

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

SIERRA

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Fall 2008

Reaching More Than
20,000 Sierra Club Members
in Massachusetts

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Massachusetts Sierra Club

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A LEGISLATIVE SEASON OF SUCCESS

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

Each legislative session in Massachusetts more than 4,000 bills are filed, with only a few hundred actually surviving the process when the final gavel falls. And while many sessions pass without even a single victory on the environmental front, the 2007-2008 session was different. In 2006, Al Gore's groundbreaking film *An Inconvenient Truth* clearly transformed public perception of environmental issues. Climate change and global warming became household words and the public suddenly "noticed" more than ever that environmental issues mattered. Suddenly, it was easy being green.

Inspired by this growing public awareness, the legislature noticed too, resulting in a landmark season of success for environmental issues. Not surprisingly, many of the new laws related in some way to energy policy, including the Oceans Act, which creates comprehensive ocean zoning for Massachusetts waters to guide industrial activities including fishing and wind farm siting, as well as a new law to spur growth in the green jobs sector. In an effort to curb global climate change, the commonwealth passed the Global Warming Solutions Act, which requires that the state reduce its emissions 80 percent by 2050, with an interim goal of 10 to 25 percent reductions by 2020.

In late 2007, the governor filed the Environmental Bond Bill, representing an unprecedented commitment by the administration for environmental and conservation priorities. The Sierra Club worked with a broad coalition of 250 organizations to pass the bill, and the legislature eventually approved \$1.7 million in borrowing power – more than double the previous bond bill – for land acquisition, agricultural preservation, monitoring and cleanup of solid waste and hazardous sites, clean air and water programs, and major funding to address the needs of our state forests and parks system. Included in the bond bill are much needed funds for bridge and road repair on state parkways as well as a tax credit incentive for private landowners to permanently

continued on page 5

ON THE COVER: Black Walnuts in Winter. Photo by Erik Gehring

MASSACHUSETTS

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environmentally aware readers.

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Emergency: Asian Longhorn Beetles Found in Worcester

by Elisa Campbell

The Asian longhorn beetle (ALB) eats and kills many hardwood species that are important in our forests and cities. According to Faith Campbell, a forest pests expert with The Nature Conservancy: "This beetle has been observed to feed on a variety of hardwood species, especially maples (*Acer*), but including poplars and aspens (*Populus*), horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), willow (*Baccharis*), birch (*Betula*), and elm (*Ulmus*)."

In August, the beetle was found in Worcester. State and federal forest health experts began examining trees in Worcester and many nearby towns in late August. By September, it seemed clear that ALB had been in the area for years, possibly a decade or more.

This story is typical for this destructive insect. Its larval stage arrives in the wood of packing crates or pallets from Asia (usually China, but imports from Korea and Japan are also suspect). There are rules that are supposed to prevent this kind of hitchhiking but the rules may be inadequate or they may not be consistently enforced.

The larva mature into flying insects, which emerge from the packing materials and lay eggs in nearby trees. Newly hatched larvae will take up to two years to mature. It can be years before anyone realizes what is happening.

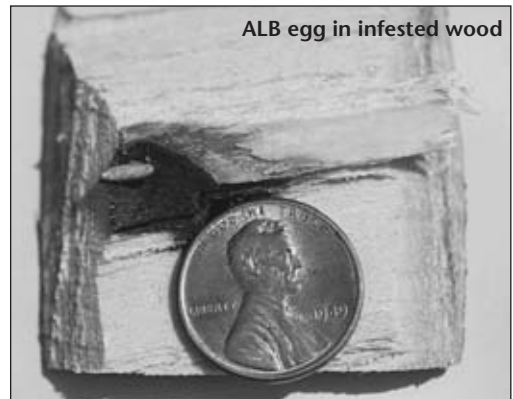
ALB is one of the biggest threats of all the recently introduced diseases and pests because of the importance of the species it attacks.

What can we do? Governmental officials are attempting to identify all trees that have been infested. This fall, after serious frosts, those trees will be cut down and ground up. The pesticide Imidacloprid can be used to protect individual trees in yards or parks, but is not practical for entire forests.



Adult Asian Longhorn Beetle - All photographs courtesy of the Department of Conservation and Recreation

The most important thing we can do is stop moving wood – including firewood. If you buy firewood, buy local. Talk to your supplier and find out where the wood comes from. Moving wood is the way to move many pests, not just ALB. According to Faith Campbell, pellets for pellet stoves should be safe as long as the pellets are smaller than one inch in diameter in at least two dimensions.



What can we do to reduce the risks of introducing pests for the future? Some people are urging plastic for pallets and packaging materials. Obviously, plastic has its own problems; but it could be reused and recycled, and it won't carry living hitchhikers.

While we research what went wrong and discuss how to reduce the risk of introducing more pests, we each must take personal responsibility to avoid spreading any pests that do arrive. ❖

Elisa Campbell follows her sister Faith in working to protect forests from foreign pests.

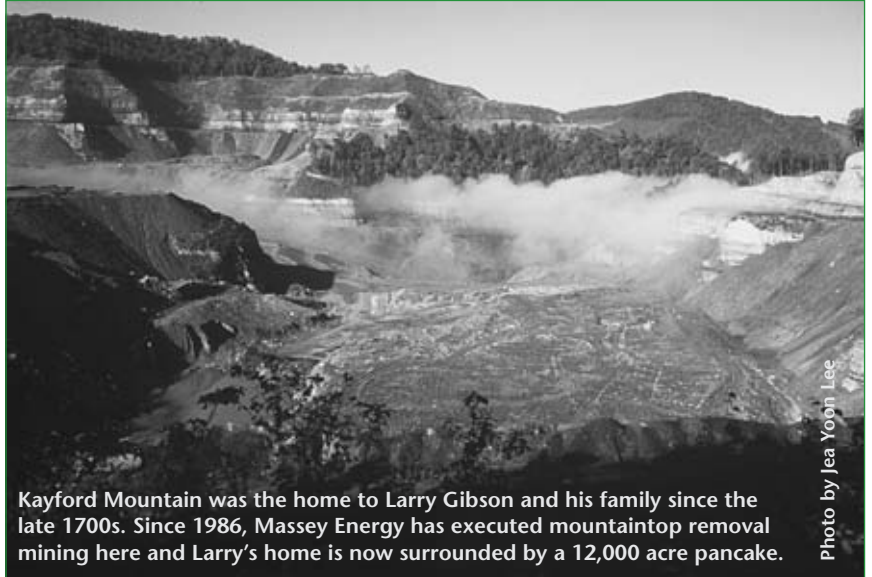
Taking the Tops off Mountains at the Flip of a Switch

by Jea Yoon Lee

Everyone knows that electricity comes from power plants. Some know that 40 percent of the electricity in the US comes from coal-fired plants. Fewer know that an estimated 7 to 10 percent of the country's total coal production comes from mountaintop removal (MTR) mines in Appalachia. Unfortunately, many Massachusetts consumers are linked to MTR through utility companies which use MTR coal.

First developed in the 1970s with the innovation of massive dragline equipment, MTR is a method of coal mining which removes the tops of mountains with dynamite to reach the thin seams of coal buried underneath, and then dumps the crushed remains of the land into valleys. MTR is the cheapest method for coal companies because it is speedy and requires fewer employees than underground mining. The exponential growth of Americans' energy consumption and the rising demand for low-sulfur bituminous coal found in central Appalachia have led to increased MTR mining in the past decade. So far, MTR has destroyed over 800 square miles of mountains and 1,200 miles of streams across Appalachia, according to the EPA's 2005 Environmental Impact Statement.

The tragedy of MTR is not just the abstract notion of "losing" mountains, forests, and streams. For West Virginians, Virginians, Kentuckians, and Tennesseans living near the mines, it means undrinkable, rash-inducing water full of arsenic and mercury, flying boulders and earthquakes caused by the blasting, and dramatic depreciation of property value. They also live in the shadow of impoundments - dams which hold back the wastewater created by wash-



Kayford Mountain was the home to Larry Gibson and his family since the late 1700s. Since 1986, Massey Energy has executed mountaintop removal mining here and Larry's home is now surrounded by a 12,000 acre pancake.

Photo by Jea Yoon Lee

ing the debris off coal. Eight years ago in Kentucky, one broke and released a torrent of over 300 million gallons of thick, toxic sludge which destroyed homes, farmlands, and 100 miles of waterways.

For the rest of us, more MTR leads to burning more coal, which diverts resources away from alternative energy sources and to greater reliance on coal-powered plants, which leads to even more MTR. That means dirtier air, more acid rain, and more global warming emissions.

According to some estimates, as much as 13 percent of the coal used in Massachusetts may come from MTR mines. Utilities such as Boston Edison, Commonwealth Electric, Western Massachusetts Electric, and Massachusetts Electric all purchase coal from companies that operate MTR mines. One plant, Somerset Station in Bristol County, purchases coal directly from Scott's Branch mine, a MTR site in northwest Kentucky. (For more information on your community's connection to MTR, visit www.ilovemountains.org/myconnection.)

Rising gas prices raise the prospect of a coal-to-liquid industry which would lead to an even greater reliance on coal. The coal industry is peddling the false

solution of converting coal into liquid fuel, but the reality is worse than being topless in Appalachia. Not only does it take one ton of coal to produce just two barrels of fuel, but burning liquid coal also releases double the global warming emissions per gallon as regular gasoline. Replacing 10 percent of our nation's transportation fuels with liquid coal would require increasing coal mining by over 40 percent.

Coal is not the solution! Currently there are plans for constructing 87 new coal-fired power plants, each with an expected lifespan of 50 years. Is an additional 50 years of reliance on coal even a viable option for our planet? Let us oppose the irreversible, irremediable practice of MTR,



Valley fill near the head of Clay's Branch in West Virginia.

Photo by Mark Schmerling

continued on page 11

protect their farms or forest lands from development.

Perhaps the most significant – and complex – bill to pass this session was the “Green Communities Bill,” an omnibus energy package championed by House Speaker DiMasi and Senate President Murray, which will bring sweeping reforms to reduce energy usage and promote efficiency through various mechanisms including requirements for electricity and utility suppliers to include increasing amounts of renewable energy in their portfolio. The bill enables (or burdens, depending on your perspective) municipalities to figure out ways to reduce usage and/or generate green energy. The Sierra Club will work with municipalities to educate them about the law, push them to take advantage of it, and help identify and promote “best practices” as municipalities try various approaches.

All was not well this session. There is much work to be done to monitor and ensure proper implementation and regulation of our many achievements. A new biofuels law which gives pref-

erential treatment to non-corn based ethanol alternatives for fuel, also contains irresponsible language that could promote non-sustainable harvesting of timber on state lands for biomass. And several priority bills for the Club did not pass, including the Updated Bottle Bill, a bill to regulate electronic waste, and the Public Lands Preservation Act, which requires a no-net-loss of parklands in the commonwealth. We will need your help to ensure passage of these bills next session. And of course, the Chapter is encouraging all residents to vote “No” this November on Ballot Question 1 to repeal the state income tax, or there will not be a single dollar to fund any of our hard-won victories (see “Ballot Question 1” page 6).

The success of the 2007-2008 legislature in Massachusetts should be shared and celebrated by all residents, and Governor Patrick, Secretary Bowles, and the legislature are to be commended for promoting innovative reforms that will transform the energy sector while also encouraging economic growth in the commonwealth. ❖

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ENDORSED CANDIDATES, 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

Get Involved! Volunteer to help elect Sierra Club endorsed candidates. Contact Phil Sego: phil@sierraclubmass.org

Sierra Club Endorses Candidates for Massachusetts House and Senate

List complete as of press time, September 24, 2008. Visit www.sierraclubmass.org for an up-to-date listing.

This year, as in every even-numbered year, all 200 Massachusetts State Senators and Representatives are up for re-election. Many important environmental issues will be decided in the next legislative session, so it is crucial that Sierra Club members work hard to elect pro-environment legislators. Throughout the summer, the Massachusetts Sierra Club investigated the voting records of incumbents, reviewed questionnaires, and discussed policy with candidates. Some of the candidates listed have had our endorsement in the past; some are new. All are candidates who will help us advocate for environmental protection. You can make a big difference by volunteering in election activities as well as voting. We urge you to support our endorsed candidates! If you have questions about the endorsement process, or can help elect environmental candidates, contact cpc@sierraclubmass.org.



Volunteers Needed for the Sierra Club's NH Election Effort

Join fellow members and get engaged in the most important states in the country for this year's election. Just next door, New Hampshire is again one of the important swing states this year, and together we can make sure the environment is the big winner in all the races there. We will be doing all kinds of activities from now to the election (knocking on doors, calling, etc.) - sign up now for a little northern fun. Join us as we make a difference in NH in 2008. To find out how to get involved and to sign up, call Carol at 617-423-5775 or email carol.oldham@sierraclub.org

US President

Barack Obama

US Senate

John Kerry

US Congress

1st CD – John Olver	6th CD – John Tierney
2nd CD – Richard Neal	7th CD – Edward Markey
3rd CD – James McGovern	8th CD – Michael Capuano
4th CD – Barney Frank	9th CD – Stephen Lynch
5th CD – Niki Tsongas	10th CD – William Delahunt

State Senate

Berkshire, Hampshire & Franklin – Benjamin Downing
 First Middlesex & Norfolk – Cynthia Creem
 First Plymouth & Bristol – Marc Pacheco
 First Worcester – Harriette Chandler
 Middlesex & Worcester – James Eldridge
 Norfolk, Bristol & Middlesex – Sara Orozco
 Second Bristol & Plymouth – Mark Montigny
 Second Middlesex – Patricia Jehlen
 Second Middlesex & Norfolk – Karen Spilka
 Third Middlesex – Susan Fargo
 Worcester & Middlesex – Jen Flanagan

State House of Representatives

1st Barnstable – Cleon Turner	14th Middlesex – Cory Atkins
3rd Barnstable – Matthew Patrick	15th Middlesex – Jay Kaufman
4th Barnstable – Sarah Peake	24th Middlesex – William Brownsberger
2nd Berkshire – Denis Guyer	25th Middlesex – Alice Wolf
4th Bristol – Steven D'Amico	26th Middlesex – Timothy Toomey
6th Essex – Mary Grant	27th Middlesex – Denise Provost
8th Essex – Lori Ehrlich	29th Middlesex – Jonathan Hecht
9th Essex – Mark Falzone	31st Middlesex – Jason Lewis
15th Essex – Linda Dean Campbell	32nd Middlesex – Katherine Clark
1st Franklin – Stephen Kulik	34th Middlesex – Carl Sciortino
11th Hampden – Benjamin Swan	37th Middlesex – Jennifer Benson
1st Hampshire – Peter Kocot	14th Norfolk – Alice Peisch
2nd Hampshire – John Scibak	15th Norfolk – Frank Smizik
3rd Hampshire – Ellen Story	6th Suffolk – Willie Mae Allen
3rd Middlesex – Ellen Sturgis	8th Suffolk – Martha Walz
6th Middlesex – Pam Richardson	9th Suffolk – Byron Rushing
8th Middlesex – Carolyn Dykema	17th Suffolk – Kevin Honan
11th Middlesex – Kay Khan	12th Worcester – Harold Naughton
12th Middlesex – Ruth Balsler	14th Worcester – James O'Day
13th Middlesex – Thomas Conroy	

Vote NO on Ballot Question 1

Repealing the State Income Tax Would Destroy the State's Ability to Protect the Environment

While the Sierra Club understands that few people want to pay taxes, the income tax question on the ballot this fall is a reckless proposal that will have severe and immediate consequences for all of us. This binding referendum will take \$12.7 billion—nearly 40 percent—out of the state budget, driving up local property taxes and leading to drastic cuts in services. Our communities will suffer sweeping cuts to environmental protection, parks maintenance, public transportation, as well as education, public safety personnel, social services to the needy and further deterioration of roads and bridges. Adopting this measure would be a foolhardy and counterproductive attempt to save money. For more information on the proposed tax cut, please visit www.votenoquestion1.com

Mary Grant
for State Representative
8th Essex District

Rep. Mary Grant has had a solid track record of support for many key environmental issues. This last session, Rep. Grant was the lead sponsor of the bill to bring the North South Rail Link closer to a reality. This project would eliminate 55,000+ trips daily from our highways and 582 tons of CO2 daily. Rep. Grant has also been instrumental in securing commuter rail parking, increasing ridership. She was the lead sponsor of a bill to have coal ash treated as toxic waste and the lead sponsor of a comprehensive health education bill. She was also a co-sponsor of the Safer Alternatives Act.



Benjamin Swan
for State Representative
11th Hampden District

Rep. Benjamin Swan has been endorsed by the Sierra Club since 2002 and has been a steadfast supporter of environmental issues throughout his legislative career. He sees a reduction in CO2 emissions as our greatest short- and long-term challenge. He also supports increased protections for our rivers, streams, lakes and coastlines. Rep. Swan, who was a mail carrier after three years of active Army duty and five years reserve duty, has devoted most of his adult life to fighting for civil rights, human rights, and justice.



James Eldridge
for State Senator
Middlesex and Worcester District

James Eldridge, who is currently serving as a State Representative, has been an outspoken supporter on environmental issues. Just this past term Rep. Eldridge supported the Green Communities Act and co-sponsored the Safer Alternatives Act, the Computer Takeback bill and the Global Warming Solutions Act. He has worked tirelessly to combat global warming, make conservation a part of every aspect of society, and make sure the state protects the environment, our water, and our land. The issues that we care about have been at the forefront of his legislative career, and his effectiveness will be even greater as a State Senator.



Sierra Club endorsements are based on a candidate's record and demonstrated commitment to the environment in private as well as in public life. Candidates meriting the Club's support have also shown a realistic approach in tackling key concerns facing us. By voting for, contributing to, and volunteering for Sierra Club endorsed candidates, you can help elect a team that will protect the land, water, and air that are vital to us.

Jen Benson
for State Representative
37th Middlesex District

Ms. Jennifer Benson, a longtime Sierra Club member and committed environmentalist, views expanded public transportation infrastructure as a major way to reduce polluting emissions. Generating renewable energy and helping communities incorporate sustainable planning and development are other measures that she advocates. Another priority is strengthening clean water protections, which includes reducing use of toxic chemicals and phosphorous. Her work in the community and on the Lunenburg School Committee has proven that she will be a strong voice for the environment.



Tom Conroy
for State Representative
13th Middlesex District

Rep. Tom Conroy brings a strong educational background along with extensive experience to the state house. In his first term in the legislature Rep. Conroy has become a strong voice for environmental action and has supported key legislation. He advocates taking an investment approach as one avenue to reducing greenhouse gases: "Preserving our environment also means making smart and ecologically sound investment decisions," said Rep. Conroy. "At the state level, we should invest in renewable energy sources and clean power generation." Preserving open space attains several environmental objectives. To this end he intends to explore new financing mechanisms for open space land purchase by towns in his district.



Sara Orozco
for State Senator
Norfolk, Bristol and Plymouth District

Ms. Sara Orozco is committed to investing in our communities and protecting our environment, seeing these as of the utmost importance. She has pledged to promote alternative, renewable energy sources, work on transportation issues, invest in and improve public transportation, and protect open space and parks. Her background of public service is extensive and, as a state senator, she would be a strong and effective voice for her district. To Ms. Orozco, protecting the environment is not only a moral obligation but also a major quality of life issue for the residents of her district, the state, country and world as a whole.



Waste: Massachusetts at a Crossroads

Part II

by Lynne Pledger and Phillip Sego

Part 1, which ran in the summer Sierran, outlined the environmental impacts of our growing garbage crisis. Part 2 presents a critical choice now before the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP): more disposal sites or a Zero Waste plan

It's a no-brainer, isn't it? Given the waste-related problems outlined in Part 1 — climate change, depletion of energy and material resources, threats to public health — Massachusetts needs to reduce waste, instead of continuing to burn or bury ever larger amounts of it. We need a new plan to conserve resources, not more methods to dispose of them.

Recognizing the need for change, the DEP is drafting a new Solid Waste Master Plan. The waste industry is pushing for more trash-to-energy disposal sites. Environmentalists argue that industrial waste should be reduced, and discards should be source-separated for reuse, recycling, or controlled composting.

It's uncertain which path the DEP will follow - waste disposal or waste reduction. The two can't be combined successfully because waste-to-energy facilities depend on consistently high volumes of trash. Massachusetts is at a crossroads, not only for public health and the environment, but also for the economic future of our towns and cities.

The waste disposal route: burn it

The state has had a moratorium against building additional incinerators since 1989, but the moratorium may be lifted to usher in new, expensive incinerator technologies, such as gasification, pyrolysis, and plasma arc. Even with pollution controls, all high-temperature processes emit heavy metals and form cancer-causing

compounds, including furans and dioxins, which present a hazard to human health second only to radioactive isotopes.

In addition, waste-to-energy technologies are dubbed "waste-of-energy," because they recover only a fraction of the energy that goes into the manufacturing and transportation of the discards being processed. A study commissioned by the DEP confirms that when this "embodied" energy is considered, waste-to-energy is a net loss. Plus, these facilities compete with recycling. The environment was the winner in Broome County, NY, where recycling became so successful that incineration was ruled out because trash would have to be imported to fuel it.

The waste reduction route: initiate Zero Waste

The Sierra Club's Zero Waste Policy addresses not only the quantity of waste, but also its toxicity, its contribution to climate change, and its link to corporate responsibility. The Zero Waste approach conserves both raw materials and energy in the production, transportation, and disposal of goods.

One key Zero Waste component is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The EPR concept holds brand-owners responsible for "cradle to cra-

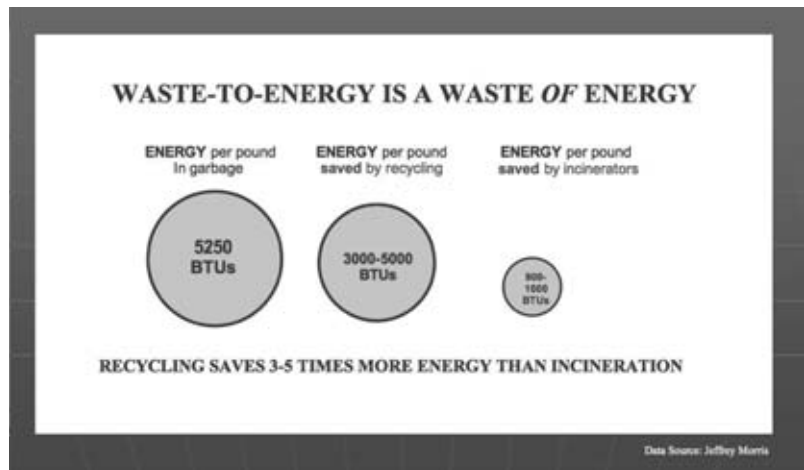
dle" management of their discarded products, so that all materials are safely channeled back into the environment or the marketplace. In the Zero Waste future, returning products for reuse, repair, or recycling will be as easy as shopping. An example of EPR is the refillable beverage bottle. EPR also fosters waste reduction through environmental design, e.g. a toothpaste tube designed to stand upright on a store shelf without a box, or an appliance designed for easy repair.

Another component of Zero Waste is composting, or anaerobic digestion. Since the 1950s, when US cities abandoned municipal collection of food scraps for piggeries, 96 percent of discarded food has been wasted in landfills, where it contributes to climate-changing methane gas. The Zero Waste solution is to divert all organic material - food scraps, yard trimmings, and soiled paper-- to backyard composters, to larger controlled compost sites, or to anaerobic digesters, where methane can be captured for energy and compost used to improve soil. Composting can be managed by municipalities as is water and sewage.

Planning for Zero Waste

Zero Waste strategies are being implemented all over the world, with

continued on page 9



Waste (continued from page 8)

the west coast on the forefront in this country. Initially waste reduction can be funded through incentives and surcharges: rewarding environmentally sound practices and making wastefulness costly. Eventually, through EPR legislation and regulation, brand-owners will assume the cost of recovery and safe recycling of their products. As a result, the price of “disposables” and toxic or non-repairable items will reflect their true social and environmental cost, and the market will respond accordingly.

Massachusetts should note that Zero Waste jurisdictions experience economic upswings from new businesses and jobs relating to reuse, repair, recycling, and composting. Planning for sustainability is a route to prosperity. In contrast, a waste plan that depends on an everlasting supply of natural resources will reach a dead end. ❖

Lynne Pledger is a member of the Sierra Club's Zero Waste Committee and the new Chapter committee (see below). She lives in Hardwick, MA. Phillip Sego is also a member of the Chapter Zero Waste Committee in addition to serving on the Chapter Executive Committee.

ZERO WASTE – GET INVOLVED !

The Massachusetts Chapter is in the process of forming a “Zero Waste Committee” to advocate for solutions to our growing trash crisis. This committee will meet by phone and email – all Sierra Club members are welcome. Contact zerowaste@sierraclubmass.org

Let your state official know that you support Extended Producer Responsibility and oppose burning trash.

Visit www.sierraclubmass.org/zero.htm for more information.

COMBUSTION OF DEBRIS: A NEW THREAT TO AIR QUALITY

by Alexandra Dawson

Prepare yourselves, folks, for TurboSorp. It's coming soon and here to stay.

TurboSorp is a key part of an innovative train of pollution controls designed to reduce pollution from Palmer Renewable Energy, which has applied to burn construction and demolition debris (C&D) in Springfield, MA.

As you may recall, nobody likes C&D wood because it is contaminated with mercury, arsenic and lead along with a host of nasty chemicals. Most of this brew got into wood because of the industry's merry habit of adding pest controls to wood products such as decks with nary a thought to their environmental fate.

Massachusetts manages to produce 750,000 tons (yes, tons) of C&D every year. Since it cannot legally be either burned or landfilled, most of the tonnage is shipped to Ohio to fill old mines.

It is really not nice (and against state policy) to export our environmental problems. Moreover, C&D is a better candidate for biomass plants than living forests if it can be cleaned up. For obvious reasons, it is also cheaper. In addition to the pollution equipment, Palmer promises “positive picking” of wood fuel before the material is chipped.

The resulting emissions should exceed federal and state air-pollution standards – which, you may have noticed, are not that great. Emissions would include 10 pounds of mercury a year and 26 pounds of arsenic, not a huge amount but still worth our concern.

That said, why does this plant, however state-of-the-art it may be, have to be in Springfield?

The proposed location in that sad city confirms my suspicions that most of the new “clean energy” try-outs will be in western Massachusetts rather than, say, the Route 128/495 area where much of the construction is taking place.

It also deepens my fears that Massachusetts could become the C&D disposal capital of New England. Our state agencies tend to regard measurement of cumulative impacts as unfair to newcomers.

Furthermore, location in the Pioneer Valley means that air emissions are likely to travel upriver in the summer when winds turn southwest. Because the plant will emit 129 tons per year of nitrogen oxide in an area that already fails smog standards, the plant will be obliged to buy “credits” from some cleaner corporation somewhere else; but I can't see what that does for the Pioneer Valley.

Despite all these impacts, the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Agency has ruled that an environmental impact report on this plant is not necessary. ❖

Alexandra Dawson lives in Hadley; an earlier version of this column first appeared in the Daily Hampshire Gazette in May.

Help Protect Massachusetts' Environment

Philip R. Dowds, Chapter Chair

The Massachusetts Chapter asks for contributions only once during the year. If you have already given, thank you very much for your kind contribution.

If you have not yet done so, we hope that you will consider it. You can reply to our mailing (sent in March) or send your donation to the chapter office. Remember: tax deductible contributions must be made out to the Sierra Club Foundation.

For more information, please see the chapter website:
www.sierraclubmass.org

Bag Wars

By Elizabeth Anne Pell

It was somewhere around 1957 when we turned in our waxed paper wrappers and brown paper bags for an amazing amalgam of petroleum called the plastic bag. Now, 51 years later, both land and seascapes the world over are littered with a roiling tide of those non-biodegradable pollutants. In fact there's now more plastic floating in the Pacific Ocean than seaweed. Talk about invasive!

So what's to be done? In Boston the word is that this bag problem is worth looking into. However, banning them would have a financial impact on the stores, not to mention the cost to the city to enforce the ban. So as might be expected the 2007 bill to ban plastic bags was defeated. Bill Rennie, Public Affairs Director of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts, said "We don't want to move to an

outright ban." He proposes to educate the public to keep their bags to themselves.

Some stores, like Ikea, have been trying to discourage plastic bag use by charging for them or offering reusable bags for a small fee. Grocery stores sell reusable bags and many recycle the plastic bags that do come back to the store. They're made into useful plastic lumber. (If you look carefully on any two-handed bag you'll see a recycle 2 or 4.) The municipal recycle trucks won't take them because they get caught in their machines.

Whole Foods Market, on the other hand, has successfully banned plastic in favor of paper or reusable bags. What's more amazing is they also recycle any plastic bag that stretches. So it shouldn't have been a surprise to see Mister Green (the national Sierra magazine's answer guy) answer "yes" to the question: should zip lock zippers be removed from the bag before recycling? Who knew?

Bag wars are everywhere. San Francisco has banned them. Australia,

Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom have plans to either ban or tax plastic bags. Even far flung Nepal, which has 179 plastic factories turning plastic bags into tubs, buckets, containers, and more plastic bags, is feeling the heat.

Nepali environmentalists said that in earlier times discarded plastic bags were

picked up by rag pickers and sold to the plastic factories. But these days the plastic is too thin and uneconomical to recycle. Officials hope that paper and jute bag manufacturing will take over when the plastic factories close. A new and hopefully cleaner industry will be born.

We still have a way to go in fighting this bag war. Consider this: Each year Americans throw away about 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags, of which .06 percent is recycled. Yikes!

Elizabeth Pell was first introduced to the reusable shopping bag while in Germany in 1958.

there's now more plastic floating in the Pacific Ocean than seaweed



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(continued from page 4)

and instead invest in solar, wind, and geothermal power.

MTR requires filling valleys with vast quantities of mining waste. Filling streams with waste was illegal under the Clean Water Act, and advocacy groups used the law to protect the mountains and streams. Rising to the defense of coal companies, the Bush Administration changed the rules, effectively legalizing the filling of streams with waste. The Sierra Club and other groups are urging Congress to enact the Clean Water



Stripmine at the head of Schumate's Branch . Photo by Mark Schmerling.

Protection Act, which would reverse the rule change, once again prohibiting the filling of streams with MTR waste. Please join our efforts by asking your utility company not to use MTR coal and urging your Representative to co-sponsor the bill. For more information on how you can help, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/cleanwater/mtr/>

Jea Yoon Lee is an apprentice with the Sierra Club's Coal Campaign in Washington, DC.

Boston Globe Reporter Receives National Sierra Club Award:

Environmental Reporter Beth Daley Honored with David R. Brower Award

At its annual awards ceremony held on September 20th in San Francisco, the nation's largest grassroots environmental organization honored this year's recipients of various Sierra Club awards designed to highlight outstanding work in the environmental field. 2008 recipients include a NASA scientist who helped raise awareness of global warming, a U.S. senator who has led efforts to protect the Arctic coastal plain from oil and gas drilling, a British documentary producer whose programs have brought the natural world into the living rooms of millions, and Beth Daley for her work as an environmental reporter for the *Boston Globe*.

Beth Daley received the *David R. Brower Award* which recognizes a professional journalist for stories pertaining to the environment. A *Boston Globe* staff reporter since 1994, and a *Boston Globe* contributing reporter since 1988, Daley has covered a myriad of issues relating to the environment, including global warming, "green-washing," the endangered Northern Right Whale, the vanishing bat population in the northeast, and the fishing industry in New England.

"The environmental community depends on Beth for her comprehensive and thorough coverage of environmental issues that effect us all," Massachusetts Chapter Director James McCaffrey stated. "Long before cover-

age of such issues emerged as a media trend, Beth's work as an environmental reporter for the *Boston Globe* established the highest standard of coverage of environmental issues, and continues to substantially influence policy at the local, state and national level."

Beginning in 2007, Beth's groundbreaking multipart series "The 45th parallel | Warming Where We Live" covered regional global climate change issues. Embracing "new media," the series included web video, interactive graphics, and slideshows with audio to address issues of global warming in New England. "Connecting such global issues to people's everyday lives and even offering some local solutions is no small task. The *Boston Globe's* and Beth's reporting accomplished this with great detail and objectivity," McCaffrey said.

Previous recipients of the David R. Brower Award include Steve Curwood of *National Public Radio*, foreign affairs columnist Tom Friedman of the *New York Times* and Michael Grunwald of the *Washington Post*.

To view the *Globe's* series on global warming please visit http://www.boston.com/news/specials/climate_change/

For more information on the Sierra Club awards program, visit www.sierraclubmass.org/awards

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MASSACHUSETTS FORESTS AND GREEN CERTIFICATION



Montague Plains: Management (mechanical fuel reduction and subsequent prescribed burning in 2007) is aimed at re-establishing thick scrub oak that originally dominated this ecosystem. All photographs by Elisa Campbell.

by Elisa Campbell

In 2004, the commonwealth sought and received conditional “green certification” of its publicly owned forests by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This certification of the forests managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) followed an earlier certification of the forests at the Quabbin Reservoir. The state’s environmental officials created the certification program as a way to validate environmental forestry practiced by Massachusetts public agencies, and to set a high standard of forestry.

One of the certification requirements was the designation of large and small forest reserves. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (now Energy and Environmental Affairs) immediately began a process to nominate and designate large reserves. They sought public involvement and held several public meetings to consider the proposed reserves; the Sierra

Club, among other environmental organizations, notified our members with notices in our newsletter, mailings to members living near the meetings and proposed reserves, etc. In September 2006, the state formally announced the designation of the large reserves, a first for the commonwealth.

But all is not well with green certification.

Moving on a parallel track to the reserves work were new plans for forest management on DCR and DFW properties. The green certification process requires that Forest Resource Management Plans be prepared before harvesting. Both agencies began planning, primarily at the regional level, but the departments thought that some work was needed before plans were in place.

In the meantime a separate requirement in the legislation that created DCR by merging the former Department of Environmental

Management and the Metropolitan District Commission, requires that Resource Management Plans (RMPs) be prepared for DCR properties. The RMP for each park or forest is supposed to consider all resources, including rare species, cultural artifacts, and recreational and scenic values.

Unfortunately, the plans are lagging behind work on the ground. Some plans, as at Robinson State Park, generated significant public opposition. In some other situations, there are allegations of mistakes and deviations from cutting plans. Removal of non-native species, such as Norway Spruce, and cutting of several contiguous acres of forest to create early-successional habitat for birds and other species that need grasslands or brush lands, have all met some opposition.

In response, both the state agencies and the major environmental groups have taken steps to improve the opportunities for public input and the completion of the plans.

DFW scheduled site visits for the public at many of their properties, where agency staff and researchers involved in studying the areas explained the habitat management goals and forest management. One of the highlights of the trip to Montague Plains in May was a duet by two whippoorwills as dusk fell. (Some Sierrans may remember that John Scanlon, Forest Project Leader for DFW, led two outings specifically for the Sierra Club a couple of years ago.) There is one more site visit scheduled for October.

DCR has a website where it posts the cutting plans for its properties in six month intervals. In addition, DCR held a series of public forums about the plans during the summer.

In June, the Forests and Parks Partnership (FPP) which was co-founded by the Sierra Club, Massachusetts Audubon, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, and the Appalachian Mountain Club, sent a letter to Richard Sullivan, Commissioner of

DFW Upland Game Bird Biologist Dave Scarpitt in front of some two-year old aspens at Fox Den Wildlife Management Area



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A two-stage cut in this area of the Herm Covey Wildlife Management Area was done in 2000, with the second cut done in early 2008 to regenerate young forest, including white pine.

the importance of proper planning and public input into that planning, the letter stated the groups' continued support for both green certification and adequate financial and staff resources for DCR to do the planning. The letter also called for limiting harvesting in areas in which plans have not been completed to necessary responses in cases of danger, infestations of invasive pests, or similar urgent situations. The groups also stressed the importance of appoint-

The FPP letter cites significant progress in addition to the designation of reserves, including "improved inventories and mapping of forest types, natural resources, roads, and recreational trails on state lands; marking of boundaries; and development of plans for responding to invasive pests and for protecting High Conservation Value Forests." The letter goes on to say, "Green Certification, when properly implemented and enforced, is a vehicle to ensure sustainably managed forests that support a variety of forest values including biodiversity, recreation, and timber production. Nevertheless, important and broad policy level questions remain, and need to be addressed ..." The Sierra Club continues to be involved with those policy questions.

DCR, and Richard Cross, Chair of the DCR Stewardship Council. The letter conveyed the considered findings and advice of the Partnership organizations, plus The Nature Conservancy, about DCR's forestry, green certification, and resource planning. Stressing

ing new members to the Stewardship Council to represent areas in central and western parts of the state.

While some people have called for the elimination of the green certification program, we do not agree. We believe it is better to have high standards for forestry.

Elisa Campbell has been involved with public lands in Massachusetts for the Sierra Club for over two decades and currently represents the Sierra Club on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee.

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Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Massachusetts Executive Committee Candidates' Statements *(Ballots are on page 16)*

CRAIG ALTEMOSE My name is Craig Altemose, and along with Rouwenna Lamm, I am running to represent the youth voice in the Sierra Club. I am a 24 year-old graduate student at Harvard University, where I am studying law and public policy. I just finished a term on the Executive Committee of the Sierra Student Coalition, and led the organizing for the recent Massachusetts Power Shift conference in Boston. I favor immediate, comprehensive, and bold action on climate change. As a member of the MA Executive Committee, I hope to encourage the Sierra Club to advocate for the policies we believe our world and the people on it need – not the policies deemed politically feasible in the very short term.

R PHILLIP DOWDS Beginning with national outings in the '90's, my engagements with the Club have intensified over the years. In 2004 I joined the Greater Boston Group; and in 2006, served as Chair of the Chapter Energy Committee, and was elected to the Chapter Executive Committee. As Chapter Chair, my efforts have addressed Chapter finance and management, controversial proposals such as Cape Wind, and enlistment of new talent. I seek a second two-year term on the Executive Committee because I see both the state Chapter and the national organizations dealing with conservation and organizational transitions, and I think I have something to contribute.

ERIK GEHRING I am a writer and photographer who lives in Roslindale with my wife Julie. I have been a devoted environmental activist since 2001, volunteering for various groups focusing on climate change and renewable energy. I joined the Sierra Club in 2002, became active in the Energy Committee given my strong support for renewable energy, and have served on the Massachusetts Chapter's Executive Committee the last two years. Climate change is by far the biggest threat we face. The science says that if we fail to take aggressive action now our planet will be radically altered. And so every action that we take needs to be evaluated through this lens – will it reduce our greenhouse gas emissions?

ROUWENNA LAMM I am a recent graduate of Smith College

and am passionate about the need to find solutions to climate change and to protect the green spaces around us. During college, I worked on the global warming campaign for Smith's MASSPIRG Chapter, organized Smith's participation in *Focus the Nation*, and was a lead organizer of *Massachusetts Power Shift*, a conference about climate change that drew over 500 students and community members from around MA. I hope to bring my energy, enthusiasm, creative thinking, and experience with group decision-making processes to the Sierra Club through the MA Chapter Executive Committee.

PETER M RUGGIERO A member of the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter since 2004, after having moved to the Boston area, I have served as its Volunteer Coordinator since January 2007. Now I would like to deepen my commitment to the group by serving on the Executive Committee. My entrée into environmentalism came because of my interest in natural health. It didn't take me too long to realize that we cannot be truly healthy unless our environment is healthy and protected itself and then to get involved. I have a background in organization development and a deep passion for justice and democracy movements, of which I consider the environmentalism an integral part. My previous volunteer experiences included being an environmental volunteer in Peace Corps/Ivory Coast from 1998-2001.

PHILLIP SEGO Phil chairs the chapter's Political Committee, which oversees endorsements and coordinates volunteer efforts in local, state, and federal elections. This year, the committee made 70 endorsements - one of our most active years in recent history. In his 12 years of activism in the Sierra Club, he was the founder of the chapter website. He created and continues to manage the chapter's growing SCAN listserve, and also serves on the Legislative Action Committee, lobbying for the passage of key environmental bills. He has written a number of recycling bills as well as the Updated Bottle Bill. Phil's goal on the ExCom is to help members get more involved in the club's work, make the club more volunteer-friendly, and further the club's political clout.

Cape Cod and Islands Group Executive Committee Candidate's Statements *(Ballots are on page 16)*

CARL BICKERDIKE I would like to become more involved in environmental issues beyond my work as Outdoor Education & Adventure Trips Director of SSMCA Camp Burgess and Hayward in Sandwich. I am interested in working on the ExCom, choosing issues for 2009, and keeping a smooth working relationship between the Cape Cod & Islands Group and the Massachusetts Chapter. With my experience working with youth, I look forward to bringing fresh ideas ahead and pro-actively influencing environmental decisions on behalf of Cape Cod & Islands Group Sierrans.

DAVID DOW I am one of the co-founders of the CC&I Group and am currently the treasurer. For many years I have been involved in the groundwater pollution cleanup and soil contamination removal at the Massachusetts Military Reservation. I see my role as an ExCom member to help empower local activists to pursue their goals to protect wild places and wild things, while reducing any bureaucratic barriers that they might face. I solicit your vote !!

MARTHA J GILLIS I joined the Sierra Club because of my growing concern about many environmental concerns facing Cape Cod. A lifetime interest in public service, a believer in community involvement and a commitment to our community motivates me to submit my name as a candidate for the executive committee of the Cape and Islands Group. Two environmental issues that especially concern me are the protection of drinking water sources and the effects of global warming on our Cape Cod environment. As a member of the executive committee I would work to increase awareness and promote efforts to address these CC&I issues.

ROBERT MURPHY I've been active in the Sierra Club since the 1970s. I'm especially concerned about environmental justice. How do we protect our beautiful environment while working for peace and human rights? How do we care for all of our neighbors on Cape Cod and the Massachusetts islands? If elected, I'll give special attention to energy issues, transportation issues, and sustainable agriculture issues.

Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee Candidates' Statements *(Ballots are on page 16)*

BLOSSOM HOAG I have been an active Sierra Club member since 1983 and have held various executive committee positions at the group, chapter and regional levels. GW and Climate Change are my most urgent concerns. I attended two of the UNICC conferences over the past several years as a SC rep. I also volunteer to help get members involved. I look forward to hearing from you about your interests and would welcome any questions or suggestions that you may have or better yet, working with you next year. contact: blossomhoag@gmail.com or 617-567-4749.

ETHAN HOAG As an active member of the Sierra Club since 1983, with your vote, I would be happy to serve on the Greater Boston Group executive committee. I am currently the group energy committee chair and work closely with the Chapter Energy Committee. I have been concerned for many years about global warming and the global use of energy and the role it plays for future generations. In my opinion it is by far the most critical issue we all face today and in the coming decades. Please contact me at: ethanhoag@gmail.com or 617-567-4749.

JOHN LEWIS I solicit your vote to be able to continue to represent the Greater Boston Group of the Massachusetts Sierra Club. My particular interest (among several) is transportation because it has such a large effect on the fabric of our lives and on the air that we breathe. This involves the MBTA and their various proposals which do not address the real requirements of cities and towns. I am also a member of the City of Boston Conservation Commission. For recreation, I am a sailor, hiker and music aficionado. Thank you for your consideration.

ELENA SAPORTA I am a registered landscape architect and have been responsible for completing many successful urban design and environmental planning projects. I have been serving on the GBG ExCom and wish to continue my activities there. In the United States, city dwellers consume fewer environmental resources than their counterparts in the suburbs and beyond. As our cities become more densely populated, it is critical to balance growth with quality of life. As an inhabitant of the Boston metropolitan area, I am committed to improving our air and water quality, developing walkable, transit-centered communities and protecting open space.

Essex Group Executive Committee Candidates' Statements *(Ballots are on page 16)*

JIM AMATUCCI For the past couple of years I have been the Political and Fundraising Chair for the Essex County Group. Over that time I have worked closely with the group's ExCom to set up long term goals. With plans to engage members and expand our activities I see this as only the beginning to long-term success. I am running because I enjoy clean drinking water and healthy air to breathe, I am also willing to stand up and protect it.

KEVIN MCCARTHY I have enjoyed serving as Chair of the Essex County Executive Committee for the last two years and I hope to be re-elected to the committee for another term. I am continually seeking ways to advocate for environmental protection and to help educate communities about resource protection. I will work with the other members of the ExCom to harness the passion and energy of club members as effectively as possible to tackle the issues affecting Essex County, Massachusetts, and the country. Thank you for your consideration.

RICHARD PETERS, MD, PHD I have served on the Board of the Essex County Group for the past two years as Vice Chair of the Group and as Conservation Chair. I am a resident of West Newbury and have a deep passion for preserving the natural beauty of the Essex region. I am a member of several regional and national environmental organizations. I am trained as a physician-scientist and currently work as an executive in the healthcare sector. If elected, I wish to continue to drive preservation and conservation initiatives on behalf of the Sierra Club and our Essex County members.

Thoreau Group Executive Committee Candidates' Statements *(Ballots are on page 16)*

PAULINE OLIVER Having grown up on a working farm in Concord during a time (not very long ago!) when there were many more farmers than the few who survive today, I wish to encourage a resurgence of local agriculture. And I would like to explore the possibilities of growing local fuel along with local food.

JOHN TERRELL In serving on the Thoreau Group ExCom during this year, I've learned how important the Sierra Club is in the movement to ensure a sustainable earth. I believe the sustainability agenda is a survivability agenda. With a biologist I designed and co-taught an undergraduate course titled, "The Effects of the Environment on Health." I also helped organize the "MA Interfaith Environmental Network" and have participated in other environmental initiatives. Currently I teach physics and math at a technical school.

VOTING PROCEDURE

Sierra Club elections are conducted by secret ballot. In order to validate your ballots, your membership number must appear on the OUTSIDE of your envelope used to mail in the ballots. Your membership number is an eight digit number which appears on your Sierran mailing label. For a complete copy of voting procedures please contact the office or visit www.sierraclubmass.org/elections.html

MAIL BALLOTS TO: Sierra Club Elections, 10 Milk Street, Suite 632 Boston MA 02108

*Your membership number, which can be found above your address on the mailing label, must appear on the **outside** of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid.*

Ballots must be received by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st by 5:00 PM, in order to be counted.

BALLOT

**Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than six candidates.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Altemose | <input type="checkbox"/> R Phillip Dowds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Gehring | <input type="checkbox"/> Rouwena Lamm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter M Ruggiero | <input type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sego |

BALLOT

**Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than six candidates.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Altemose | <input type="checkbox"/> R Phillip Dowds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Gehring | <input type="checkbox"/> Rouwena Lamm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peter M Ruggiero | <input type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sego |

BALLOT

**Cape Cod and Islands Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Murphy | <input type="checkbox"/> Martha J Gillis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Bickerdike | <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow |

BALLOT

**Cape Cod and Islands Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Murphy | <input type="checkbox"/> Martha J Gillis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carl Bickerdike | <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow |

BALLOT

**Essex Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than three candidates.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Amatucci | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin McCarthy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | |

BALLOT

**Essex Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than three candidates.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Amatucci | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin McCarthy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | |

BALLOT

**Thoreau Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than two candidates

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pauline Oliver | <input type="checkbox"/> John Terrell |
|---|---------------------------------------|

BALLOT

**Thoreau Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than two candidates

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pauline Oliver | <input type="checkbox"/> John Terrell |
|---|---------------------------------------|

BALLOT

**Greater Boston Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blossom Hoag | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Hoag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Lewis | <input type="checkbox"/> Elena Saporta |

BALLOT

**Greater Boston Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blossom Hoag | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethan Hoag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Lewis | <input type="checkbox"/> Elena Saporta |

Wildlands and Woodlands

by Elisa Campbell

Living in Massachusetts may feel quite different to us depending on where we live. Some live largely urban lives, while for others it's a coastal state – well named the Bay State. For others, like me, it's forests, farms, and hills (or mountains small enough to be large hills in other parts of the world). Regardless of the landscape or cityscape we regularly encounter, we depend on forests – whether we see them every day or not.

Massachusetts is currently over 60 percent forested, which makes us the eighth most forested state in the country. Our forests quietly filter and clean the water that we drink, saving us billions in water treatment plant costs. Just think of the Quabbin Reservoir: the forests surrounding this water supply (and the dedicated efforts of the Quabbin staff) have kept the water for 2.4 million Massachusetts residents clean enough to win a very rare waiver from the Environmental Protection Agency and avoid having to install a multi-million dollar treatment plant.

Forests clean our air, too. Trees absorb ozone pollution which damages lungs and triggers asthma attacks. Scientists are finding that our forests absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide, thus offsetting our impact on the climate. Difficult as efforts to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions may be, we don't even want to think about how hard it will be to reduce our carbon footprint if we lose these natural "carbon sinks."

Many people think that most of the state's forests are protected from development. Unfortunately this is not the case. Of Massachusetts' roughly 5 million acres of land, about 1 million acres have been developed, and another 1 million are currently protected. That leaves about 3 million

acres that are not yet developed, but also not protected from development. According to a study done several years ago by Massachusetts Audubon, open space, including forests, is being developed at a rate of 40 acres each day. About 75 percent of the forests in Massachusetts are owned by individuals. What landowners do with their forests will profoundly affect our environment, the amount and severity of climate change, as well as jobs, public health, and tourism.

The good news is that landowners, forestry professionals, conservation groups, businesses and others are rallying behind an exciting vision for the future of our forests, called Wildlands and Woodlands. Wildlands and Woodlands aims to conserve half of the remaining 3 million acres of forestland left in Massachusetts over the next 20 years. Some of those areas will be Wildlands, which are reserves where natural processes are allowed to occur without timber management. These Wildlands will be surrounded by much larger Woodlands where forestry activities will continue. If we can meet the challenge of Wildlands and Woodlands before sprawling development overtakes our forested landscape, we'll get to keep the clean water, clean air, scenery, jobs, and recreational opportunities we all enjoy.

The Sierra Club is a member of the Wildlands and Woodlands Partnership. We're all working together to help save both our part of the planet, and to protect the planet as a whole from the emissions of pollutants and excess carbon dioxide.

You can help. If you own forest land, the Wildlands and Woodlands partnership web site has information about how to keep your land as forest. All of us can work together to make this vision a reality by learning more,



White Birch at Quabbin in winter, photo by Elisa Campbell

supporting the Sierra Club and other partner organizations, and encouraging our towns and local organizations to join. Please see the Wildlands and Woodlands web site: <http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/> ❖

Elisa Campbell represents the Sierra Club on the Wildlands and Woodlands Partnership (WWP).

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Massachusetts Chapter Outings and Events

ENERGY MOVIE NIGHT

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: 32 - 124, Stata Center, MIT, Cambridge

October 10: "Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil & the Future of Food"

November 14: "Oil on Ice"

January 9, 2009: "The True Cost of Food"

The Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club and the MIT Recycling Working Group of Support Staff Issues will screen movies every month. Discussion to follow the movies. For more information or to suggest films please contact Blossom Hoag at blossomhoag@gmail.com.

QUABBIN RESERVATION FORESTRY HIKE, HARDWICK (E)

November 8 (raindate, November 9)

Time: 10:00 AM

A hike guided by one of the foresters at Quabbin on the eastern side of Quabbin. This will be a long hike, but with little change in elevation. Sorry: no dogs. Contact Elisa at 413-256-4247 or by email at campbell@oit.umass.edu.

MT TOBY RESERVATION HIKE, MONTAGUE AND SUNDERLAND (E)

November 15

Time: 9:30 AM

Our hike co-leader has done forestry in the Mt Toby area for years and can show us the Arnold Rhodes old-growth hemlock stand as well as discuss the other types of forests there and the principals of the forest management done there. Sorry: no dogs. Contact Elisa at 413-256-4247 or by email at campbell@oit.umass.edu.

QUABBIN RESERVATION FORESTRY HIKE, NEW SALEM (E)

November 16

Time: 9:30 AM

A hike guided by the former chief forester of Quabbin. We'll visit some big pines and some recently-cut areas plus take in the view from Rattlesnake Hill. Sorry: no dogs. Contact Elisa at 413-256-4247 or by email at campbell@oit.umass.edu.

BEGINNER SNOWSHOE OR HIKE

January 10

Time: 10:00 AM

We'll go to the Quabbin, the Mt Holyoke Range or Mt Toby, depending on conditions. Dress for the weather in layers and good boots; bring snowshoes, lunch and water. Lack of snow turns it into a hike; rain or ice instead of snow cancels. Sorry, no dogs. Contact Elisa at 413-256-4247 or by email campbell@oit.umass.edu.

MT TOBY RESERVATION SNOWSHOE OR HIKE, MONTAGUE AND SUNDERLAND (E)

February 8

Time: 10:00 AM

Hike or snowshoe the trails on Mt Toby summit. Route will depend on trail and weather conditions. Sorry: no dogs. Contact Elisa at 413-256-4247 or by email at campbell@oit.umass.edu.

Please note that an outing may be cancelled for insufficient interest up to three days before the scheduled date. If you are interested in an outing, do not wait until the last minute to contact the leader.

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GROUP & CHAPTER MEETINGS

All meetings are at the Massachusetts Chapter Sierra Club Office, 10 Milk Street, Boston, unless otherwise noted. Committees are Chapter committees unless otherwise noted.

CHAPTER POLITICAL COMMITTEE

October 15

Time: 6:30 PM

Upcoming meetings: November 12, December 17, January 14, 2009

Help elect environmental candidates! The Sierra Club endorses and supports environmental candidates in local, state, and national elections. Join us through election day in working to get our candidates elected. After election day, join us as we put together our plans for our successful 2009 election effort. All Sierra club members are welcome. We have openings on our committee and need your help! Contact Phil Sego, at cpc@sierraclubmass.org for more information.

CHAPTER TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE AND NORTH/SOUTH RAIL LINK SUB-COMMITTEE

October 16

Time: 7:30 AM

Upcoming Meetings: December 18

The highways that are built to sustain our sprawling suburbs add to our pollution and energy problems, and increase our dependence on an auto-centric way of life which is unhealthy, antisocial, and unsustainable. The Big Dig has drained fiscal support away from maintaining the deteriorating highways that we already have and from expanding our public transit infrastructure, beyond a few ill-

conceived projects like the "Silver Line" bus and the "Urban Ring" busway. Join us and help the Sierra Club encourage public transit and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly neighborhoods

Contact John Kyper, Transportation Committee
617-445-8662, jkyper@sierraclubmass.org

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

November 2

Time: 9:30 AM

Upcoming Meetings: December 13

All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

Please call the chapter office for more information and directions. 617-423-5775

BOSTON INNER CITY OUTINGS

Regular meeting schedule is the third or fourth Tuesday of every other month, check web calendar. Boston ICO is a community outreach program that provides opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. We are looking for leaders! We lead monthly, day and overnight trips in Massachusetts and neighboring states including canoeing, hiking, snowshoeing, biking, apple picking and camping. We will be planning spring and summer trips and will hear updates from our leaders.

For more information: www.sierraclubmass.org/ico/icosite/index.html



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