to Holyoke at Czajkowski Farm
Photograph by Rachel Chandler-Worth, used by permission from CISA.

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Elisa Campbell..... Editor
Ricki Pappo..... Designer

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Beyond the Checkout Line: Locally Grown Food Appearing in Cafeterias and Institutions

By Kelly Coleman

Consumers are growing increasingly aware of the myriad benefits of locally grown food, including freshness and taste, support for the local economy, preservation of open space and wildlife habitat, water quality, and sprawl control. Food choices are no longer just about “what’s for dinner?” but “what kind of farming do I want to support?”

This kind of thoughtful consumerism is experiencing growth not only among families across the Commonwealth, but also among other, bigger purchasers. Institutions in the Pioneer Valley region are starting to think creatively about ways to serve more locally grown food. The positive impact is being felt in the pockets and on the fields of Massachusetts farmers.

Take the University of Massachusetts in Amherst (UMass Amherst) for example. At 5 million meals a year, it is one of the largest college cafeteria systems in the country. But what really sets them apart is their commitment to buying locally grown food. Fifteen percent of produce served is from local farms. That’s \$150,000 paid directly to local farmers.

Or consider Baystate Health Center, which invites a local farmer to deliver shares of the harvest directly to its employees at its Springfield office building. Employees pay the farmer at the beginning of the season and receive a share of fresh produce each week throughout the growing season. Holyoke Community College, MassMutual Financial Center, Franklin Medical Center and Springfield College have also invited local farms to deliver vegetable shares to their employees. A few of the participating employers have taken the program a step further: they offer employees the option of paying for their vegetables through payroll deduction. The result? Farmers in the program will earn over \$94,000 in new business this season.

Serving local food at large institutions isn’t easy, though — food service providers are accustomed to purchasing most of their food from centralized distributors, minimizing the time required to order and pay for products. Many commercial products come ready-to-serve, requiring little preparation. Local farmers may not offer these convenience products, nor the frequent deliveries institutions require. Help is

available, however, from several non-profit and state organizations working to boost sales of local food in institutional settings, including the Massachusetts Farm to School and Farm to College Project, South-eastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (SEMAP), and Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA).

CISA’s “Be a Local Hero, Buy Locally Grown”™ program works with farmers and communities to promote and strengthen agriculture in ways that enhance the economy, rural character, environmental quality, and social well-being of Western Massachusetts. As area institutions increase their purchasing of locally grown food, they can become members of the Local Hero™ program, which promotes their good buying practices to the public. “Area consumers appreciate learning about the efforts our institutions are making to get more fresh food into their cafeterias,” says Mark Lattanzi, CISA Campaign Director. “Let’s face it, college and hospital food has gotten a bad rap over the years, but we’re hearing rave reviews about the appearance of items like fresh local berries, milk and vegetables in local cafeterias. Patients, students and staff greatly appreciate the quality of local food.”

Northfield Mount Hermon School, Cooley Dickinson Hospital, Amherst College and UMass Amherst are members of CISA’s Local Hero™ program and purchase everything from meat and honey to blueberries and carrots from local farms.

These institutions are also helping consumers learn about local food with information on

A Red Fire Farm Farm2City share at MassMutual in early June.



Photograph by Kelly Coleman, used by permission from CISA

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Climate **CHANGING**

by Erik Gehring

Tired of the forced evacuations, widespread flooding, and power outages that have come with our recent spate of severe weather events? Well here's a little-known study which should be of interest to all Massachusetts residents, not just the weather-weary, because it points to the urgency of acting promptly to curb global warming pollution.

Released back in February 2005, CLIMB (Climate's Long-term Impacts on Metro Boston) was the first study commissioned by the EPA to take a look at the specific impacts of climate change on a large metropolitan area. Scientists from Boston University, Tufts, and the University of Maryland used forecasts from two Generalized Circulation Models. These large computer programs, of which there are only ten in the world, predict how our planet will respond to the rapid warming trend we are now experiencing. These massive computers were used in order to simulate how more frequent severe weather events would affect the Metro Boston area. Some of the salient predictions are eerily prescient of recent flooding events:

- Property damage from coastal flooding, plus the cost of emergency services, could total \$94 billion during this century;
- Homeowners in metropolitan Boston's 100 and 500-year floodplains could sustain flood damage averaging between \$7,000 and \$18,000 per home;
- River flooding related to global warming is expected to impact twice as many properties and double the overall cost of damage during this century;
- Global warming will reduce water quality in rivers and streams making parts of them uninhabitable for fish and aquatic species;
- During and immediately after extreme weather events, motorists could spend an estimated 80% more hours on the road due to traffic delays.

Although the study focused on Metro Boston, in recent years no corner of the state has been spared from extreme events. Days before CLIMB's release, Cape Cod bore the brunt of the Blizzard of 2005, which dumped up to three feet of snow in one fell

swoop and helped make the winter of 2004–2005 the snowiest winter on record for the Cape. In October 2005 one torrential rain storm after another forced evacuations across the state from Williamstown to Worcester to Taunton, wreaking havoc on the state's dams. And of course there were the Floods of 2006 from this past May — “biblical” according to Governor Mitt Romney — which caused our state's worst flooding in 70 years. An estimated 14,000 homes in 44 communities, primarily in the Merrimack River Valley, were damaged by the record rains.

Dr. Paul Kirshen of Tufts, lead author of CLIMB, notes that this weather is entirely consistent with a rapidly warming planet. “All the climate models are predicting an increase in extreme events, and these [local] events are in line with those future predictions,” he says. Philip Warburg, President of the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), agrees with this assessment. “It's hard to attribute any individual event to global warming, to make a direct linkage,” he says, “but if you look at events in total it is very hard to dismiss the trend.”

So what to do? CLIMB's authors analyzed three different future scenarios for Boston: “Ride It Out,” taking no adaptive actions in response to climate change; “Build Your Way



Photograph by Elisa Campbell

Damage in Wendell State Forest from a tornado in July

Out,” with limited actions taken; and the “Green” scenario, with aggressive pre-emptive actions taken. Not surprisingly, mitigation proved quite beneficial, with the “Green” scenario halving some of the expected costs, while the “Ride It Out” scenario was by far the most expensive of the three.

Which of course is why environmental organizations like the Sierra Club and CLF have been arguing for pre-emptive actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for many years. “We've got a problem on our hands today that we've got to deal with now and not at some future hypothetical point,” says Warburg. “We [in Massachusetts] have some extraordinary opportunities through offshore wind, energy efficiency, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.”

At the press conference announcing the report, Dr. Kirshen had a more succinct moral: “Take action now.” With the recent weather we've been experiencing, it's hard to argue with him. ❖

Erik Gehring is a freelance writer and photographer, climate activist and long-standing member of the Sierra Club. Visit him online at www.erikgehring.com to see a more comprehensive listing of extreme weather events. And you can learn more about the CLIMB study online at www.tufts.edu/tie/climb.

Old Growth Forest in Massachusetts

by Sara Carlisle

It was assumed that when settlers came to Massachusetts they cleared the primary forest which covered 90 percent of the land to make way for farmland, leaving no old growth stands in their wake. Also, there were estimates that these colonists were allotted up to 100 cords of wood, or three acres, per family per year. However, in the past few decades surveys throughout the state have tested the validity of this postulation. To the delight of many, these surveys revealed that stands of old growth forest do exist! The discovered stands are mainly located on steep or treacherous terrain, where horses and loggers could not easily go.

Forests provide a vast array of ecological services, ranging from filtering and cleaning our water supply, to acting as a carbon sink for carbon dioxide and mitigating the effects of global warming. Old growth forests are some of the most unique and intricate ecosystems, and are defined as areas that have never been affected by human activity. These stands allow us to glance at what natural Massachusetts forests looked like, and serve as the last example of how forest ecosystems functioned without human interference. Old growth forests host many species that can only thrive in their complex structures, and have significantly higher deadwood accumulation than secondary forests. They also serve to show us how forest composition and structure changes over time, and how a natural system responds to disturbances. The old growth that has been discovered is contained within 28 different stands and encompasses about 1,120 acres. These stands range in size from less than 3 to more than 200 acres, and nearly 80 percent of these areas are found in the Berkshire



Stream in the Mt. Greylock State Reservation

Photograph by Elisa Campbell

Hills and Taconic Mountains. Usually old growth forests are adjacent to or surrounded by secondary forests that buffer the old growth; together, these forests provide habitat for animals that need large areas of forest.

Unfortunately, these rare and delicate forests are threatened. Even in the more isolated areas of Western Massachusetts, development is fragmenting previously isolated forests, breaking the forested areas into small parcels.

Protecting Old Growth in Forest Reserves

The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) is proposing to create Forest Reserves in which there would

be no commercial cutting. Working with the Nature Conservancy and others, EOEA surveyed the state and came up with 22 relatively unfragmented blocks of forest that could potentially become "large reserves" of about 15,000 acres. These areas were selected because they have the least disruption caused by roads. In addition, the proposed Reserve program will also have "small reserves." As it turns out, most of the old growth sites will be in small reserves since these stands often happen to be in more fragmented areas. The Reserve program is crucial not only because it allocates buffer zones for the old growth forests, but it also protects other forested areas that would otherwise be in danger from sprawl or inappropriate logging. All in all there would be a little over 120,000 acres of reserves, including nearly all of the old growth stands, in addition to areas that will become similar to old growth in the future. The highest concentration of old growth forests is found in

Mohawk Trail State Forest and 550 to 600 acres of reserves will be created there under this program.

Recreational activities such as hunting, hiking and fishing will be permitted and encouraged in the reserves. Preexisting and stable roads will remain, but no new roads are to be created. In addition to protecting the few old growth sites we have left in Massachusetts, this program will also protect all of the wildlife and threatened species that exist within these ecosystems. It will create a living example for anyone to see what forests should look and act like, and will allow older secondary forests to eventually develop into old growth sites.

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Locally Grown Food

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menus, signs in cafeteria lines, and overhead banners. Because many institutions serve captive audiences (like students, patients and staff), their role

as an educator about locally grown food is important.

Buying local food is more than a vote for fresh, healthy and good tasting food. It is also a vote for healthy local economies, clean water, open space and wildlife habitat. Local farm businesses keep money circulating in

the community, use fewer pesticides and fertilizers and keep land open: 40 percent of Massachusetts' half a million acres of farmland is wooded and most of the rest is crop or pasture land. Profitable farms are the best way to save farmland, and working farms protect our environment.

The positive impact of these kinds of efforts on the Massachusetts landscape is clear. Here in Western Massachusetts, we have begun to calculate the full impact that 14 colleges, 9 hospitals, and countless public and private schools, workplace cafeterias, nursing homes, and prisons could have if they buy more locally grown food. We're looking forward to working with them to make it happen. ❖

Kelly Coleman is the Program Coordinator at Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. To learn more about buying local in Massachusetts, contact CISA (www.buylocalfood.com), the Massachusetts Farm to School and Farm to College Project (www.mass.gov/agr/markets/Farm_to_school/), Berkshire Grown (www.berkshiregrown.org), or the Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership (www.umassd.edu/semap).



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Old Growth Forest

(continued from page 5)

As of the *Sierran's* deadline, Reserves have been supported by the Department of Conservation and Recreation Stewardship Council and approved by the Fish and Wildlife Board. A designation by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs is expected this fall. At the same time, the Old Growth Forest bill, which the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations have been supporting for years, languishes in the legislature. The Massachusetts Chapter is monitoring these proposals, and working to protect the old growth forests with whatever tools are available. ❖

Sara Carlisle is a student at Hampshire College, where she has been studying old growth forests. This is the first of a series of articles. To learn more about the Sierra Club's work on these issues, please contact Elisa Campbell (ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org) or the chapter office.



Photograph by Elisa Campbell

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Pledge to do Your Part to Help the Environment

by Joyce McMahon

Did you know that the energy you use in your home can be responsible for twice as much greenhouse gas emissions as your car? That's because most electricity is generated by burning fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gases into our air.

A lot of people want to change their energy use habits in order make a difference, but don't know where to start. How about changing a light bulb?

National Grid, NSTAR, the Cape Light Compact, Unitil, and Western Massachusetts Electric Company have joined the ENERGY STAR Change a Light, Change the World campaign — a national challenge sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy to help Americans change the world one light, one step, at a time.

By taking the Change a Light, Change the World pledge you can join tens of thousands of other Americans who are pledging to do their part to help protect the environment. Simply log on to www.myenergystar.com and click on the Change a Light link.

Traditional incandescent bulbs and inefficient fixtures can cause you to spend more each year to light your home than to operate your refrigerator. You're spending more money than you have to, using extra electricity, and creating a lot of unnecessary pollution.

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In fact, if every household in Massachusetts swapped out just one

incandescent bulb for a CFL, the change would save nearly \$17 million in energy costs and prevent more than 273 million pounds of annual greenhouse gas emissions — the equivalent of taking nearly 25,000 cars off the road.

ISO New England, the operator of the region's electric grid, estimates that demand for electricity in our region is growing at a rate of 1.9 percent annually — the equivalent of needing to add one 600 megawatt power plant each year (1 megawatt is enough to power approximately 1,000 homes). ISO also notes that we can reduce that need for new power through energy conservation and efficiency.

ENERGY STAR qualified CFLs and lighting fixtures are available from a large number of manufacturers and come in a wide variety of styles to accommodate any home decor or indoor/outdoor lighting need. They are generally available at your local grocery or hardware store, home

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Joyce McMahon represents the Northeast ENERGY STAR Lighting and Appliance Initiative, which is a consortium of utilities and energy efficiency companies that have joined together to promote energy efficiency to their customers/residents through consumer education and various rebate programs for ENERGY STAR qualified products.



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BOOK REVIEW:

Hooked: Poaching, Pirates, and the Perfect Fish

by G. Bruce Knetch

Rodale, c 2006

\$25.95

by Daniel Marien

"I don't want to have an intercept before dawn. For now I'd like to head slowly toward them, six knots or less. If they happen to see us, they'll assume we are a pirate, too." The Australian Customs officer Stephen Duffy was speaking to the Captain of *Southern Supporter*, a fishing regulation enforcement vessel patrolling in the South Indian Ocean. Duffy suspected the trawler *Viarsa* of fishing illegally in Australian waters off Heard Island, a scrap of uninhabited land near the Antarctic polar circle. At sunrise, *Southern Supporter* quickly closed in on its target. Suddenly, *Viarsa* picked up speed, heading due south. It was a risky get-away route toward the Antarctic winter. Icebergs and powerful storms lay ahead. Officer Duffy, however, had to pursue. If poachers could escape via this route, the fight to protect the Patagonian toothfish would be useless.

The fishing master of *Viarsa* was fuming. Antonio Perez had grown up in a Spanish fishing town and started working the sea at 14. The collapse of the cod and other northern fish species in the early 1990s sent him looking for other catches. Perez had to make a living. He eventually developed the skills to seize large amounts of the lucrative toothfish. Now, his livelihood — and his freedom — were on the line.

Perez saw no conservation issues here. He liked to think that he caught mainly male toothfish and that the eggs of the occasional female specimens were returned to the deep without any negative impact on reproduction. Both claims are baseless rationalizations.

Cooking Up Chilean Sea Bass

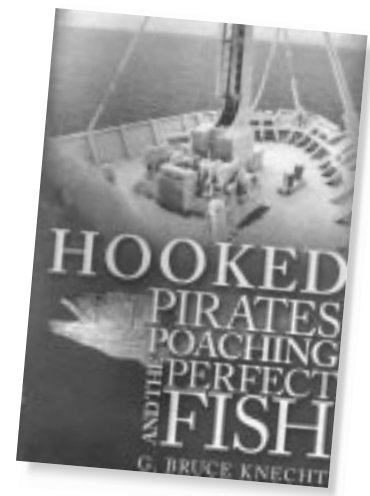
Patagonian toothfish is a fierce looking creature with an oily, bland-tasting flesh. It remained an unwanted by-catch until a Los Angeles fish merchant introduced it to the US market

under the commercially inspired name of "*Chilean Sea Bass*." Its blandness allows inventive chefs to dress the fish in a variety of marinades. Its flaking flesh accommodates a range of cooking methods. Toothfish was initially abundant in the southern hemisphere. Thus, it emerged as the perfect substitute for the depleted northern species. But culinary success can victimize species. Toothfish are becoming scarcer and the captured specimens smaller — a sign of trouble.

Duffy pursued *Viarsa* for three peril-filled weeks before he could gain control over her. The contest ended two years later in an Australian courtroom with the acquittal of the fishermen. The jury could not be convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the fish seized on *Viarsa* originated from Heard Island waters.

Whether *Viarsa* was illegally fishing or not, Perez does not recognize the legitimacy of Australia's control over these waters. And why should he? Heard Island is planted smack in the middle of the South Indian Ocean, 2,000 miles from Australia. Why should Australians have a monopoly over this resource? Conservation measures predicated on arbitrary borders raise issues of equity. And inequity weakens the law.

Hooked is at once engrossing and sobering. Bruce Knetch, himself a seasoned sailor, weaves together a single



story with multiple threads. The hot pursuit in cold waters will captivate seekers of adventure stories. The conversion of the bland-tasting toothfish into the fashionable Chilean Sea Bass will grab the attention of food lovers. The discussion of global fish stocks depletion should alarm everyone.

The book's core ambition lies in illustrating the many challenges involved in containing over-fishing. Political controversy, legal obstacles, human propensities for self-justification, the difficulties of intercepting poachers all are on display. The reader comes to understand how perhaps as much as half, or more, of the toothfish consumed in the US is captured illegally. While *Hooked* offers no solution, it has the quality of laying out the problems in an engaging and compelling manner. It will shake the unaware and the complacent. In the classroom and in other consciousness-raising venues, the book could be usefully paired with discussions of individual and political solutions. ❖

Daniel Marien teaches political science at Salem State College and serves as secretary of the Essex County Group of the Massachusetts Sierra Club

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Wetlands Central?

by Priscilla Chapman

Natural wetlands are wonderful. They buffer streams and ponds, store floodwaters, clean up pollution, and provide food, shelter, breeding grounds and nurseries for fish and wildlife. The best way to preserve these marvels of natural engineering is to leave them alone.

But when someone convinces a permitting agency that a project is so important that filling wetlands is unavoidable, state and federal laws require that the developer replace the lost functions and values, or at least try to do so. The mitigation is often on or near the project site, keeping those functions in the same part of the watershed. Until now in Massachusetts, most wetland mitigation has been "onsite."

That's about to change. "Wetland banking," already established in many states, is soon to take place in our state.

Massachusetts' First Wetlands Bank

A "wetlands bank" is a site where a "sponsor" creates new wetlands from uplands, restores former wetlands or "enhances" existing wetlands. State and/or federal agencies evaluate the wetlands bank and assign a number of credits. The bank then sells credits to developers who need to satisfy requirements to replace wetlands.

Banking makes permitting easier and is supposed to provide greater ecological benefit – a better wetland than the average onsite replacement. Some observers believe banks are successful. Others question whether banks really become diverse, self-sustaining wetlands, whether they really replace lost functions and values, and what the impacts are of moving wetlands from many locations to a central site.

In 2004 the Massachusetts legislature authorized the selection of a private company to create a pilot wetlands bank in the Taunton River watershed. That watershed is big: it covers 562 square miles and is the second largest in the state. The pilot wetlands bank may only be used to mitigate wetland losses deemed "unavoidable." Although it was orig-

inally intended to mitigate loss from public projects (roads, bridges, etc.), the final version of the law allowed use of the pilot bank for private developments as well. It may also be used to satisfy penalties in enforcement situations.

Blue Wave Strategies was selected as the bank sponsor. The bank will be established on property owned by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife adjacent to Burrage Pond in Hansen and Halifax. The site was once part of a cedar swamp that a former owner converted to cranberry bogs without a wetlands permit. The Environmental Protection Agency brought an enforcement action alleging that over 200 acres were altered, but a settlement in 1996 required restoration of only a fraction of the disturbed area. The state acquired the property in 2002.

Blue Wave proposes to create roughly nine acres of wetlands in existing upland and to enhance about 15 abandoned bogs to marsh or forested swamp. In one area, they will attempt to reestablish an Atlantic white cedar swamp, a community currently in decline in southeastern Massachusetts. If successful, this would be an ecological triumph.

Blue Wave will design and direct the site work and manage the bank transactions. Fisheries and Wildlife will be the long-term steward. To help finance the project, the legislation allows the sale of some of the credits (and therefore, alteration of wetlands elsewhere) before the new wetlands are established or certified as successful.

Will the bank turn out to be an ecological benefit? *This is a pilot project,*

for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness of banking. Annual reports to the legislature are required and will be available for public review. The environmental community must track what happens.

Some issues to monitor

- Will local conservation commissions who still want onsite mitigation (as opposed to purchasing credits) be overruled by the Department of Environmental Protection?
- A bank essentially moves wetlands from many sites to a central location. How will this project affect local wetland systems along the Taunton River?
- The bank will include wetlands "enhancement." There is little consensus on how to evaluate enhancement. Will the trade-off of existing healthy wetlands for enhancement result in net ecological gain or loss?
- The current proposal does not require one-to-one replacement of lost wetlands acres. Without a specified minimum replacement ratio, will there be net loss of wetlands in the Taunton River watershed?
- Will the regulators maintain a tough standard for determining if a proposed wetland loss is "unavoidable"?
- Can this pilot bank yield a financial profit for the sponsor and an ecological profit for the watershed at the same time?

The Chapter would like to hear readers' ideas or concerns on this project. Friends of wetlands, please stay tuned. ❖

Priscilla Chapman is a Sierra Club member who lives in Fall River in the southern part of the Taunton River watershed. She represents environmental advocacy groups on the Review Team for the Taunton River Watershed Wetlands Bank.



From the Director *(continued from page 2)*

special concern" in 1986 due to declining numbers; that decline was largely caused by losing 40 percent of its habitat, mostly from human activity. Between 1971 and 1999, scientists estimated that a further 5 to 7 percent of turtle habitat had been seriously degraded or lost, with the same rate of loss projected through the next 2 decades.

It takes 350 acres of un-fragmented roadless habitat for a site to be eligible to support 200 or more individual spotted turtles – the number considered a viable breeding population. About 100 areas meet that threshold, but there is no guarantee these sites have or can sustain turtle populations. No one bothered checking all these areas for suitable turtle nesting sites or a lack of predators. Leading field scientists reviewing the state's decision therefore noted the delisting was based on "questionable assumptions" that were "insufficient to warrant a delisting." Worse yet, delisting makes it impossible for the state to follow its own recovery plan for the species.

Because the presence of spotted turtles has, in some cases, halted the construction of projects, developers for years have been pressuring the state to delist the turtle. They cite data that show turtle sightings are up and claim the species no longer needs protection because it occurs in 256 of the 351 cities or towns in the Commonwealth.

However, increased sightings are thought by many to be a result of more people looking for turtles. The conservation strategy calls for a recovery plan goal of 50 populations with at least 200 individual turtles, yet only 26 identified populations are documented as having more than 10 individuals. In other words, the presence of 1 turtle in your backyard does not mean there is a viable population there. Unfortunately, the state seems to have been more interested in delisting spotted turtles than following its own guidelines to protect them.

There may be valid reasons to delist turtles and speed up permitting in Massachusetts. Both should be based on real data. The assumptions drawn from the data used to delist the turtle are faulty, and the claims by industry that permitting in Massachusetts is at a standstill are simply not true. In fact permitting has increased and the courts have reduced the backlog of permitting appeals. The campaign waged on two fronts by the homebuilders and real estate lobby this year was executed with obfuscated facts, stealth and skill. With the help of unexpected allies in both the legislature and the state agency designated to protect endangered species, the strategy worked. ❖



Did You Forget?

We've looked everywhere for your response to our March appeal.

In March we sent out an appeal to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to your Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget. When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature. Please be as generous as you are able—remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood. Thank you.



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Jeremy Marin and Yi Ching Fedkenheuer Depart



Photograph by Mary Ann Nelson

Jeremy Marin was an Associate Regional Representative for the national Sierra Club, working out of the Massachusetts Chapter office, for four years. He concentrated on getting the Club's message out to the media and we remember him particularly for all those articles in the press about transportation issues (the Rail Link, the Silver Bus line, and hybrid cars). Jeremy left in May for a job with a public relations firm.

Yi Ching Fedkenheuer has been our Administrative Assistant for two years, bringing order and a calm center to a small and very busy office. In her other life, though, she is a violinist; she and her husband are leaving Massachusetts for faculty positions teaching violin and chamber music performance. Congratulations, Yi Ching!

Charles River Ad

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

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Massachusetts Chapter Outings

"E" indicates educational content

Opportunity

The Chapter Outings Chair seeks a successor to take over in 2007. Date negotiable. Training available! If interested, contact Deborah at holdtj@verizon.net.

WINNEKENNI PARK HIKE

September 2

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Laurel at ontime2006@earthlink.net or 978-469-8345

MIDDLESEX FELS HIKE (E)

September 3

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Contact Deborah at holdtj@verizon.net

IPSWICH RIVER PADDLE TRIP

September 16

Contact Sean at sean@carapella.net or 617-666-5144 or Matt at 978-895-3926

CAPE COD BEACH SWEEP

September 16

Time: 8:00 AM – NOON

Contact Robert at murphydalzell@aol.com or 508-563-5948

DEN ROCK PARK, LAWRENCE

September 24

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Heidi at heidiroberts@comcast.net or 978-317-1973

FALL FOLIAGE HIKE, NOANET WOODLANDS, DOVER

October 15

(rain date: October 22)

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Jackie at jsslivko@yahoo.com or 617-407-8796

MT. TOBY RESERVATION HIKE (E)

October 22

Time: 9:30 AM

Contact Elisa at campbell@oit.umass.edu

DOGTOWN HIKE, GLOUCESTER (E)

October 29

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Contact Deborah at holdtj@verizon.net

QUABBIN RESERVATION WITH FORESTRY EXPERT (E)

November 4

(rain date: November 5)

Time: 9:30 AM

Contact Elisa at campbell@oit.umass.edu



Photo taken by Deborah Holt on an outing she led in Middlesex Fells on May 28th; the group saw more than 200 Lady Slippers, encountered butterflies, and heard a bullfrog.

NON-SIERRA EVENTS

"AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH"

This powerful film on global warming with Al Gore has been playing in theaters across America all summer. The film has received rave reviews and major support from environmental leaders and organizations. It's been a hit – so it may still be showing in a theater near you. If it is, and you haven't seen it — go!

SEABIRD AND WHALE CRUISE

September 10

Time: 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Place: Town Pier in Plymouth Harbor

The New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance (NECWA) is sponsoring an all-day excursion with onboard experts on seabirds, whales and pelagic fish. The registration form is online at www.nebshark.org; it and your check must be mailed in.

FOURTH ANNUAL ALTWHEELS ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION FESTIVAL

September 22 – 23,

Boston City Hall Plaza

September 24, Larz Anderson Museum of Transportation, Brookline

See the best the world has to offer in clean transportation technologies! Hybrids, solar cars, hydrogen fuel cell, custom bikes, CNG, vegetable oil, biodiesel, scooters, pedicabs, and more. Three days of exciting activities including demonstrations, interactive exhibits, test rides, workshops, discounts, and children's activities. The Sierra Club is one of many proud sponsors and will have an exhibit table at the event. For more information, visit www.altwheels.org or call 508-698-6810.

PLANTING PEACE: AN EVENING WITH NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE DR. WANGARI MAATHAI

October 24

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Faneuil Hall, Boston

Sponsored by Boston's Urban Forest Coalition. 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Wangari Maathai will share her message of empowerment and hope for the future through the simple steps of planting and protecting trees in our communities. For more information, visit www.bostonforest.org or call 508-698-6810 or email classic.pr@verizon.net

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GROUP & CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 24

Time: 12:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Upcoming meeting:

October 21,
11:00 AM – 3:30 PM

GREATER BOSTON GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

September 12

Time: 7:00 PM

Upcoming meetings:

October 10, November 14

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact gbg@sierraclubmass.org.

ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NORTH / SOUTH RAIL LINK COMMITTEE

September 19

Time: 7:00 PM

Upcoming meeting:

November 14

This committee meets on the third Tuesday of every other month at 7 PM, to discuss and strategize progress on the Rail Link. The Rail Link extends the Northeast Corridor national passenger rail service from South Station to North Station, New Hampshire, Maine and beyond, as well as connecting the commuter rail system from Rhode Island to New Hampshire. All members are welcome to attend, to learn, and to participate. Please contact Louise Lewis, Chair, at 617-266-5890 for more information.

CHAPTER POLITICAL COMMITTEE

September 21

Time: 6:30 PM

Upcoming meetings:

October 11, November 15

CHAPTER TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

October 18

Time: 7:00 PM

POPULATION COMMITTEE

September 27

Time: 8:00 PM

Place: Browsing Room of the Neilson Library at Smith College, Northampton. Jane Roberts will speak on "Thirty Four Million Friends of Women of the World" about the effort to raise awareness of the Bush administration's refusal to spend the \$34 million authorized by Congress for the UN Population Program.

EVENTS

ESSEX COUNTY GROUP'S THIRD ANNUAL BBQ

September 17

Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Place: Mosley Woods, Newburyport

Come and meet other Sierrans and learn more about global warming. Hope to see you there! For more information, please contact ecg@sierraclubmass.org.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL COMMITTEE (NERC) FALL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

September 29 – October 1

Place: Pocono Environmental Education Center, Dingman's Ferry, PA

Chapter and Group Conservation Chairs and their Issue Committees will train around the issues of smart energy solutions, America's wild legacy, and safe and healthy communities. For more information, contact Mary Anne Jaffe at mary.anne.jaffe@sierraclub.org. For more information about the Pocono Center, visit www.peec.org.

PIONEER VALLEY GROUP ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 10

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Place: Home of Alexandra Dawson, 2 West Street, Hadley MA

Potluck supper: bring some food to share and, if you want, some wine or beer to drink. Meet other Sierrans, share a great meal, learn about local issues. For more information, contact PVG Chair, Elisa Campbell (campbell@oit.umass.edu) or the hostess, Alexandra Dawson, 413-586-5586

www.sierraclubmass.org for current information about events and announcements

MASSACHUSETTS

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Massachusetts Chapter Sierra Club

100 Boylston Street, Suite 760
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