

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

SIERRA

Volume 14 • Number 2

Summer 2008

Reaching More Than
26,000 Sierra Club Members
in Massachusetts

INSIDE:

- 2 Director's Letter**
*McCaffrey advocates for keeping
our public lands*
- 3 Hemlocks**
Orwig on the habitat we're losing
- 4 Beaches**
*Getting there by public
transportation*
- 5 Arnold Arboretum
Battles HWA**
- 6 Fight Global Poverty**
- 7 Peace Work**
*Murphy describes the Cape and
Island Group's efforts*
- 8 Reducing our Wastes**
*Pledger and Sego call for
Zero Waste*
- 9 Local Safaris**
Take the bus to the beach
- 10 Want to Walk a Beach**
Be careful where you go!
- 11 Two Activists Pass On**
*Louise Lewis & John Deacon
will be missed*
- 13 Listening in the Summer**
*Campbell reviews "The Songs
of Insects"*
- 14 Protect Our Local Places**
- 15 Events and Outings**
- 16 Meetings**

www.sierraclubmass.org



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Massachusetts Sierra Club

CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008

Phil Dowds, Chair
chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org
617-354-6094

David Heimann, Vice Chair
vice-chair@sierraclubmass.org

Erik Gehring
erik@erikgehring.com

Deborah Holt
dholt@sierraclubmass.org

Craig Kelley
votecraig@att.net

John Lewis
jlewis@sierraclubmass.org

Dan Marien
danielmarien@yahoo.com

Phil Sego
phil@sierraclubmass.org

CHAPTER STAFF

James McCaffrey, Director

Alexandra Oster, Administrative Assistant
office@sierraclubmass.org

LEADERS LIST

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

GROUP LEADERS

Cape Cod and Islands Group
Billie Bates, *Chair*
bcbts@yahoo.com

Greater Boston Group
Mary Ann Nelson, *Chair*
gbg2008@sierraclubmass.org

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

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

Thoreau Group
Dan Proctor, *Acting Chair*
dproctor@sierraclubmass.org

CHAPTER ISSUE LEADERS

Conservation Chair
Erik Gehring
erik@erikgehring.com

Energy Committee Chair
David Heimann
vice-chair@sierraclubmass.org

Legal Committee Chair
Mary Ann Nelson
NelsonMASierra@aol.com

Sprawl Committee Chair
Mary Ann Nelson
NelsonMASierra@aol.com

Public Lands/Forestry
Elisa Campbell
ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org

Coastal/Marine Chair
Blossom Hoag
blossomhoag@gmail.com

Educational Chair
Dan Proctor
dproctor@sierraclubmass.org

Legislative Committee Chair
Leslie Doyle
doyleleslie@yahoo.com

Political Committee Chair
Phil Sego
phil@sierraclubmass.org

Population Chair
Anita King
413-268-9212

Transportation Chair
John Kyper
jkyper@sierraclubmass.org

Fundraising Chair
Phil Sego
phil@sierraclubmass.org

Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Ruggiero
peter@sierraclubmass.org

Environmental Justice Chair
Bob Murphy
murphydalzell@aol.com

Annual dues in the Sierra Club are \$39, of which \$1 is for a subscription to the Massachusetts Sierran.

OPEN SEASON ON OPEN SPACE

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

Massachusetts is blessed with a myriad of public lands, from the beaches of Cape Cod to the beautiful Berkshires, with more than 600,000 acres of commonwealth land in public ownership. The Patrick administration has reinvested in land acquisition programs at an historic level of \$50 million per year, including the creation of a new land grants assistance office to aid cities and towns with land protection strategies. This means even more open space will be protected in the future. Or will it?

Acquiring new public lands remains a necessary and laudable goal as privately-owned open space in Massachusetts disappears at an alarming rate of 40 acres per day. But it is equally imperative that we adequately defend those lands we already own. The commonwealth's public lands are protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts constitution which requires that any land or easement taken or acquired for natural resource purposes shall not be used for other purposes or disposed of without approval of the Massachusetts legislature by a two-thirds roll-call vote.

This seemingly onerous hurdle was established to prevent the careless disposal of public lands like parks, playgrounds, forests, reserves, conservation land, beaches, and watersheds. In practice the process has failed. So-called Article 97 votes have become so routine that nearly every land transfer act is approved unanimously by the legislature. In 2004-2005 more than 60 dispositions occurred of interests or changes in use of state, municipal, and town-owned Article 97 lands. The result has been a constant attrition of lands acquired with public funds or donated by citizens, as communities, state agencies, and even private parties look for building sites.

A proposed law currently before the legislature would correct this abuse. The *Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA)* creates a *no net loss* policy of lands protected by Article 97. The bill establishes a framework to guide legislators' decisions on whether to approve bills that transfer state or municipally-owned Article 97 lands or easements to a new use, management authority, or from public to

continued on page 11

ON THE COVER: Boats at Gate 31, Quabbin Reservoir. Photo by Elisa Campbell

MASSACHUSETTS

SIERRAN

Vol. 14 No. 2 • Summer 2008

Elisa Campbell Editor
Ricki Pappo Designer
Megan Plunkett Assistant Editor
Jean Sideris Events Editor

The *Massachusetts Sierran* is published three times per year: February, June, and October. The deadline for copy is normally eight weeks before publication. The deadline for meetings and announcements is four weeks before publication.

Please submit all copy to Elisa Campbell at 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 26,000 outdoor-minded, environmentally aware readers.

Postmaster:

Send all address changes (PS form 3579) to:
Sierra Club Membership,
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Moving?

Send change of address forms to above address.

Prospective advertisers:

For advertising rate information, please contact
stef@classic-communications.com
or call 508-698-6810.

Periodical Postage (air)
at Boston, MA

The *Massachusetts Sierran*
(USPS 059-370)
is published quarterly by
Massachusetts Chapter
Sierra Club
10 Milk Street, Suite 632
Boston, MA 02108

617-423-5775
www.sierraclubmass.org
office@sierraclubmass.org

©2008 Massachusetts Sierra Club

No part of the contents of this newsletter may be reproduced by any means without the written consent of the Massachusetts Sierran.

Eastern Hemlock: Irreplaceable Habitat

by David Orwig

The eastern hemlock is a tree species widely distributed across Massachusetts. Most of the state's known old-growth forest is comprised of hemlock, which often live for 300 to 350 years. However, it is much more than just an old-growth specimen. For any of you who have ventured into the midst of an eastern hemlock-dominated forest, you may sense that you entered a special place. The stately, long-lived conifers with drooping, dark green branches aligned in a pyramidal shape, create an environment that is deeply shaded and cooler than surrounding woodlands. These conditions strongly influence wildlife and nearby streams.

Hemlock forests often feel spongy underfoot, due to a thick accumulation of needles that are slow to decompose. Red-backed salamanders and red efts (juvenile red-spotted newts) thrive under fallen wood where they feed on mites, beetles, and other insects. Visit a hemlock forest after a summer rain, and you may see dozens of red efts crawling about. Soil invertebrates are often overlooked, yet many dwell here; while looking for salamanders, you may see several varieties of ants scurrying around the soil surface, going in and out of ground nests.

The same aromatic boughs that cast the deep shade under hemlock trees also harbor many arthropods, including a broad variety of spiders, mites, and moths. Unfortunately, hemlock branches also provide excellent food for two harmful exotic insects introduced into the eastern US in the mid-20th century: the hemlock woolly adelgid and the elongate hemlock scale. These two unwanted pests feed on hemlock at the same time, threatening this species throughout most of its range in eastern North America and creating uncertainty about the future of hemlock in the coming decades.

Many different birds spend at least part of their life cycle in hemlock forests, often feeding on the insects dispersed throughout the dense tree crowns. During late May and early June, the hemlock forest is alive with a chorus of neotropical songbirds, many recently arriving from their winter homes in the south. Black-

throated green warblers are extremely common in the upper branches of the tree, where they feed and nest. Once you get acquainted with its "zoo zee zoo zoo zee" call, you will rarely be within reach of hemlock forest and not hear this species sing to you. Other avian species such as Acadian flycatchers, Blackburnian warblers, Canada warblers and hermit thrushes also are strongly associated with the hemlock habitat. You might also see black-capped chickadees, winter wrens, and red-breasted nuthatches in hemlock stands. Finally, barred owls, northern goshawks and red-shouldered hawks frequently nest in mature to old-growth hemlock forests.



Photo by Don Niebyl

Herds of white-tailed deer congregate under hemlock for precious winter food and cover. The dense branches intercept more snow and ease winter temperatures, reducing the deer's energy requirements, an especially important benefit during harsh winters with deep snow packs. During the winter red squirrels and mice commonly feed on hemlock seeds and snowshoe hares frequently eat hemlock

**Hemlocks in
Bernardston, MA**

continued on page 5

Beaches Within Reach: Using Public Transportation to get to Boston Area Beaches

by Elena Saporta

If you are seeking relief from the pump and from cruising around looking for a parking space, the following is a list of over a dozen Boston area beaches, along with directions on how to get to them car-free.



Photo by Elisa Campgell

BEACHES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

• Constitution Beach, East Boston

This half-mile stretch of sandy beach is the most crowded of metropolitan Boston's beaches. Facilities include a bathhouse, bandstand, picnic area, concession stand, tennis courts, basketball courts and ice rink.

Directions: Walk east to the beach from Orient Heights Station on the Blue Line.

• Pleasure Bay, L-Street and Carson Beaches, South Boston

Pleasure Bay is a calm lagoon containing a popular sandy beach. The causeway enclosing the lagoon connects to Fort Independence on Castle Island, a National Historic Landmark and is a popular destination for joggers, picnickers and fishermen. L Street Beach, of L Street Brownie fame, offers surprisingly good swimming conditions. Carson Beach is one of the best swimming beaches in the city. As with Constitution Beach in East Boston, hearing and seeing planes making their final approach into Logan is an integral part of the South Boston beach experience.

Directions: Pleasure Bay and L-Street Beaches — take the Red Line to Broadway Station and transfer onto either the #9 or #10 bus and go to the end of the bus route. City Point Bus # 7 also leads to these beaches. Carson Beach is a short walk from the JFK/UMass stop on the Red Line.

• Malibu and Savin Hill Beaches, Dorchester

Malibu and Savin Hill Beaches are small sandy beaches with protected swimming areas, a promenade and superb views of the Boston Harbor.

Directions: Take the Red Line to Savin Hill Station. Both beaches are approximately a quarter of a mile from the T.

BEACHES NORTH OF THE CITY

• Revere Beach, Revere

One of the first public beaches in the United States with recently-renovated beach pavilions. The long sea wall offers wonderful people-watching opportunities. Kelly's Roast Beef is a well known and loved local landmark.

Directions: Reached from either the Revere or Wonderland Stations on the Blue Line.

• Lynn Shores Reservation, Lynn, Nahant and Swampscott

Four miles of publicly owned waterfront with a two-mile long promenade for walking, jogging and bicycling, plus tide pools and a mile-long system of fragile sand dunes. Comprised of several beaches: Nahant Beach, Lynn Beach, King's Beach and Red Rock Park.

Directions: From the commuter rail station at Central Square in Lynn, transfer to MBTA buses #400, #440, #441 and #442 to take you to the

beaches. Or, take the Blue Line to Wonderland and transfer onto either the #441 or the #442 bus.

• Crane Beach, Ipswich

See *Summer Safaris* page 9.

• Singing Beach, Manchester by the Sea

Named for the fine sand that squeaks beneath one's bare feet, this town-owned beach, bracketed by granite headlands and outlying small islands, has an intimate and peaceful quality. Facilities include a low-key snack bar and changing area.

Directions: Take the Rockport Line commuter train from North Station for one hour north to Manchester by the Sea. At the station, follow fellow train passengers donning backpacks, beach bags and picnic baskets on a 1/2 mile walk past Manchester Harbor to the beach.

• Pavilion, Half Moon, Niles and Good Harbor Beaches, Gloucester

Gloucester Station is also on Rockport's commuter rail line. From the station, it is possible to walk to several of Gloucester's beaches. The closest is Pavilion Beach along Stacey Boulevard, where the Annisquam River comes into Gloucester's inner harbor. Southwest of Pavilion Beach is Half Moon Beach, located in Stage Fort Park. A small shaded sandy beach with granite

continued on page 5

Beaches (continued from page 4)

headlands, Half Moon Beach is perfect for families with young children. Niles Beach, going towards Eastern Point, is a half-hour's walk from the station. With its western exposure, Niles Beach offers wonderful views of the Boston skyline. Good Harbor Beach is also around 30 minutes on foot from Gloucester Station. Gloucester's most popular public beach, Good Harbor has lovely surf, a salt marsh, tidal stream and a small island which is accessible at low tide.

• Front and Back Beaches, Rockport

Front Beach is a broad sweeping sand beach backed by the town of Rockport. Adjacent to the north is Back Beach, a rocky stretch of shore used primarily by divers. A walk through the town of Rockport on the way to the beach takes one past galleries, candy stores, restaurants and T-shirt shops. Several hotels clustered near Front Beach are handy for those not quite ready for a Boston re-entry.

Directions: Front and Back Beaches are about one quarter mile from the Rockport Train Station.

BEACHES SOUTH OF THE CITY

• Wollaston Beach, Quincy

Wollaston Beach is an urban beach with a one and a half mile shoreline. Features include a sea wall, continuous jogging/bicycling trail, concession stand and bathhouse. Caddy Park is located at the southern end of the beach.

Directions: From Wollaston Station on the Red Line, walk directly to the beach or transfer onto the #217 bus.

• Nantasket Beach, Hull

A three-mile long beach that attracts large crowds in the summer, Nantasket Beach Reservation is famous for the Paragon Carousel, bathhouses and concession stands.

Directions: Take the Red Line to Quincy Center and transfer to the #220 (Hingham) bus and then to #714 operated by JBL Buslines.

Elena Saporta is a landscape architect in Cambridge and member of the GBG ExCom.

Eastern Hemlock (continued from page 3)



Photo by David Orwig

Hemlocks in Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA

foliage. Porcupines eat the tree's bark but because they often completely strip it by doing so these animals often kill young hemlocks. Another common animal in this conifer forest is the elusive fisher, who use these deep woods for den sites in which to raise their kits.

Not only does hemlock create its own environment on land, it also modifies the conditions of wetlands, streams, and creeks on whose banks hemlock frequently grows abundantly. Trout depend on the cool water temperatures that are maintained by dense hemlock cover. In fact, early descriptions of brook trout often referred to them as "hemlock trout." Their vivid coloration — steel blue sides with rows of scarlet dots — was

attributed to the dark pools common in brooks winding through these forests. In small streams, the stable base flows maintained during the summer by hemlocks not only help these fish survive, but also increase the production of aquatic invertebrates that these fish eat.

So, next time an opportunity arises to visit a hemlock forest, take it! Immerse yourself in the fragrant, cool atmosphere among these wonderful trees and relish the experience — for it may be fleeting...

David Orwig, a forest ecologist at Harvard Forest, studies hemlock forests as part of a large research program examining the ecological consequences of disturbance events on forest dynamics.

HWA at the Arnold Arboretum

by Erik Gehring

The eastern hemlock is under assault by two foreign pests introduced to the US in the middle of the last century: the hemlock wooly adelgid (HWA) and the elongate hemlock scale. Of these HWA is far more dangerous, having decimated large swaths of hemlock forest up and down the east coast. At Boston's Arnold Arboretum HWA was first noticed on Hemlock Hill in 1997, at which time the staff started exploring various methods of controlling the pest. Two chemical treatments have proven successful, at least so far: spraying

the entire tree canopy with horticultural oil, a procedure that needs to be repeated every year and can only be done where there is road access; and injecting imidacloprid, aka Merit, directly into the soil surrounding the base of the tree, which can be done in more remote locations and offers two to five years of protection. "The general feeling is that the hemlock is a keystone species — an entire ecosystem surrounds it," explains Richard Schulhof, Deputy Director of the Arnold Arboretum. "These treatments buy time until a non-chemical alternative is developed." ❖

Support the Global Poverty Act

by Anita King

The Global Poverty Act of 2007 (HR 1302) passed the House of Representatives in September and was submitted to the Senate (S2433) by Senator Barack Obama on December 7 and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations of which Senator Obama is a member.

This bill requires the president to develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce poverty based on the Millennium Goals which the US and 189 other nations signed in 2000 at the UN Millennium Summit.

The goals include reducing the number of people living on less than \$1 per day, suffering from hunger, and without safe drinking water and sanitation by half, and reducing child mortality by two thirds. There are now 3,900 children dying every day from dirty water, and 600 million people who are blind because of dirty water.

At the Summit world leaders from rich and poor countries alike commit-

ted themselves to a set of eight time-bound goals that would end extreme poverty worldwide by 2015. Goals one through seven commit them to raise the poor out of poverty and hunger, give children a primary education, empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, control HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and ensure environmental sustainability. Goal eight recognizes that eradicating poverty worldwide can be achieved only through a global partnership for development.

Major financial institutions — the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, regional banks and members of the World Trade Organization — have made explicit that they will be accountable for achieving the goals.

Monitoring mechanisms have been put in place. Over 60 country reports have been produced at the national level. Individual goals have already been achieved by many countries in the space of only 10-15 years.

There are cost estimates of \$50 billion in additional aid per year to meet the goals by 2015. As a point of comparison, in 2003 the world spent \$900 billion on weapons. We are now investing three trillion in a war that should never have happened.

What can we do to support S2433, the Global Poverty Act of 2007? As of this writing, Senator John Kerry has signed onto the Act but Senator Kennedy has not. We can call friends and family in other states and ask them to contact their senators. The Act has been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations (Senator Joe Biden, chair). Pressure from many senators will encourage Majority Leader Harry Reid to submit the bill to the Senate for a vote. ❖

Anita King is the chair of the Chapter's Population Committee. She lives in Williamsburg and can be reached at 413 668-9212.

Call for Nominations

All Massachusetts Sierra Club members are invited to submit their names for nomination to the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) and the executive committee of their groups (Greater Boston, Essex, Cape Cod and Islands, Pioneer Valley, Thoreau, and Blackstone Valley). The ExCom of the chapter and each group serves as its board of directors, establishing priorities, goals, strategies, and policies. To submit your name to the nominating committee, please contact the chapter chair: chapter-chair@sierraclubmass.org; 617-423-5775 for copies of petition forms.

The dates for the 2008 elections are:

Appointment of a nominating and election committee	June 15
Receipt of names for nominating committee consideration and ballot issue petitions	July 1
Qualification of a ballot issue	July 1
Nominating Committee report of names of nominees	July 15
Certification of ballot issue	July 15
Receipt of candidate petition	August 15
Qualification of petition candidates	September 1
Production of eligible voter list	September 15
Printing and mailing of ballots in Massachusetts Sierran	October 1
Receipt of ballots deadline	October 31
Count of ballots at Sierra Club chapter office	November 15

Brings out the Olympiad in you!



2 oz concentrates makes 40+ drinks!
Lemon-lime with sodium

Get stamina, endurance. No sugar, Rehydrates! Nothing artificial. Refreshing taste! For hikers, bikers, & weekend athletes. \$16.99
Other flavors: electroBlast
Kiwi Strawberry or Tangerine Lime
www.longlifecatalogs.com



Buy 3 bottles get a FREE book:
Worse Than Global Warming: Wave Technology
888-217-7233

Speaking for Peace on Cape Cod

by Robert Murphy

The calendar said March 19, but it was a raw and rainy day on Cape Cod and some reporters spoke about November and Veterans Day. Members of the Sierra Club's Cape Cod and Islands Group put on their hats and winter clothing, picked up their umbrellas, and went outside to speak to their neighbors about peace and environmental justice.

March 19th marked the fifth anniversary of the American invasion of Iraq. In Hyannis, about 30 people walked to the office of US Representative William Delahunt to express opposition to American military involvement in Iraq. Cape Codders for Peace and Justice took the lead in organizing the Hyannis event.

In Falmouth, the Cape Cod and Islands Group worked with community groups to develop an open gathering for peace. Sierra Club invitations appeared in local newspapers and in other publications. Environmentalists were encouraged to speak about energy policy, global warming, and related matters. Despite the rainy weather, about 50 people participated in the Falmouth peace vigil.

No major speakers were scheduled for the Falmouth event. Instead, the people present were asked to come forward to testify as individuals in their own way. Instead of suggesting that everybody sign the same petition or political statement, individuals were encouraged to pause for a few minutes of reflection. One of the women present carried a campaign sign that indicated her continued support for President George Bush. She agreed with her companions that it was time for all Americans to "think about the price of this war." At the end of the gathering, neighbors shook hands with each other.

Sierra Club members, like other Americans, are worried about the human and financial costs of the Iraq war. However, as environmentalists,

we bring additional concerns to discussions about war and peace. The conflicts in Iraq and in other parts of the Middle East have created terrible conditions in the environment. Ecosystems have been disrupted. Drinking water supplies have been poisoned during military actions, major fires in oilfields and urban areas have contributed to air pollution, and depleted uranium projectiles have been scattered across battlefields.

As violence continues and services for public health and environmental protection collapse, civilians in Iraq are forced out of their homes. Some of their villages will become ghost towns. In the Middle East, the story of war and environmental ruin is as old as the Bible.

Some Sierra Club members believe that America has entered a new era of "energy wars" and environmental conflicts. Oil production may be peaking at a time when developing nations like China and India are increasing their demand for energy. As prices rise in the global marketplace, nations struggle with each other to control petroleum and natural gas reserves, water supplies, food producing areas, and other natural resources.

Despite rising energy prices, it has been difficult to develop a state or a national energy policy that can meet human needs while protecting the environment. As tax dollars are shifted into military programs, fewer resources are available to meet civilian needs.

On March 19th, an anonymous speaker stepped forward from the Falmouth crowd to offer a significant observation. "The battle against global warming may be lost in the Persian Gulf. We know that war destroys children and their environment. We need to realize, also, that the money spent on bombs and rockets is money that could have been spent on environmental improvement. As the glaciers melt, keep that point in mind."

All of the great issues are connected. As ecologists, we can appreciate the point. ❖

The Cape Cod and Islands Group has adopted "Energy, Peace, Justice" as its major program theme for the year 2008. Bob Murphy is the group's vice-chairman. At the end of March, Bob was in the Middle East to discuss human rights and environmental justice concerns with Muslim, Jewish, and Christian leaders.

Want an easy way to help the environment and stay informed about Massachusetts environmental issues?



Subscribe to SCAN — the Mass Sierra Club Activist Network e-mail list! As a SCAN subscriber, you'll receive information about critical environmental issues facing Massachusetts residents. You'll also be informed of upcoming events, outings, lectures, and meetings. You'll be told of ways to get involved in protecting the environment in your community or region.

To subscribe, visit www.sierraclubmass.org and click on the SCAN button on the left side of the screen.

We will never share your name or e-mail address with any outside entity. Anyone can subscribe. SCAN is a low volume "announce only" list, usually one or two messages per month.



Waste: Just Say No Part I

by Lynne Pledger and Phillip Sego

The crowd might have been gathered for a Fourth of July Parade, or the town's bicentennial picnic: a throng of bright faces, people waving signs, and a 12-foot inflated ...rat?

On a drizzly March evening, hundreds of supporters of RATS! (Residents for Alternatives to Trashing Southbridge) gathered outside a Board of Health meeting in this town of 17,000 to protest a proposed municipal solid waste landfill. The signs they carried said, "BOH: Just Say No."

RATS! isn't just against a regional dump, it's for alternatives to current Massachusetts waste policies. According to RATS! we must take immediate steps to reduce waste instead of turning towns into dumping grounds. Approximately 60 percent of the trash destined for this site will be from Boston, a city whose recycling rate is a dismal 12 percent. This issue has energized residents in



Photo by Lindsay Goodwin

Demonstration against the proposed Southbridge dump

cool down, they create extremely toxic compounds: dioxins and furans. Similarly, measures taken to protect air and water from landfill pollution only reduce the amount of harm done instead of eliminating it. Because of biodegradable material in landfills (food scraps, yard trimmings, and paper), all landfills emit methane, which is far more heat-trapping than carbon dioxide. With the methane come hazardous air pollutants that can drift into surrounding neighborhoods.

The volume and content of trash have become a critical issue. In 1900, the city-dweller's "waste" didn't amount to much: a big pile of ashes, a much smaller pile of

food scraps, and a tiny pile of rubbish — discarded products and packaging. There wasn't much in the rubbish bin because products were made to be reused and repaired. Even in the decades that followed World War II, bottles were locally refilled and shoes were resoled by the cobbler. But now most of our "municipal solid waste" is plastic, paper, packaging, single-use items, and products that are designed to be obsolete within months, or

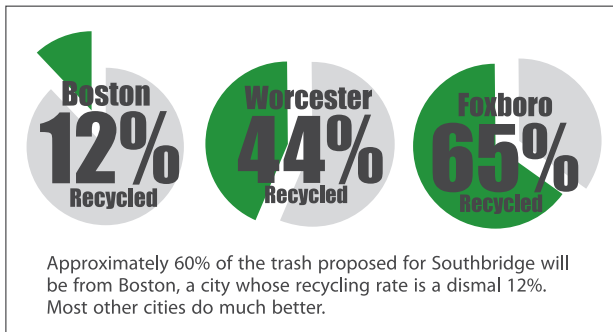
minutes, of purchase. New chemical compounds come into commerce every year and eventually end up in the trash can. Many of these items are made from toxic materials that are harmful to public health and the environment upon disposal.

To realize the impact of all this on our planet, we must consider the resources, energy, and emissions involved in the manufacturing, transportation, and disposal of today's products.

For example, it takes 20 times more energy to turn aluminum ore into a new can than it does to recycle a used one. An aluminum can starts as the ore bauxite, which is strip-mined. It's initially refined using chemical caustics, then transported over long distances to a smelter, which emits perfluorocarbons (greenhouse gases). By this stage in the process, only a quarter of the excavated material is aluminum; the rest is waste. Every three months, Americans throw away aluminum equivalent to the amount used to construct our entire fleet of commercial airplanes.

Plastic containers are another example of a raw material that's being squandered. Most beverage containers are made of PET plastic which is 99 percent petroleum. While there are uses for recycled PET, and even a

continued on page 9



Southbridge and surrounding towns not only to oppose the proposed landfill, but also to promote more sustainable policies for the commonwealth.

No community wants to host a regional waste facility, whether it's a landfill or an incinerator. Current technology does not offer a combustion process that doesn't produce toxic ash or hazardous air emissions. All high-temperature processes make heavy metals airborne; when they

Waste (continued from page 8)

good market for it, 80 percent is sent to landfills, where it will never break down, and can never be used to make something else. Even if it could, that's not enough. In many cases, recycling only adds a single second life to the resources, as the molecular structure of the raw material is altered during the recycling process. Although recycling is critical, even recycling 100 percent of our bottles and cans would result in a downward spiral of resources, including fossil fuels.

Because of the energy and raw materials embodied in manufactured products, any energy production from burning or burying trash is a net loss. And it's not just the production and transportation of products that's energy-intensive and polluting; many of the trucks on the highways are transporting trash to distant cities or states.

What we buy and throw away has profound impacts beyond a shortage of garbage space. Our consumer society contributes to the most critical problems of our day: climate change, diminishing fossil fuel, and the depletion and pollution of natural resources.

We're fast approaching the limits of resources and ecosystems that keep our planet habitable. A coordinated effort of consumers, producers, and government at all levels will be needed to change course. But how? Part II of this article will examine sustainable solutions to our production/disposal crisis here in Massachusetts. Meanwhile, RATS! is just saying "No."

Read the new Sierra Club Zero Waste Policy at <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/municipalsolidwaste.pdf>

The Massachusetts Chapter is in the process of forming a Zero Waste Committee. They invite all interested members to contact them at zerowaste@sierraclubmass.org ❖

Lynne Pledger is a member of the Sierra Club's National Zero Waste Committee. She lives in Hardwick, Massachusetts. Phil Sego is a member of the Chapter's Executive Committee and chair of its Political and Fundraising committees.

Summer Safaris

by Charles Mason

If high gasoline prices are dampening your enthusiasm for traveling to a favorite summer place in your car, Frank Camarda just may have the answer for you. Camarda, a longtime North Shore resident and Sierra Club activist, believes that when families have a reliable transportation system that can take them to interesting cultural and recreational sites they will leave their cars at home.

Camarda lives in an area that's filled with small museums, working farms, and the popular Crane Beach. Awhile back he became convinced that a scheduled shuttle service that could drop visitors off at the different local attractions, then pick them up again later in the day, would increase traffic to those sites even as it decreased traffic on the overcrowded highways. And if the service could provide a seamless transition for passengers arriving on a morning train from Boston's North Station and could return them to the station in time to catch an afternoon train back to Boston, the potential could be unlimited. If you build it, he felt, they will come.

Senator Bruce Tarr and Ipswich Representative Brad Hill both were early supporters of the idea and their enthusiasm played a key role in obtaining the funding to get the project off the ground. Now in its fourth year of operation, the service that's become known as the Ipswich Essex Explorer operates every Saturday, Sunday, and holiday during the summer, running from the end of June through Labor Day. An all day pass on the Explorer is just \$5 per person; the train fare is not included.

"We know we can take our summer visitors to many new activities



Photo courtesy Ipswich Chronicle

Frank Camarda and the Ipswich Essex Explorer

they might not have considered," says Kay Nordstrom, president of the Cape Ann Transportation Authority, the Explorer's operator. "You can see gray wolves in a natural setting, go for a ride in a sea kayak, visit some historic museums and then perhaps even have dinner in Ipswich before getting the evening train back to Boston. And if you want to just relax, you can go straight to Crane Beach."

Nordstrom is also quick to point out that Camarda's environmental vision is beginning to show up in her numbers; the Explorer has already taken 1,500 cars and approximately 90,000 vehicle miles off the roadways. That's a very nice contribution toward helping rid the world of noxious pollutants.

As for Camarda, the Explorer's success makes him hopeful that it could become a model for other communities. "I'm really just an environmentalist," he says modestly. "But I have learned that when people understand that they are getting real value from something, they are going to actively support it."

For complete information on the routes, stopping locations, and departure and arrival times for the Explorer visit www.ipswichessexplorer.com ❖

Charles Mason is active in the Greater Boston Group and has a long standing interest in helping others learn about the many benefits of a good mass transit system.

Beached Walkers

By Elizabeth Anne Pell

Want to walk along the beach in Massachusetts? Except at state parks and Cape Cod National Seashore, you probably can't. Most beaches are private property — and have been for more than three centuries.

In the 1640s, the Massachusetts Bay Colony legislators transferred ownership of the intertidal flats (wet sands between low and high tide) to coastal landowners in order to encourage the building of wharves. While similar privatization of the shore is law in Maine, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, the other 17 coastal states (partially in New Hampshire and Connecticut) allow wet sand walking.

So far there have been three attempts to remedy this lack of public right-of-way on the beaches. First is Chapter 91, the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act. Its “public trust doctrine” holds that the air, sea, and shore belong to the public. It's the oldest law of its kind in the nation (1866) and is a primary tool to protect tidelands for public use.

Chapter 91 is implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Waterways Regulation Program. It protects those beach rights the public did retain from the laws of the 1640s: fishing, fowling (possibly bird watching — it hasn't been tested yet) and navigating the shore with a boat.

The second remedy was born of rising property values and the owners who sought to keep the public off their expensive private beaches. One such owner happened to chase away a man named William Bulger, then president of the Massachusetts Senate, from his beachfront property. Bulger responded by pushing through legislation which became the 1991 Beach Access Law (known as the Bulger Bill).

In theory, this law opened private beaches to the public for strolling by authorizing the state to take the wet



South Cape Beach

Photo by Elisa Campgell

sand area. Unfortunately the state had a hard time working out a system of compensation and the bill is now a watered-down vestige of its original intent.

The Sea Path Coastal Access Program comes from another act passed in 1991. It, too, has died through a “culture of suspicion,” as Geordie Vining, Sea Path Coordinator, described it.

This program sought to establish trails for the public's enjoyment of strolling or hiking along the coast. It included both landowner and local public interests in its dialogues. But six years of meetings and public information campaigns netted a very few purchased easements from beachfront property owners.

How urgent is the need for access? According to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute there are 1,980 miles of coast in Massachusetts. On 727 miles of sandy coastline, there are 510 marine bathing beaches, including 419 public (153.1 miles), 91 semi-public (50.7 miles) and 522.4 miles of private beaches. There were over four million visitors to Cape Cod National Seashore in 2007. It's not

hard to imagine the shock and dismay of a visitor to the coast who attempts to walk the less crowded beaches of Massachusetts, just to find an irate owner defending his property with a gun.

So what can one do? Aside from wading along the shore below the low tide line (which for the most part is perfectly legal assuming you didn't cross private property to get there), there is the call of little-known stretches of public beaches to explore. The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management is offering a free Coast Guide to Boston and the North Shore. It highlights over 400 public access sites with map directions and amenities. To see an online version or order a copy, visit: www.mass.gov/czm/coastguide/index.htm ❖

Elizabeth Anne Pell is a long-time nature walker who was first turned away at gun point on a beach trek from Los Angeles to San Francisco in the 1970s.

Create an Environmental Legacy.

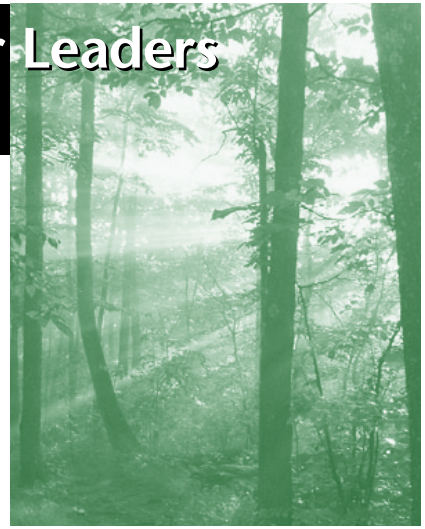
Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

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

John Calaway
Director, Gift Planning
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor,
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 977-5639 or e-mail:
planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Chapter Loses Two Key Volunteer Leaders

by James McCaffrey



Sadly, the Sierra Club unexpectedly lost two of its long-time activists this spring with the passing of both Louise Lewis and John Deacon. Both were leaders of exceptional qualities and were instrumental in bringing the Massachusetts Chapter to where it is today at the forefront of environmental advocacy in the commonwealth.

Long time Sierra Club member and volunteer leader Louise Lewis died April 26th from the effects of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). As a founding member of the Sierra Club in Massachusetts, Louise was a tenacious volunteer for the Club for more than three decades. She was instrumental in recruiting new volunteers, many of whom continue to be active to this day. Over the years Louise chaired the Chapter's Transportation Committee and North-South Rail Link Sub-Committee, and led numerous efforts to promote public transportation, including successfully lobbying congress for rail transportation funds for Massachusetts.

In one of her earliest victories for the Club, Louise was instrumental in protecting vital areas of the Boston waterfront from over-development in the early 1970s. As an early advocate and lobbyist for cleanup and protection of Boston Harbor, Louise worked closely with then Senate President Joseph J. Moakley to help establish the Boston Harbor Islands and surrounding waters as a state park long prior to their designation as a national recreation area.

Louise initiated a federal lawsuit to enforce key Clean Air Act provisions related to the Central Artery Tunnel project and represented the Sierra Club in 1991 on the Bridge Design Review Committee which led to the redesign of the ill-advised Charles River crossing "Scheme Z," part of the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel project. Louise was active with the Sierra Club until very recently when her illness prevented her from continuing her work. Louise is survived by her husband John, who contin-

ues to be a vital Chapter and Greater Boston Group volunteer.

John F. Deacon died unexpectedly on March 29th, 2008. Over the years, John served on both the Greater Boston Group Executive Committee and the Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee, including serving as Chapter Transportation Chair for nearly a decade. John's work for the Club focused on the creation of a modern regional passenger rail network, including completion of the North-South Rail Link in Boston and many other environmentally and economically sustainable alternatives to the automobile. John worked extensively with community leaders to restore light rail service to communities presently under-served by the Silver Bus Line after the removal of the Orange Line rail service more than fifteen years ago.

Perhaps his most valued talent was John's ability to discern and illuminate the true intent behind any proposal. Many activists, politicians, and community leaders sought him out frequently for his keen observations and exhaustive research and writing skills. John worked to support the Club's efforts to maintain a sustainable commonwealth, including adequate funds for park maintenance, supporting creation of open and wild spaces, stopping the loss of farmland, and countering takings of established park and conservation lands.

As the nation's largest grassroots environmental organization, the Sierra Club is unique in that many of our initiatives, policies and programs are developed, and implemented by our volunteer leaders. These important club members help define the Sierra Club, and so it is a great tragedy to lose such dedicated activists for any reason.

Both Louise and John were not only important to the Chapter and its programs, they were also my friends and an inspiration to me and many others. Their combined contributions to the Club will be deeply missed.

From the Director *(continued from page 2)*

private ownership. The PLPA provides important safeguards, including an alternatives analysis and (where possible) replacement for lands acquired with taxpayer dollars or donated for natural resource purposes. Most importantly, it will help permanently protect those lands which the public views as already being held in the public trust.

The Massachusetts Senate has twice passed the PLPA, yet the House has failed to allow a vote on the bill for nearly a decade. Once again, we are nearing the end of a legislative session without action on the bill. To its credit, the Patrick administration has rigorously applied its own Article 97 policy to these lands, but not all transfers are caught or trigger review, and policies, unlike laws, remain forever at the whim of a sitting administration. Application of the policy has been used as an excuse by some legislators (who want to take public lands) as a reason to oppose the PLPA. But the bill would in fact clarify legislative intent and is simpler, less onerous, and more direct in its application than the administration's Article 97 policy.

It is time for the legislature to clarify its intent to protect public lands, or repeal Article 97 of the constitution, since it has been rendered meaningless by the legislature's inactivity and its own abuse of the law. As long as these lands are viewed by politicians and decision makers as land "free for the taking," the commonwealth's open season on open space will continue unabated. ❖



an Andersen Company

When We Install 12 Windows, it's Like Yanking a Hummer Off the Road

People have entrusted the windows in their homes to Andersen® for 105 years. Today, we consider the planet we share to be just as important. As the replacement division of Andersen Corporation, Renewal by Andersen is the *only* window replacement solution awarded Green Seal Certification for environmental stewardship

We Minimize Pollution at the Source

Our carbon-neutral factory in Minnesota makes its own heat and electricity. The only waste product is used for farm fertilizer.

Fibrex® Windows Save Forests— Over 1,800 Acres each Year

We build our windows from environmentally-friendly Fibrex®, a patented material made of 40% reclaimed wood and a thermoplastic polymer. Some of that is reclaimed during manufacturing too. To date, we've recycled enough wood to fill a stack of railroad box cars 27 miles high.

Save Hundreds on Heating and Cooling Annually

Conserving energy and saving the environment don't have to cost big money. Green Seal estimates that using Renewal by Andersen windows could actually *save* you 200 Gallons of home heating oil each year.* Our windows are over 14% more efficient than Energy Star® requirements for all areas of the country.

Windows that Last Longer— Good for You, and the Planet

It's not uncommon for us to replace 10-year-old windows. Renewal by Andersen windows are crafted to stand the test of time, minimizing future waste and resource use.

Warranted not to Chip, Peel or Rot

Some windows need toxic preservatives that release volatile organic emissions. Since 1995, Renewal By Andersen has saved 3,800 swimming pools of wood preservative. We've also eliminated the need for painstaking homeowner maintenance.

866-98-RENEW
www.GreenWindowWorld.com



**NO MONEY DOWN
NO PAYMENTS
NO INTEREST
For 12 months**

**SAVE \$95
per window†**

This offer expires June 30, 2008

*Green Seal estimates that if all windows were as energy-efficient as those made by Renewal by Andersen, Americans would save up to 2.5 percent of the annual U.S. energy consumption— an estimated 200 gallons of oil per household. †Nothing down, no payments and no interest for 12 months + save \$95 per window not valid with any other offers or prior purchases. Financing available with approved credit only. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. License number available upon request. "Renewal by Andersen" and the Renewal by Andersen logo are registered trademarks of the Andersen Corporation. All other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation © Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved.

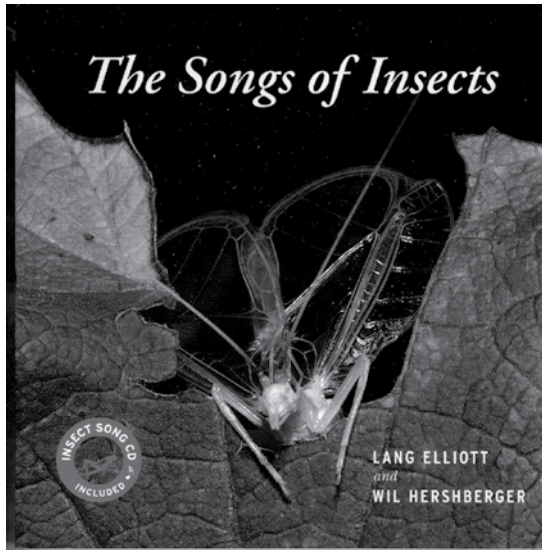
BOOK REVIEW:

The Songs of Insects

by Lang Elliott and Wil Hershberger
2007
Houghton Mifflin Company
229 pages
\$19.95

This is a fun and amazing book. Open it and you will be stunned by the close-up photographs of insects — each one shown both on vegetation and on a white background, so you can really see it. The page on each species describes it, its habitat and habits; it also includes a range map and a sonogram of the song. Inside the back cover is a CD with the actual sounds the insects make.

The authors traveled all over the area covered by the book, listen-



ing, recording and photographing these fascinating creatures. In all, they have “captured” the look and sounds of 77 crickets, katydids and cicadas in the US and Canada east of the great plains. They briefly describe the classification of singing insects, then explain how insects make their sounds, the purpose of the sounds, and how we hear them (or don’t, if

we suffer from the typical age-related loss of hearing in the upper frequencies).

I happened to take the book to a dance camp one weekend, and it immediately fascinated a nine year old boy who was there with his father. Insects, when we can really see them as in the photographs in this book, can look as fierce as the dinosaurs that so intrigue kids. And, one advantage of insects is that many can be captured and briefly kept as “pets” for close-up observation; the authors provide guidance on which ones do best.

As I looked through the book, reading about the insects that live in Massachusetts while hearing spring peepers and early spring birds, I found myself really looking forward to mid-to-late summer, and figuring out what the insects are that I’ve heard for years but never seen nor been able to identify. With this book and CD, and some persistence, I expect I will be able to. It opens up a whole new world! ❖

**Herbivores eat plants.
Carnivores eat meat.
Locavores eat local.**



- Local products travel fewer miles from field to table
- Local food is fresher & healthier
- Supports local growers & local economy
- Buying local helps our environment

Go www.mass.gov/MassGrown

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources



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

Online Shopping



save energy
save water
and help the environment



energyfederation.org

...where saving energy is easy.
800-379-4121



Warm up your home with or without a fire.

Our hand-crafted soapstone fireplaces, bakeovens and stove are engineered to create warmth. Literally and figuratively. What's more, Tulikivi bakeovens and cookstoves can provide the perfect recipe for your kitchen.

Hungry for more information?
Complete details and brochure available.
Please call or visit us online at:

www.stonecomfort.com

TULIKIVI 

It's such a cold, cold world

Stone Comfort Fireplace Gallery, Plainville, MA
508.699.5038



TTU2700/2

SPECIAL EVENT

SPRING CONSERVATION TRAINING WORKSHOP

June 20-22, Yale University, New Haven, CT

For more information, contact the Northeast Regional Committee,
<http://www.sierraclub.org/rcc/northeast>

NON-SIERRA CLUB EVENTS

SOLAR FIELD DAY

June 21

Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

(Rain date: Sunday, June 22.)

A renewable energy fair at Grenergy Park, Sohler Road, Beverly, MA. Come see the only working field of solar panels from the 1970s, which provides electricity to the Beverly High School. Join us for music, alternative energy vendors, food, fun and education. Solar Now, Inc. 978-927-9786 e mail: solarnow@comcast.net
Website: www.solarnow.org

ANNUAL NABA BUTTERFLY COUNT

"4th of July counts" are run and recorded by the North American Butterfly Association all over North America. Butterflies are essential pollinators and part of the food chain. The count is fun and important to the data base. We shall visit many sites. Experienced butterfly watchers and beginners needed. Bring lunch and binoculars. For more information, go to www.NABA.org

Supported by the Cape Cod and the Islands Group of Sierra Club.

All dates 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Fee: \$3

For directions to each site, see our Sierra Club chapter's website: <http://www.sierraclubmass.org/events/>

July 12 (rain date Sunday July 13)

Truro

July 16

Falmouth

July 19 (rain date, July 20)

Cape Cod Museum of Natural History, Brewster

July 26 (rain date July 27)

Audubon Long Pasture Wildlife Sanctuary, Barnstable

ERIK GEHRING PHOTOGRAPHY

FINE ART PRINTS
OUTDOOR PORTRAITURE
EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY
CLASSES AND LECTURES
APPROPRIATE COMMISSION WORK

WWW.ERIKGEHRING.COM



Massachusetts Chapter Outings

QUABBIN FORESTRY (E)

June 7

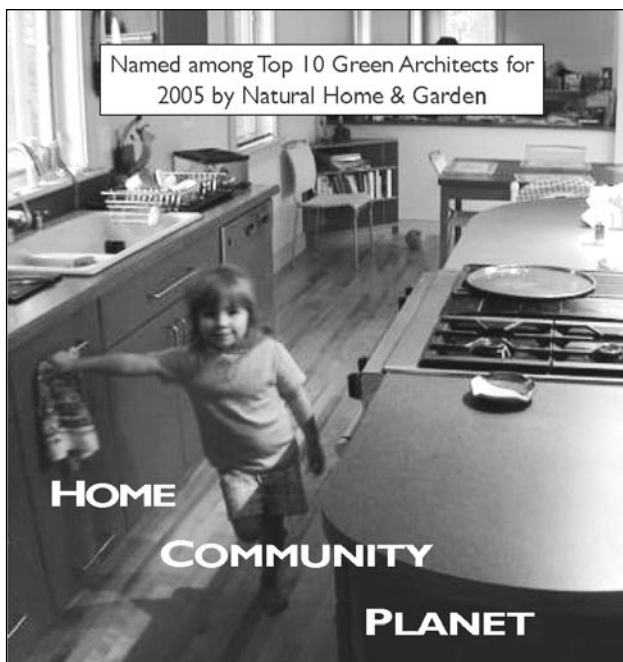
Time: 9:30 AM

We'll explore the forest on the western side of the Quabbin Reservation with the Chief Forester. A chance to see this special place and ask questions about the forest and the forestry there. Some of the hike will be off-trail, so be prepared with good boots and to fend off bugs and ticks. Sorry: no dogs. Contact Elisa at 413-256-4247 or campbell@oit.umass.edu (email preferred).

("E" indicates educational content)

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.

Reach 26,000 Sierra Club members with your ad in the Massachusetts *Sierran*. Please contact stef@classic-communications.com or call 508-698-6810.



**KRAUS-FITCH
ARCHITECTS, INC.**

Amherst, MA - 413-549-5799

www.krausfitch.com

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.*

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

June 8

Location: TBD

Upcoming meetings: Jul 26, Sep 14, Nov 2, Dec 13.
Locations vary.

All members welcome and encouraged to attend.
Please call the chapter office for more information
and directions.

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

June 19

Time: 7:00 PM

Upcoming Meetings: October 16 and 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, anti-social, 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.

CHAPTER POLITICAL COMMITTEE

June 4

Upcoming meetings: July 9 and August 20

Help elect environmental candidates! The Sierra Club is currently reviewing the records of candidates for state legislature. All 200 are up for election this year. Be part of our effort — drop by our next meeting! All Sierra club members are welcome. We have 3 openings on our committee and need your help! Your opinions about your state representative/senator are also welcome. Contact Phil Sego, at cpc@sierraclubmass.org for more information.

SIERRA CLUB BOSTON INNER CITY OUTINGS

Regular meeting schedule is the 3rd or 4th 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

www.sierraclubmass.org

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

SIERRAN

*Reaching More Than 26,000
Sierra Club Members in Massachusetts*

Massachusetts Chapter Sierra Club

10 Milk Street, Suite 632
Boston, MA 02108
617-423-5775

office@sierraclubmass.org
sierraclubmass.org

Postmaster:

Send all address changes (PS form 3579) to:
Sierra Club Membership,
85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105



Printed with soy-based ink on recycled paper