

MASSACHUSETTS

SIERRAN

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Fall 2011 Issue

Reaching More Than
20,000 Sierra Club Members and
Supporters in Massachusetts

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www.sierraclubmass.org



Dear Fellow Sierra Club Member,

We share a passion for the environment and an understanding that the choices we make today will affect this planet for generations to come. When we preserve open space, stop the use of a toxic pesticide, or advocate for clean renewable energy, we're making a statement: our resources are finite. If we resist squandering them, we can preserve our environment for future generations.

Chapter volunteers and staff have been working tirelessly to protect our limited resources. We are constantly battling well-funded commercial interests and those who would destroy an endangered species just to make a profit.

This is where you come in – your support is instrumental in keeping up our work. Your direct donation to the Massachusetts Chapter will help us preserve our local resources: our treasured parklands, rich wetlands, rivers and lakes, and the air we breathe. Won't you take a moment and make a direct donation today? Any amount, large or small, helps us in our work, ensuring a healthy and diverse environment for the future.

Sincerely,

Dan Proctor
Chapter Chair



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Massachusetts Sierra Club

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SIERRA CLUB

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

Animal Farm 2011

If you have been following congress or the campaign trail recently, you may have noticed the newest refrain of the conservative movement: "Regulations are job killers and crushing the U.S. economy." Environmental regulations have become prime fodder for the Orwellian utterances of the right. As readers of the 1945 novel *Animal Farm* will recall, those in power eventually resort to revisionist history and a constant adjustment of the facts in order to maintain a corrupt power structure. Here in 2011, polluters and their pals in Washington want the polluting regime to stay, the EPA is in their way, and truth is a burden they can not bear.

The latest victory for the fossil-fuel industry was convincing President Obama to postpone proposed EPA air-quality rules. President Obama noted his commitment "to protecting public health and the environment is unwavering" even while announcing a delay in the very rules that would achieve this goal. By extolling the "importance of reducing regulatory burdens and regulatory uncertainty, particularly as our economy continues to recover," the White House fell lock-step in line with the rhetoric of the right. In late September, the House of Representatives voted to further derail the EPA with the ostensibly named "TRAIN" Act or "*Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation.*" Championed by Representative John Sullivan (R-OK), the bill cosponsor list reads like a who's who of recipients of fossil-fuel industry dollars.

Even as conservatives overwhelmingly decry environmental and public health regulations as "job killers", the fact is there is little or no evidence to support the claim. Recent data from the

continued on page 7

ON THE COVER: Middlesex Fells Photo by Deborah Holt

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Please submit all copy to editor@sierraclubmass.org. Please submit all announcements and meetings information to announce@sierraclubmass.org.

Opinions, unless otherwise stated, are of the author only; positions adopted by the Sierra Club are identified as such.

Circulation of the Massachusetts Sierran is over 20,000 outdoor-minded, environmentally aware readers.

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Sierra Club Recognizes MA Chapter Activists

Anne Carroll and Bob Murphy Receive National Awards

MA Chapter activists Anne Carroll and Bob Murphy were recognized for their volunteer contributions at the Sierra Club's 2011 annual awards celebration in San Francisco on Friday, Sept 23.

Cape Cod & Islands Group member Bob Murphy received the Club's Special Service Award for over forty years of volunteer contributions. During the Chapter's early years, Bob wore the various hats of office manager, newsletter editor and Boston Harbor Islands volunteer. More recently, Bob has used his work experience, education and position in the community to bring attention and resources to environmental justice issues.

Boston ICO Chair Anne Carroll received the Madelyn Payeatt Award, which honors a Sierra Club member who has made outstanding contributions through working with youth. Anne began volunteering with Boston Inner City Outings in 1998, and in 2004 she became Chair, overseeing the revitalization of Boston ICO. Under Anne's continuing leadership, Boston ICO has funded, organized and led over 75 trips, bringing more than 1300 youth on outdoor trips.



Congratulations to Anne and Bob!



LONG-TIME POPULATION ACTIVIST RETIRES



by Deborah Holt

Anita King, chair of the Chapter's Population Program, retired on Earth Day, April 22. Anita held this position since 1992 but now at age 95, she has decided it is time to step down.

When I first met Anita last summer, she told me how she became an activist. It

was 1992 and although a long-time Sierra Club member, she wasn't an active member. One day she got a call from another Chapter member who said "We're looking for someone to go to Washington because our representative hasn't decided which way he wants to vote on family planning and reproductive health. We thought you might like to go because you just moved here from Washington. I grabbed the opportunity because yes, indeed, I was missing friends in

Washington where I worked for the government at the National Institute of Mental Health."

Anita went on to launch the Population Program thereafter, and through collaboration with Smith College (her alma mater), the program sponsored a series of speakers, starting with Werner Fornos, head of the Population Institute in Washington from 1982-2005 and an internationally recognized expert on world population issues. Many other notable speakers followed, including Margaret Catley Carlson, currently chairman of the Global Water Partnership and Thoraya Obaid, Head of the United Nations Family Planning and Reproductive Health Program.

Over the almost twenty years that Anita served as Population chair, she brought light and attention to the issues of population, reproductive rights and social change through a steady series of articles and speakers. We are sad to lose Anita as Population chair but hopeful that someone will come forward soon to continue this important work. If you are interested, contact deborahholt4@gmail.com for more information.

Advocating for the Environment



Special Honored Guest "Bottle Bill" poses with Sierra Club Volunteer leader Phil Sego, MassPIRG's Janet Domenitz, and Ranata Von Tscherner from the Charles River Conservancy at Earth Day 2011.

Just six years ago, the Chapter began investing in our *Legislative Action Committee* – a group of dedicated activists who wanted to assist in our lobbying efforts.

Lobbying is of the most powerful tools that the chapter has in affecting environmental protections. The Sierra Club initiates and supports many environmental bills, and this committee assists in all aspects of legislation: testifying at hearings, lobbying and making calls to legislators, and contacting the press about important legislative issues. Working alongside with the chapter's professional staff, the committee has helped research and draft testimony on dozens of key bills, and has helped to increase our growing presence in the state house.

This successful effort shows that anyone can be a Citizen Activist and make a substantial contribution to the legislative process. The process is open to everyone who has something to say about an issue, a bill, or a problem that requires legislative action. Lobbying is not restricted to corporate special interests.

by Phil Sego

Below lists just a few of the bills that Sierra Club staff and volunteers – like you – have been working on.

Updated Bottle Bill – (H890/S1650. Rep. Wolf/Sen. Creem) Updates our highly successful bottle bill, adds water, juice, and tea beverages. Improves recycling, reduces litter.

Plastic Bag Ban – (S353/H1990/H1159 Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Ehrlich/Rep. Smizik) Bans non-biodegradable plastic shopping bags that kill more than 1 billion animals/year.

Producer Take-Back for Electronics ("E-Waste") - (H252/S352/S166 Rep. Smizik/Sen. Eldridge/Sen. Pacheco) Places responsibility of disposal of electronics waste on manufacturers.

Coal-Free Commonwealth – (H2614/S353 Rep. Ehrlich/Sen. Eldridge) Omnibus bill, would end coal burning in the state with a phase-out period and converting to cleaner fuels, and renewable energy; and **Act to Phase Out Coal Use** – (H2612 Rep. Ehrlich) Seeks to end coal use through a multi-faceted phaseout approach.



Regulate Gas obtained by "Fracking" – (H3055 Rep. Garballey) Requires that gas that's obtained by hydraulic fracturing comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Natural Gas Leaks Protection Bills – (H3051/3053/2776 Rep. Lori Ehrlich). A group of bills that address the growing issue of natural gas leaks from aging pipes. Natural gas kills trees, it is 25X more potent a global warming gas than CO₂, and there are 20,000 known gas leaks in Mass.

Wind Siting Reform – (H1775/S1666 Rep. Smizik/Sen. Finegold) For siting purposes, current law discriminates in favor of fossil-fueled facilities. This bill facilitates the siting of land-based wind energy projects while still retaining local control by cities and towns.

Efficiency Bond: (S1686 Sen. Pacheco) Creates a bonding program to improve energy efficiency in schools. Revenue neutral, with significant savings in energy costs and emissions.

Safer Alternatives – (S397/H1136 Sen. Tolman/Rep. Kaufman) Creates a program to support businesses and manufacturers to transition away from using and selling products containing toxic chemicals.

Make Idling Law Enforceable – (H907 Rep. Brownsberger) The current 5-minute limit is difficult to enforce and produces excessive greenhouse gas. This reduces the limit to 2 minutes.

Incineration Moratorium – (S346/H226 Sen. DiDomenico/Rep. Garballey) Places a legislated, permanent moratorium on increasing trash incineration.



**Article 97/
Public Lands
Protection Act** –
(H1124/S350 Rep.
Balsler/Sen. Eldridge)
Requires “no-net-loss”
replacement of lands
for parks being used or
transferred from pro-
tected status.

**Old Growth
Forest Initiative**
- (H236 Rep. Kulik)

Establishes Reserves to protect the few remaining Old Growth Forests, which have escaped the clear-cutting of the past and provide unique habitats.

**Public Postings when Making Changes to
Parks/Forests** – (H2008 Rep. Kocot) Requires DCR to notify the public and allow for comment when making changes (e.g. cutting trees) to public lands.

Protect Tropical Forests – (H836, Rep. Rushing)
This Act would protect tropical forests by restricting state purchases of certain wood products.

Protect the Northern Right Whale - (Rep. Kocot) With just 300 Northern Right Whales left, the greatest threats are boat strikes and net entanglements.

Local Control of Personal Watercraft (“Jet Skis”) - (H1565 Rep. O’Day) Enables cities/towns to place restrictions on smaller bodies of water that are enclosed within the municipality if they so desire, for example limiting hours, or curtailing use during sensitive waterfowl migration periods.

We have also testified on many other environmental bills. This list is available on our website.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Contact your State Rep and State Senator. We’re constantly told that citizens rarely contact them about any bill (but corporate lobbyists are always seeking their support). Please ask them to support all the bills on this list or just those that are of greatest concern to you.

Write a letter to the editor of your local paper or post to their blog.

Become a fan of the Massachusetts Sierra Club’s Facebook page and watch for alerts about important bills that are coming up for a vote.

You can also directly support our legislative programs by making a donation to the Chapter. Please see page 10 for details.

What a Waste

Twenty-four states have legislation regulating the collection and disposal of E-Waste, the fastest growing portion of our waste stream. Of the millions of units discarded annually in MA, only a small percentage – less than 20% - is recycled with some of the material slated for recycling ending up overseas as a toxic export.

Many of these products contain hazardous chemicals and heavy metals (e.g., cadmium, lead, mercury) that leach into waterways and groundwater from landfills or pollute the air through emissions, posing serious threats to public and environmental health and imposing significant costs on municipalities.

A Better Way to Deal With E-Waste

E-Waste legislation filed this session and supported by the Sierra Club, would move Massachusetts to the forefront of states dealing responsibly with E-Waste. SB 166 (Senator Pacheco) and HB 252/SB 352 (Representative Smizik & Senator Eldridge), are based on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), an approach that shifts responsibility for collection and safe disposal of E-Waste from taxpayers to manufacturers.

Urge your representatives to support passage of comprehensive, EPR based, E-Waste legislation.

energyfederation.org
...where saving energy is easy.
customerservice@efi.org

energyfederation.org gives people access to products that can help reduce energy and water use, including the Evolve™ Roadrunner Showerhead, a unique showerhead that will save water before you get in the shower.

WE SELL ENERGY STAR

Threats to our Forests Proliferating

by Elisa Campbell



In the past couple of years, over 29,000 trees had to be removed in the Worcester area because of the infestation by the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB). It is not likely that all infested trees have been found and removed; in fact, last fall on a tour of the area that was part of a major conference on introduced pests of forests, we saw a lovely forested hillside in Boylston where some trees were discovered to be infested, and all the trees which the beetles might move to should be removed. It is heartbreaking to see such lovely sugar maples and know they must come down. But it is essential to eliminate the ALB before it moves on to all our forests and the forests north of us.

Eradication is possible – a rare event in the efforts to contain the many insects, fungi, and other organisms we humans have accidentally moved around the planet. Dedicated people and organizations are working hard to prevent the introduction of yet more pests, at the same time that they and others seek methods to contain those that are here and can't be eliminated.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is one of these pests that is spreading. It has spread widely throughout the mid-west; when it was identified as the cause of signifi-

cant destruction to ash trees in southern Michigan in 2002, it was estimated that it had already infested a large area for at least five years. It was too late to eradicate the insect.

EAB (in photo) is now widespread in one of our neighbors – New York state. Last year it was found in Saugerties, only 25 miles from the Massachusetts border.

Adult females lay eggs under the bark of trees; the larvae munch tunnels into the sapwood of the tree; then overwinter under the bark, before emerging the next summer as an adult. The adults feed on the foliage. An infestation of EAB kills trees within a few years.

Department of Conservation and Recreation is forbidding anyone from bringing firewood to state campgrounds; firewood in the campgrounds must be kiln-dried.

Since 2003, the federal government has quarantined the movement of many products from the state where EAB is known to exist. The quarantine includes: ash trees for nurseries, all firewood from any hardwood tree, as well as green lumber, logs, chips, branches, etc. from ash trees.

As part of its efforts to slow the importation of EAB into Massachusetts, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is forbidding anyone from bringing firewood to state campgrounds; firewood in the campgrounds must be kiln-dried. DCR foresters will also be setting up traps in a grid in the four western counties, and checking those traps regularly for the presence of EABs. (The traps do not capture all adults but will show if EAB is in the area.)

DCR developed an “Emergency Response Plan for Highly Destructive Invasive Forest Pests” in 2007, which included the EAB. Unfortunately, then and now there is no biological control for the EAB, although scientists are working to find one. Pesticides can be helpful on specimen trees if they have not yet been heavily infested. Host trees in infected urban and suburban areas generally have to be removed to prevent damage to people and property.

The most important actions we can take as tree lovers are (1) scrupulously follow the “do not move firewood” rules and inform our friends and relatives about their importance; and (2) support federal and state funding for research. In the current political climate we must make our voices heard for forest protection.

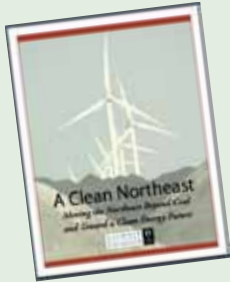
Massachusetts Chapter Meetings & Events

Due to the long lead time of the Sierran publication schedule, all events, meetings, and outings are now listed on the Chapter web site and in the E-Sierran.

Please sign up for the E-Sierran (see page 16) and/or visit www.sierraclubmass.org and click on “Meetings and Events” to access the latest listings, or call the chapter office at 617-423-5775.

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

A Clean Northeast: Beyond Coal and a Clean Energy Future



The Sierra Club has released a landmark report outlining a path to a renewable energy future for Massachusetts and the entire Northeast, the most energy-intensive region of America. The Club's new report "A Clean Northeast" analyzes our region's addiction to coal and how we can move beyond it with efficiency, wind, solar, and other renewables. Massachusetts is the only New England state that still relies significantly on coal-fired power plants.

A renewable energy future for the Northeast will create new, green jobs--up to 48,000 in Massachusetts alone. All while reducing our environmental footprint and fighting global climate change. Please check our web site to learn about our priority "Coal-Free Commonwealth by 2020" legislation and ask your legislator to support it.

Member Notice:

At its December 18th meeting, the Chapter Executive Committee will vote on a proposal to dissolve the following Groups due to their having been inactive for more than one year: *Blackstone Valley, Pioneer Valley, and Essex County*. Club members are welcome to comment on this proposal at the meeting, which takes place from 11:30 until 3:30 at the chapter office, 10 Milk Street, Suite 632 in Boston.

Animal Farm 2011 *continued from page 2*

Bureau of Labor Statistics shows less than 1 percent of job losses from layoffs in the first half of 2011 were a result of "governmental regulations." More research is needed, but it is now believed that while regulations may *shift* some jobs, government oversight rarely *eliminates* them. The real concern of polluters is that regulatory oversight will be accompanied by progressive policies that also shift taxpayer-funded subsidies away from coal, gas, and oil and over to renewable energy.

Research shows that investments in a clean energy economy would create four times more jobs than investments in polluting industries like oil. According to a 2011 Brookings Institute report, the 2.7 million workers in the "clean economy" now surpass employment in the fossil-fuel sector. The report documents how the clean economy "out-performed the overall economy during the recent recession" and "offers more opportunities and better pay for low- and middle-skilled workers than the national economy as a whole."

It is no wonder that regulations terrify polluting industries "who fear it will drive up energy costs and force the retirement of some older but still-profitable operations" according to the *New York Times*. Unfortunately, what may be profitable for some is making our nation sick, and the hidden costs do not factor into industry's bottom line while they sell us "cheap" fuel like coal.

So who pays? We do. A 2011 Sierra Club report found that health impacts from coal causes 4000 deaths annually in the Northeast with 251 deaths, 211 hospitalizations, and 471 heart attacks in Massachusetts

alone (see report above). A recent Harvard study found that the true impacts of coal nationwide are costing Americans an additional \$500 billion annually in health care costs, injuries, infrastructure, and environmental damage. The Harvard study calculated an additional 18 cents per kilowatt-hour would need to be added to yield the true cost, making coal more costly by far than wind or solar.

"Old Major" from *Animal Farm* likened their human oppressors to "parasites" feeding on animal society. Similarly, the fossil-fuel industries have a stranglehold on our nation, fed by our addiction to coal, oil and gas. There are more threats looming, like tar sands oil that strips and pollutes the landscape, and forest biomass that would increase our carbon footprint while clearing and burning the equivalent of 30-50 million acres of forests nationwide by 2030. As the TRAIN rolls on in Washington, its supporters talk of "revitalizing the economy." Unfortunately, if the TRAIN survives the Senate and a Presidential veto, it will ensure little more than the right to pollute for profit.

Government oversight is not the enemy, but rather a necessity of a society that would choose to promote energy and environmental policies that *support the clean, eliminate the dirty, and regulate all* so polluters – not citizens – bear the now-hidden costs. This in turn will drive innovation and opportunities for the renewable energy sector while spurring economic growth and a new era of green jobs to help get Americans back to work. Like the industrious characters of Orwell's allegorical tale, perhaps we should start by overthrowing the old regime and building more windmills.

Sierra Club Takes to the Streets!

We share a passion for the environment and an understanding that the choices we make today will affect this planet for all. Across the Commonwealth the Sierra Club is more active than ever and has taken to the streets this past spring and summer to stand up for workers rights, environmental protection, defending the EPA, protesting nuclear power, ending our nation's addiction to coal, and lobbying legislators for strong environmental protections. These are just a few of the great events and actions we have taken to protect public health and the environment. Please join us at our next event!

HOLYOKE

The Beyond Coal to Clean Energy campaign teamed up with National Wildlife Federation, Neighbor to Neighbor and Nuestras Raíces on Wednesday, June 29th for a media event to bring awareness to the high rate of asthma in Holyoke and how the GDF-Suez owned Mount Tom coal plant contributes. Neighbor to Neighbor member Virgenmina Perez and her two-year-old asthmatic grandson, Juniel Cruz, spoke to reporters about the burden of air pollution and asthma on her family. Virgenmina has five family members with asthma including a three-month-old great-grandchild that was hospitalized for three months.



Neighbor to Neighbor member Virgenmina Perez and aspiring Channel 3 News Reporter Juniel Cruz educate the public about the dangers of coal and the impact on families in Holyoke living with asthma.



SCOTT BROWN EVENT

The event started outside Brown's Boston office at the JFK Building with speakers from Marblehead and Jamaica Plain. Lynn Nadeau spoke about living in the shadow of the Salem Coal Plant and Pamela Bush spoke about her family's asthma problems from poor air quality in Jamaica Plain.

More than 50 Massachusetts voters came out to rally in front of Scott Brown's office in May to voice their displeasure with Brown's April 7th vote to gut the EPA's ability to regulate air pollution and automobile mileage standards.

STATE HOUSE EARTH DAY

More than fifteen environmental groups gathered to celebrate Earth Day this year and to highlight environmental awareness at the State House on April 21st. Citizen and environmental groups were joined by Former Governor Michael Dukakis, Representative and Natural Resources Committee Chair Ann Gobi, and Climate Change Committee Chair Frank Smizik. The Lobby Day included activist training after the event. Citizens met with legislators to lobby in support of 1% for the Environmental Budget and the Updated Bottle Bill.



Sierra Club Volunteers Roxanne and Monica help out at Earth Day 2011



Sierra Club members join with Union Workers to unite for worker and environmental rights.

“We Are One” EVENT

On April 4th, Sierra Club members stood with 400 others in a “We Are One” State Day of Action for Working Families and Our Environment event held in front of Republican State Committee headquarters in Boston after states voted to limit workers rights and health-care options. The Day of Action was scheduled on the 43rd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination. In a statement to the press, Massachusetts Sierra Club Director, James McCaffrey, made the clear connection between the Sierra Club’s involvement with workers’ rights and Dr. King, “The Sierra Club is marching today to stand up for the human, civil and environmental rights that Dr. King gave his life for.” A broad cross section of Massachusetts residents was represented at the event, united by the shared vision of a safe, equitable and healthy America for all citizens.



Citizen, Public Safety, Anti-nuclear, and Environmental Groups organized on the steps of the statehouse to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear power in the wake of the Japanese Tsunami.

MEET LAUNA ZIMMARO

by Deborah Holt



Launa with Luke and Scarlett

"My first experience with the Club was receiving one of their calendars for a Hanukkah gift," says Launa Zimmaro. "The photographs were so beautiful, and I thought, oh, the Sierra Club is a nice organization. When all the environmental regulations passed in the 1970's, there was a feeling of 'ok, we've taken care of business'. But it was a false sense of security."

Looking back on her journey, Zimmaro recalls trips to the Smokey Mountains and Florida's Everglades as a child. "I grew up taking these places for granted and thinking they would be here forever." For many years, she and her husband have enjoyed biking and hiking vacations, and at first it was all about being outside. But with time, Zimmaro came to appreciate how fragile the earth is and how threatened.

Zimmaro joined the Sierra Club four years ago after retiring from a career in education. Early on, she helped to start a town committee in Carlisle where she lives. "The Carlisle Town Committee has been a vehicle for raising awareness on issues beyond Carlisle but is also a vehicle to work with residents on local issues. One of the issues that we worked on is the treatment of playing fields. Five years before the formation of the Sierra Club Town Committee, a Pesticide Awareness Group was formed and was successful in getting the Recreation Committee (Rec Com) to go green. Later, faced with budget constraints, the Rec Com considered reverting back to the bad chemicals to save \$2,000. Zimmaro alerted the head of the pesticide group and the members of the newly formed Sierra Club Town Committee. The two groups formed a coalition and convinced the Rec Com to stay their green course. "I really believe that the presence of seven concerned citizens, six of whom attended as members of the Sierra Club Town Committee made all the difference in this situation." This experience impressed Zimmaro about the importance of citizen

advocacy and how the Sierra Club's organization and resources are positioned to support it.

I asked Zimmaro what her most meaningful Sierra Club experience has been. "It was a conversation with Chapter Chair Dan Proctor in which he explained the role of the Club, how the organization empowers volunteers and its potential for positive change. I had just retired and was definitely interested in getting back to the environment and being able to make an impact."

Zimmaro donates time and money to the Sierra Club, and I asked her why she feels this is important. "We hear all the time that time is money, but people should not confuse giving their time with giving financially. An organization like the Sierra Club needs both. When I'm doing actual work and giving my time, obviously I get the satisfaction that I've made a contribution. But I also know when I give money that I help get the message out to a broader constituency. I think I'm getting a lot for my money because the Sierra Club is doing incredible work. It's not a one-way street. The more I become involved, the more apparent it is that it's a two-way street, and it's very rewarding. I'm very grateful there is a Sierra Club, and I feel very lucky to be working with the people I'm working with."

What does Zimmaro see in the future? She's a member of the League of Women Voters and working with them and the Club on the Bottle and E-waste bills. She says it's wonderful to see two organizations she's interested in collaborating.

Finally, I asked Zimmaro if she would like to try something different. Her answer: "I might try getting a little sleep."



Support Our Legislative Program

Our Chapter legislative program needs your support!

The Chapter is participating in a matching challenge grant to raise at least \$5000 between now and mid-November to directly support our legislative priorities. The Massachusetts Sierra Club is one of the most effective and constant voices on Beacon Hill fighting to protect the Earth and promote strong environmental legislation.

Our top priorities for this legislative session include Updating the Bottle Bill, a Coal-Free Commonwealth, and Wind Energy Siting.

Please mail in a contribution today or donate online at www.sierraclubmass.org/support.html

Celebrating 40 Years of Protecting Our Environment in New England

Forty years ago a group of Sierra Club members founded the New England Chapter. The Chapter went on to achieve many major environmental victories including: transforming Boston's waterfront and creating a Boston Harbor National Recreation Area; defeated a proposal to fill the Attleboro wetlands and build a shopping mall; passing important legislation like the state's first bottle bill, the Rivers Protection Act, the Green Communities Act, the Global Warming Solutions act, and the largest environmental bond bill in the history of the commonwealth.

Last Fall, the Massachusetts Chapter commemorated this milestone with a reception at the Hampshire House in Boston. Members and staff from California, Maine, Washington DC and New Jersey were in attendance to celebrate this monumental achievement. Our program included comments from Sierra Club President Robin Mann and an inspiring video produced by longtime chapter volunteer Deborah Holt. Our guests left energized and inspired to continue our work protecting our commonwealth.

A special thank you goes to our Leadership Committee. Without them, the event would not have been possible.

John Muir Sierrans

- John Lewis
- Roxanne Eigenbrod Zak

Ansel Adams Sierrans

- Anonymous (2)
- Phil Dowds

David Brower Sierrans

- Anonymous
- Dan Proctor



GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

David P. Choat (Melrose, MA)
Boston Duck Tours – company & staff
James Cain
Kristin McRae
Elizabeth Ann Wendlandt

Joseph N. Demusz (Woburn, MA)
Carbon Mission Team of NOAA at Oak Ridge, TN
(Bruce Baker, Dave Senn, Ed Dumas, Ron Dobosy)
Christine Kozaczka & Linda Joseph
Tom & Pat Kozaczka
Jesse Kroll
Tom & Elaine Mandeville
Charles & Mildred Mealey
Joseph & Karen Nicienski
Leah Sak

Charles “Chuck” Kinney (Newburyport, MA)
Kristina Cairns

Guy D. Rosmarin (Brookline, MA)
James Babcock
Andrew Jeske
Martin Levin
Roberta Leviton
Sandra Price
The Simansky Family



~ Fellow Sierrans ~

We appreciate your enthusiasm for the environment in Massachusetts and your support of the Sierra Club. We encourage you to share that enthusiasm with your relatives, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.

Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, remembering loved ones, and other special occasions are a great opportunity for you to share your love of the environment with others. What do you get for mom or dad, or brother or sister or even a co-worker on those special occasions? Why not give them a gift they will enjoy the entire year? Make a donation in their honor to Massachusetts Sierra Club. You can also tell your relatives and friends what you really want for your special occasion is for them to donate, in your name, to Massachusetts Sierra Club.

Whether it is giving or getting a gift, the Sierra Club is here to help you. You can use the enclosed envelope to make your gift. Call us at 617-423-5775 or make a gift online at <http://www.sierraclubmass.org/join/join.html>. We'll acknowledge you for your gift and let your special person know that a donation has been made. Gift memberships are another great way of celebrating special occasions. Give a gift that keeps on giving all year.

Endorsed Candidates, 2011 Municipal Elections

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

List complete as of press time, September 19, 2011. Visit www.sierraclubmass.org for an up-to-date listing.

Boston:

Ayanna Pressley - *At Large*
Felix Arroyo - *At Large*
John R Connolly - *At Large*
Michael F Flaherty - *At Large*
Stephen J Murphy - *At Large*
Suzanne Lee - *District 2*
Tito Jackson - *District 7*
Mike Ross - *District 8*
Mark Ciommo - *District 9*

Cambridge:

Henrietta Davis
Denise Simmons
Minka VanBeuzekom
Craig Kelley
Tim Toomey

Sam Seidel
Matt Nelson

Fitchburg:

Lisa Wong - *Mayor*

Saugus:

Sean Maltais - *Board of Selectmen*

Somerville:

Christine Barber - *Alderman Ward 4*
Rebekah Gewirtz - *Alderman Ward 6*
Katjana Ballantyne - *Alderman Ward 7*
Bill White - *Alderman At Large*
Dennis Sullivan - *Alderman At Large*

Springfield:

Amaad Rivera - *At Large*
Michael Fenton - *Ward 2*
Melvin Edwards - *Ward 3*

Watertown:

Susan Falkoff
Mark Sideris
Vincent J Piccirilli
Tony Palomba

Worcester:

Sarai Rivera - *City Council, District 4*
Jim Kersten - *City Council at large*
Joe O'Brien - *City Council at large*

The Sierra Club's Endorsement Process

Throughout the summer, the Massachusetts Sierra Club investigated the voting records of incumbents, reviewed questionnaires, and discussed policy with candidates. Many important environmental issues are decided on the municipal level, so it is crucial that Sierra Club members work hard to elect pro-environment mayors, councilors, aldermen, and selectmen.

Some candidates had our endorsement in the past while 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.

Key Races, 2011 Municipal Elections



Lisa Wong
Mayor
Fitchburg

Since Lisa Wong's first election, she has been a champion of increasing public transportation options and use and

instituting the Safe Routes to School program, which will increase the number of students and staff who walk to school. Her first projects in Fitchburg involved overseeing the city's brownfields program and building a park on an abandoned commercial space. She has aggressively tackled idling at schools, especially with bus and parent drop-off/pickup before and after school. She also initiated the Fitchburg Greenway Committee to promote greenways and alternative transportation throughout the city. Most recently, she received the Conservationist of the Year Award from the Trustees of Reservations and was appointed to a US EPA advisory committee, where she chairs the Environmental Justice workgroup.



Katjana Ballantyne
Alderman, Ward 7
Somerville

Katjana Ballantyne believes that stewardship of the environment begins with the individual. She's adopted

a personal environmentally efficient lifestyle, living within the smallest-possible carbon footprint. In her public life, Katjana has advocated in favor of the Green Line Extension in Somerville in front of MDOT and MPO meetings, citing many environmental benefits such as reduced vehicle emissions, increased air quality, reduced noise pollution and improved public health. She also helped create a sustainable community-based energy-efficiency retro-fitting company to empower local residents to access green living-wage jobs and to encourage community reinvestment in energy efficiency. As an Alderman, Katjana will strive to maintain the environment as a priority in current municipal operations and in planning for future development in the city of Somerville.



Amaad Rivera
City Council at Large
Springfield

Formerly a district city councilor, Amaad's citywide view will be a strong asset to all residents of Springfield.

Ensuring the protection of the environment as well as integrating a green approach has been a key part of his term in office. He opposed the building of a biomass plant, a key initiative of the Sierra Club. In collaboration with a local non-profit and utilities companies he worked to establish a first-of-its-kind green zone to help working families access weatherization. In addition, he is currently working to ensure that the city's post-tornado rebuilding efforts include green affordable housing. He is also working corroboratively with local labor on increasing access to green jobs throughout the city. Amaad Rivera is one of the most knowledgeable and deeply committed pro-environment candidates in this race.

Key Races, 2011 Municipal Elections



Joe O'Brien
Worcester
City Council at large

Joe O'Brien has a lifetime record of support for environmental issues and has been working to build a

more sustainable and viable community. He first became involved in the environmental movement at age 25 when he became the Earth Day Coordinator for the Regional Environmental Council, coordinating Earth Day community cleanups and helping found a youth environmental service group. As a 6-year member of the School Committee, he advocated for school recycling programs and pushed to have the city improve efficiency of its 50+ school buildings. As Mayor he's pushed for more community gardens; created a pilot program for micro-farms on abandoned lots; helped launch a Storm Water Coalition to address storm water challenges; and worked with the EPA to sponsor a workshop on how to build rain gardens. He has also pushed to expedite ECSO projects, advocated for mass transit, and helped push to have Worcester become one of the Commonwealth's first "Green Communities."



Suzanne Lee
City Council, District 2
Boston

In her work in the community as well as in Boston's Public Schools, Suzanne Lee always made environ-

mental consciousness a priority, from teaching the importance of recycling and reducing energy consumption to working on a weatherization initiative through the Chinese Progressive Association. One example of her leadership is her nearly 10 years of work on the Parcel C Campaign in Chinatown. This effort, endorsed by the Sierra Club, blocked the construction of a parking garage near Tufts Medical Center. The campaign emphasized the negative aspects of more cars and the benefits of preserving the land for uses desired by the community. Today, the Chinese Progressive Association, which Suzanne founded and chaired for many years, is a partner with Tufts Medical School on study of pollution emitted from highways I-90 and I-93.



Susan Falkoff
Town Councilor
Watertown

Susan Falkoff has contributed decades of community service to Watertown. As an ac-

tive member of Watertown Citizens for Environmental Safety, Susan spearheaded efforts to hold the Army accountable for environmental restoration at the Watertown Arsenal and became a national spokesperson on constructive citizen involvement in environmental remediation projects. She has also worked tirelessly to promote energy efficiency and maintain public spaces. She pushed for snow removal practices that use less salt, supported the first of three stormwater ordinances being written by the Stormwater Management committee, worked with DPW to change the way it offers business trash collection and to make recycling, previously not offered, mandatory. Susan also supported adoption of the Stretch Code and of Watertown's successful application to become a Green Community. Finally, she worked with the Planning Department on creating a Comprehensive Master Plan that will include transportation, land use and open space.



Sarai Rivera
City Council, District 4
(Wards 8 & 10)
Worcester

Sarai Rivera's outlook and life commitments reflect her passion and dedication to environ-

mental justice. She has pledged to support the commitment of city resources to expand WRTA to make it more viable for a wider range of residents; lobby the state for more support of RTA's; require city buses to have bicycle racks; designate bike lanes; commit to emissions retrofits for older diesel fleets; expand use of low-emission vehicles in the city fleet; give parking incentives for low-emission vehicles; and encourage the use of public transportation. She will work to enact requirements for mandatory recycling in businesses, and expand hazardous waste collection and e-waste collection days. She will fight to protect urban parks as they are an essential part of healthy neighborhoods, providing safe and healthy activities for youth and bringing people together.



Christine P. Barber
Alderman, Ward 4
Somerville

As a health care policy expert, Christine P. Barber recognizes healthy communities begin with a healthy

environment, including access to local foods, clean air and open space. Christine supports an open and transparent government that is responsive to residents' needs. In her work as a Legislative Aide at the State House, she helped coordinate a coalition of transportation advocates in the Rail Trail, Bike, and Pedestrian Caucus. One of her priorities is improving access to greener transportation to reduce emissions. The Green Line Extension is slated to stop in her Ward, and she will work with residents and community leaders to ensure the design and plan for the Green Line is accessible for residents. In addition, she will work to continue adequate bus service – currently her neighborhood's primary option for public transportation – until the Green Line Extension is operational.



Sean Maltais
Selectman
Saugus

Sean Maltais is currently a Town Meeting member (precinct 6) and has been extremely active on a number of environ-

mental fronts. He opposes the Wheelabrator/RESCO incineration facility for the health and environmental threats it poses. He voted to support a Trash Reduction program to reduce net trash tonnage. He hopes to move towards a PAYT system and to increase recycling capacity. He successfully had "Idling is Against the Law" signs installed in front of schools and hopes to expand them to other properties. He is advocating for the Junior High rehab project to include a green roof and other energy saving functions. He supports implementation of the Stretch Code, which would allow Saugus to choose a more energy-efficient building code option. He also helped stop T-Mobile from decimating wetlands and installing a gravel road to access equipment on town land, an ongoing battle. He is planning a clean-up of the Rumney Marsh area.

Green Communities Act & Local Action

by Tara Holmes



With such a wide assortment of programs, subsidies and rebates, it can be a challenge for Massachusetts residents and communities to stay on top of state and local energy efficiency options available to them. One such option falls under the Green Communities Act, which was signed into law by Governor Patrick in July 2008 and created the Green Communities Division within DOER to serve as the hub for all cities and towns on all matters related to energy. The Green Communities Act established the Green Communities Grant Program that provides grant funding to cities and towns and other local governmental bodies. In 2010, thirty-five cities and towns from across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts were designated as Green Communities (35 Communities). To become a Green Community, a city or town must meet the following five criteria as detailed in the program guidelines found at <http://tiny.cc/GreenCToolkit>:

Five specific criteria under the Green Communities Grant Program:

1. Provide for the as-of-right siting of renewable or alternative energy generating facilities, renewable or alternative energy research and

development (R&D) facilities, or renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facilities in designated locations.

2. Adopt an expedited application and permitting process under which these energy facilities may be sited within the municipality and which shall not exceed one year from the date of initial application to the date of final approval.
3. Establish an energy use baseline inventory that includes municipal buildings, vehicles, street and traffic lighting, and put in place a comprehensive program designed to reduce this baseline by 20 percent within 5 years of the baseline year.
4. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for municipal use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.
5. Require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life-cycle cost of the facility by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies. The recommended method for meeting these criteria is adoption of the Stretch Code, 780 CMR 120.AA, appendix to the MA State Building Code.

While the Green Communities Act has already established a solid base and grant program for communities who wish to participate, it's important to continue to

increase public awareness of grant and education programs associated with the GCA, to coordinate state-wide community outreach efforts to expand GCA impact, to use GCA success stories to promote more green-community advancement, to encourage increased participation in DOER's Energy Audit Program and to utilize Green Communities Regional Coordinators to learn more specifics.

Central Region :

Kelly Brown
627 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01103
(508) 767-2703
Mobil (617) 780-8144

Northeast Region:

Joanne Bissetta
205B Lowell Street
Wilmington, MA 01887
(978) 694-3315
Mobil (617) 823-4029

Southeast Region :

Seth Pickering
20 Riverside Drive
Lakeville, MA 02347
(508) 946-2838
Mobil (617) 780-7156

Western Region :

Jim Barry
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 755-2232
Mobil (617) 823-4588

Please refer to the Chapter website for more information on the Green Communities Act.

Chapter Election Schedule 2011

Printing and mailing of ballots
in the *Sierran*: October 1

Receipt of ballot deadline:
November 18

Count of ballots at Sierra Club
chapter office: November 18

MA Chapter to Support Cities and Towns for the Green Communities Act – Volunteer Opportunities

by David Heimann

As part of the 2008 Green Communities Act (GCA), a statewide program has come into effect, offering benefits to municipalities that make a commitment to efficiency and renewable energy. The state Department of Energy Resources, includes a Green Communities Division to provide technical and financial assistance to municipalities for energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts.

Many municipalities in Mass. and elsewhere have developed, are developing, or will eventually develop “climate action plans” with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. An increasing percentage of these plans may aim to conserve natural resources in general, and thus be termed “sustainability plans.” We expect that such planning will also become integrated with existing, traditional long-range planning processes.

At present there is no one-stop, or even obvious first-stop, source of support for municipal energy planning. Each municipality has to reinvent this particular wheel. It is highly inefficient for each of the 351 Mass. municipalities to independently go through the daunting process of creating a climate action plan, then implementing and enforcing it. This is especially so when the economic situation is forcing municipalities to look for opportunities to share resources.

The Campaign

The Massachusetts Chapter is developing a program to fill a very significant gap in the current array of programs, services and incentives intended in these and other state programs. The Sierra Club has for several years encouraged CO2-reduction planning through

its “Cool Cities” program (www.coolcities.us).

We will build on these efforts to make the municipalities’ work easier and more effective, and build communications and interactions among them, by providing global analysis, tools, and support, doing so through a Web site, database, wiki, discussion board, and local activists who bring these resources to bear on each locality with whom we work, through the following endeavors:

Part (a): Catalog best plans and best practices. Not only from around the state but from around the nation and beyond.

Part (b): Develop an exemplary website that can be an unparalleled resource for our members in their local communities and also for their municipal officials, other organizations, and citizens in general.

Part (c): Work with Mass cities and towns in providing them with our information, coordinating among them, and following up on their efforts.

Volunteer opportunities

Part (a): Obtain information specific to as many cities and towns as possible. This includes their local energy/green plans, meeting minutes, relevant archival and current local data, newsletters and electronic publications and social media, events of note coming up, and goals and action items that they commit to.

Obtain information of use to any city or town. This includes the GCA and Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) legislation text, availability of funds and the paperwork necessary to apply, model energy and green plans, tables of legislative requirements, articles of general interest, and events such as talks and discussion seminars, including slides from previous events.

Part (b): Obtain requirements for, design, develop, and implement the Web site:

Part (c): Establish working relationships with cities and towns to make them aware of what we are doing and obtain buy-in and input from them.

Obtain a working knowledge of the GCA and GWSA, in order to serve as a resource to fellow volunteers and to cities and towns

Form local action committees in cities and towns to work with them and to organize into the effort Club members living there.

In this way, the Chapter will build on the existing motivation at the municipal level established by the Green Communities Act and by previous Chapter effort. A successful effort will make the municipalities’ work easier and more effective, build communications and interactions among them, and save tons of energy and CO2 emissions!

For more information, please contact Ernie Edwards or David Heimann at office@sierraclubmass., telephone (617) 423-4775.

Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Voting Instructions and Election Procedures

You elect the Sierra Club leadership each year. In this issue of the Sierran, you will find candidates' statements and ballots (on pages 16 and 18) for the Chapter and Group Executive Committee Election. All Massachusetts Sierra Club members may vote for the Chapter Executive Committee. Members residing within group boundaries may also vote in their local group election. Please contact the chapter office if you have a question about your group membership.

Mail ballots to: **Sierra Club Elections, 10 Milk Street, Suite 632, Boston, MA 02108.** Ballots must be received by 5:00 PM, Friday, November 18th, 2011 in order to be counted.

Vote for no more than the number of candidates indicated on each ballot. In order to validate your ballots, please write your membership number on the upper left hand corner of your envelope. Your eight-digit membership number appears on the mailing label of the Sierran. **A second ballot is provided for those households with joint memberships so that each member can vote.** If you have any questions, please call the chapter office at (617) 423-5775.

Your membership number must appear on the outside of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid. (An extra ballot is provided for households with joint memberships.)

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Statements

Vote for no more than four candidates (Ballots on page 17)

Tara Holmes – A member of the Energy Committee, Tara Holmes was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the Executive Committee this past year. Tara brings to the Sierra Club multiple years of environmental experience, including professional backgrounds at the World Resources Institute, Northeastern University, where she focused on green campus initiatives, and currently at the MA Department of Energy Resources where Tara coordinates multiple clean energy projects across the state. Tara is also involved in her local community with the Cambridge Energy Alliance and has volunteered with the Land Conservation and Advocacy Trust, Forest Ethics, and various other local, and national, nonprofit environmental organizations. Tara is passionate about clean energy alternatives, sound environmental policy, conservation and sustainable behavior change and enjoys being a member of the Sierra Club.

Craig Kelley – My name is Craig Kelley and I am a lifetime Sierra Club member. My wife, Hope, and I have two boys, ages 11 and 14. Over the years I have been active in the Greater Boston Group, Inner City Outings and, most recently, the Massachusetts Chapter Excom. Living in Cambridge, I feel that many of our most pressing environmental issues can best be solved by learning how to create vibrant, healthy density with appropriate infrastructure support in the manner of mass transit, urban green spaces and accessible recreational opportunities. Limiting sprawl, addressing urban noise and heat island affects of inappropriate development, improving air quality and working for environmental justice are all issues that the Sierra Club takes seriously and which I am interested in pursuing further. I ask for your vote for Excom.

Dan Proctor – I am in the second year as chair of the Chapter Executive Committee, where I am leading a planning process which I hope and expect will lead to a broader organizational base at the town level while increasing membership along with donations. I served on

the Chapter Political Committee for five years and then helped re-activate the Thoreau Group, which I chaired for two years. I would like to serve for two more years on the Chapter Excom in order to complete and begin implementing the important planning currently underway.

Bob Terrell - I have been an activist in Boston for over 30 years, focusing on urban planning and development issues such as; affordable housing, environmental justice, economic development, open space, historic preservation and public transportation. It is in this last area, public transportation, that I came to know the Sierra Club. Through my work with the Washington Street Corridor Coalition my community forged a great working relationship with the Sierra Club. The Club became one of our greatest allies in the fight for an equitable distribution of transit resources and I would be proud to serve on the Sierra Club's Executive Committee. Currently I am the Manager for Public Policy and Program Outreach at the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston and a Masters student in the Dept. of Urban and Environmental Policy at Tufts University.

Launa Zimmaro – I currently serve as Chair of the Thoreau Group Executive Committee and also as Chair of the Carlisle Sierra Club Committee, which I helped organize three years ago. During this past year, I have represented the Thoreau Group on the Chapter Executive Committee and its planning team. I have also been active on the Chapter's Zero Waste committee. I am a member of the Sierra Club because I believe its national, state and local level structure make it uniquely suited to meet the challenges we face. Efforts to promote greater multi-level integration and local level development are underway and can only strengthen the organization. I am eager to continue working through the Chapter Executive Committee to help build the capacity and effectiveness of the Sierra Club.

Thoreau Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements

Vote for no more than three candidates (Ballots on page 17)

Nancy Carapezza – Nancy lives in Wayland and has served two terms on the Thoreau Group Excom. She has held the positions of vice-chair and treasurer of the Group. She is a past president of Massachusetts League of Women Voters.

Jon Harding – Jon resides in Sudbury and is completing his second term on Thoreau Group Excom. He has served as its Secretary and Treasurer. Jon was a Group Conservation Chair while living in Long Beach, CA.

Dan Proctor – Dan lives in Concord and currently chairs the Chapter Executive Committee. He previously helped re-activate the Thoreau Group and served as its chair for two years. Earlier he served as vice-chair of Chapter Political Committee for five years.

MAIL BALLOTS TO: Sierra Club Elections, 10 Milk Street, Suite 632, Boston, MA 02108
Your membership number must appear on the **outside** of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid.

A second ballot is provided for those households with joint memberships so that each member can vote.

Ballots must be received by 5:00 PM, **Friday, November 18th, 2011** in order to be counted.

Candidate Statements can be found on pages 16 and 18.

BALLOT

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tara Holmes | <input type="checkbox"/> Launa Zimmaro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Kelley | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Terrell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Proctor | |

BALLOT

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tara Holmes | <input type="checkbox"/> Launa Zimmaro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Kelley | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Terrell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Proctor | |

BALLOT

Thoreau Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than three candidates

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Carapezza | <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Proctor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jon Harding | |

BALLOT

Thoreau Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than three candidates

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Carapezza | <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Proctor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jon Harding | |

BALLOT

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Gehring | <input type="checkbox"/> Karla Karash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karen O'Donnell | <input type="checkbox"/> John Kyper |

BALLOT

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee

Vote for no more than four candidates

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Gehring | <input type="checkbox"/> Karla Karash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Karen O'Donnell | <input type="checkbox"/> John Kyper |

Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements

Vote for no more than 4 candidates (Ballots on page 17)

Erik Gehring – I have been active in the Sierra Club since 2002, serving on the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee and GBG Executive Committee for many 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?

Karen O'Donnell – Sierra Club Life Member, Waltham resident, former: state representative, CPPAX Board member, Gallops Island Ranger, Co-chair, Volunteers and Friends of The Boston Harbor Islands, Inc. IBEW union electrician on the MBTA. Delegate to The Greater Boston Labor Council The Sierra Club is one of the few environmental organizations that is politically active on issues and endorses candidates. Our members care about and are involved in causes that The Sierra Club supports from preserving parks, forests and waterways for people and animal habitat to eliminating bottled water and fighting for a Coal Free MBTA. I want to continue to support our club and members by serving on GBG ExCom and holding our officials accountable for policies that foster environmental justice, for healthy communities through sustainable development, parks and open space, clean renewable energy and public transportation. Our members can count on me to support public events and sponsorships that expand volunteers, ideas and action.

Karla Karash – Karla Karash has been involved in issues related to sustainability, health and the environment for her entire adult life. She worked in public transportation for 32 years, spending the last 20 as a transportation consultant. She was an Assistant Secretary for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation in the 1970s and a Deputy Director of Operations for the MBTA in the 1980s. In the early 1970s she was an active member of the Sierra Club, involved in the fight against highway expansion in Boston, Cambridge and Somerville. She has served on the Board of Directors of WalkBoston for two decades.

John Kyper – I'm a former member of the Chapter ExCom, and Chair of its Transportation Committee for the past six years. A Roxbury resident since 1975, I support an enlightened transportation policy that would reduce our dependence on the private automobile by providing more benign and attractive alternatives. The long struggle for equity in transportation planning reflects how the state is neglecting the needs of its most transit-dependent residents. Since the early 90s I have worked in the Washington Street Corridor Coalition, advocating true, rail replacement service for the old Orange Line elevated instead of the inadequate "Silver Line" bus.

Endangered Species Need Your Support

by Elisa Campbell

The Sierra Club supports the *Endangered Species Act* – and opposes efforts in Congress to limit the Act or remove certain species from its protection. In April, as part of the "budget compromise," Congress voted to remove the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains from the Endangered Species List. The Endangered Species Coalition (which includes the Sierra Club) is organizing to support the Act, including many activities on Endangered Species Day. They also have a list at <http://www.stopextinction.org/10athome.html> of things each of us can do to help.

Two of the items on their list - learning about endangered species in our own area and protecting wildlife habitat – point us in Massachusetts toward the state's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW). DFW purchases and manages habitat for the rare, threatened and endangered species in our state – whether mammal, bird, insect, fish, reptile, amphibian (etc) or plant. They have developed a very comprehensive plan that lists all the species in trouble and what they need – you can find it at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/cwcs/cwcs_home.htm

The Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) within DFW is focused on protecting the 176 species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals and 259 species of native plants that are officially "on the list" as Endangered, Threatened or of Special Concern. All of us have an opportunity to directly support the work of the NHESP financially on our income tax each year.

And, we can support the DFW's program to both purchase and maintain habitat for these species. Wildlife scientists have determined that many rare species in Massachusetts require even-aged young forest habitats. Among those species are whip-poor-wills, blue-winged and golden-winged warblers, woodcock, brown thrashers, Eastern towhees, New England cottontails, chestnut-sided warblers, white-throated sparrows, black and yellow-billed cuckoos, willow and olive-sided flycatchers, rose-breasted grosbeaks, indigo buntings, black and white warblers, yellow throats, and meadow and woodland jumping mice. See my webpage at http://www.sierraclubmass.org/issues/forests/fmpl/early_successional.html

Another Round at the Fells - Hiking the Rock Circuit

by Deborah Holt

At the end of May I hiked the Middlesex Fells' Rock Circuit Trail on two consecutive weekend days. The first day was gloriously sunny following an extended period of rain and gloom. Within moments of setting out on the trail, I had to stop and listen. I could hardly believe my ears but, yes, it was the munching of thousands of caterpillars, busily defoliating the spring greenery. I was glad for the protection of a hat and long sleeves as it was impossible to avoid wearing the tiny, wormy critters. They were everywhere, hanging and dropping ... and munching.



by Deborah Holt

Hiking the Rock Circuit in a counter-clockwise direction was a new experience for me and one with at least two advantages. First, the trail east of the Fellsway East seems easier to follow in this direction. Although a veteran of the Rock Circuit, I have lost the trail more times than I want to admit. Second, the view of the Cascades approached from the southeast is much more rewarding than the alternative.

The Fells was teeming with life this Saturday morning. In the course of my five-hour visit, birds, bullfrogs, garter snakes, and chipmunks made their presence known. A lone and quiet hiker is much more likely to hear and see wildlife, and I did. At one point red-tailed hawks circled over head, driving away a threatening intruder. Many of the vernal pools had their own resident mallard couple. Blueberries, apple, dogwood, Corydalis, violets and many other wildflowers were in bloom, as well as the regal Lady Slipper. Walking

through the shade of a hemlock forest in early afternoon, I was surprised by the raucous birdlife.

The next day I returned to the Fells with two hiking companions. It was overcast but not unpleasant, and as we retraced my steps of the day before I marveled at how different the place felt and looked in different light. We took our time and chatted and were less attuned to the flora and fauna. My companions were first-time visitors and perhaps a little concerned by the early challenges of the trail, but by the end they were excited about visiting the Fells again.

I have explored many of the trails in the Fells, but it is the Rock Circuit that I return to over and over. I appreciate the diversity of landscapes it traverses, but mostly I love the craggy rock – even in its sullied, graffitied state. Erratic boulders and exposed outcrops define this trail's landscape, superimposing the past on the present, and remind one that the Fells wasn't always so peaceful as it is these days, or as it mostly is.

The Fells has received a lot of attention over the years from the many interest groups who vie to maintain – and sometimes to expand – their stake. A proposal to develop the former Boston Regional Medical Center in Stoneham, which sits within the Fells, has been in and out of the courts for eleven years. Known as Langwood Commons, the original plan was for an office park and garage that subsequently evolved to an apartment complex that has gotten smaller and smaller



by Deborah Holt

over the years. After several rounds of downsizing, the developer Gutierrez Company claimed an environmental review was no longer required, sued the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) who manages the Fells and won. That low-point came in 2009. The Friends of the Fells responded with a lawsuit that was dismissed in Superior Court last year but was appealed and is now under consideration by the Supreme Judicial Court.

On another front, the DCR solicited comments from users last year to determine how to balance growing demand, finite resources and conservation. By its nature, this process should be a lot less scary and threatening to the user community than the Langwood Commons battle. But things got off to a rocky start when the DCR tried to proceed without a Resource Management Plan (RMP). Many, including the Sierra Club, objected and public opinion prevailed. A draft of the RMP has been recently released.

Middlesex Fells Reservation Time to Comment!

The Department of Conservation and Recreation has released the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Middlesex Fells. The full draft plan is now available. The final RMP will guide management of the Fells, set priorities for allocating limited staff and financial resources, and identify stewardship partners and opportunities. If you know the Fells, please visit our web site to learn more, comment, and help guide the stewardship for this historic parkland.

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