

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

SIERRAN

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Reaching More Than
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in Massachusetts

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CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005

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

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

Phillip Sego
phil@sierraclubmass.org

Alexandra Dawson
adawson@sierraclubmass.org

John Deacon
jdeacon@sierraclubmass.org

John Kyper
jkyper@sierraclubmass.org

Gilbert Woolley
gwoolley@sierraclubmass.org

John Lewis
jlewis@sierraclubmass.org

CHAPTER STAFF

James McCaffrey, Director
Jeremy Marin, Associate Regional Representative
Yi Ching Fedkenheuer, 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 Group
David Dow, *Acting Chair*
ddow@sierraclubmass.org

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

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

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

Essex County Group
Mike Dorsey, *Chair*
ddorsey@sierraclubmass.org

CHAPTER ISSUE LEADERS

Conservation Chair
Gilbert Woolley
gwoolley@sierraclubmass.org

Energy Chair
David Heimann
dheimann@sierraclubmass.org

Outings
Deborah Holt
holttd@verizon.net

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

Transportation Chair
John Kyper
jkyper@sierraclubmass.org

Population Chair
Anita King
413-268-9212

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Maine Sierra Club
One Pleasant Street
Portland, ME 04101-3936
207-761-5616

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

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

Rhode Island Sierra Club
298 West Exchange Street
Providence, RI 02903
401-521-4734

Connecticut Sierra Club
118 Oak Street
Hartford, CT 06106
860-525-2500

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

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GOLD: The Rush for LNG in New England

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

The entrepreneurial rush to build new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities on all our country's coasts has only been encouraged by the logjams caused (or revealed) by the hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico. At least 40 proposals have been made by the energy industry throughout North America, and all prior to a legitimate national and regional assessment of our LNG needs. Yet the energy industry claims they may only need twelve facilities. Four of these proposed facilities are along or just off of the Massachusetts' coastline.

This past summer, the *Sierran* explained our opposition to the facility proposed for Fall River, and raised questions about another one proposed offshore near Gloucester. The Fall River proposal has already received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the federal agency responsible for siting onshore LNG proposals. Large scale potentially dangerous industrial facilities do not belong in the heart of economically challenged and densely populated urban areas. FERC's approval of the Fall River project is an environmental injustice of the worst kind, and the Sierra Club has joined the good citizens of Fall River in opposing it.

We now know that there are two, not one, proposals for facilities offshore near Gloucester. They include potential impacts on some of the region's richest fishing grounds. Also, such facilities will increase tanker traffic in the migratory habitat for endangered Northern Right Whales. Finally, infrastructure such as pipelines for either proposal may impact or even cross existing marine sanctuaries.

The fourth proposal would take state and federal parklands in Boston Harbor to build an LNG facility. This is only the latest affront by the industry and would forever alter the character and

continued on page 12

On the cover: Snow begins to melt on the Mt. Holyoke Range

Photograph by Elisa Campbell

MASSACHUSETTS

SIERRAN

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

The *Massachusetts Sierran* is published quarterly: March, June, September, and December. 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.

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Safe? Or Not?

Studies Leave Questions about PAVE PAWS

by David Dow

For years there has been concern and controversy about the possibility of "cancer clusters" and elevated levels of other diseases and conditions on Cape Cod. Specifically, people have suspected that the PAVE PAWS Radar facility might be adversely affecting human health. (PAVE PAWS is a military radar system designed to detect incoming missiles; PAWS is an acronym for Phased Array Warning System.)

This fall, the International Epidemiology Institute (IEI) conducted an epidemiology study of Cape disease rates and their association, or lack thereof, with radiofrequency (Rf) exposure. A second analysis was done by Dr. Richard Albanese, an Air Force scientist acting as a private citizen.

The IEI released a report: "Descriptive Studies of Disease Occurrence and PAVE PAWS Radar" on September 9, 2005. IEI will hold a meeting for the general public in March 2006. IEI's dose/response study showed no elevation in cancer mortality/incidence rates, neurological and autoimmune disease, or low birth weight with increasing PAVE PAWS Rf exposure, while the secular trend study showed no increases in cancer rates at the county level after the system came online in 1978.

The other study, conducted by Dr. Albanese, was a dose/response study of Rf exposures at

the town level. Dr. Albanese used a different statistical analysis approach to compare dose with response, measuring adverse health outcomes. Unlike the IEI study, he found statistically significant positive dose/response relationships for female breast cancer and a statistically significant negative relationship for colon cancer in males and females. He also raised concerns about the IEI secular trend study analysis and the exposure levels employed in the IEI dose/response study.

The IEI study was paid for by the Air Force. There has been much controversy on Cape Cod regarding the scope

of the health study and whether it should have been overseen by an independent entity with minimal Air Force involvement. The safety standards for non-ionizing radiation, which emanates from AM/FM radios, cell phones, marine/airport radars, as well as military facilities such as PAVE PAWS, have been promulgated by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and are based upon the average and peak power density measured in microwatts per square centimeter or its equivalents in

A dialogue ... will be required to define "how safe is safe."

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Photograph by Elisa Campbell

Forest Reserves Meetings “Heartening”

by Elisa Campbell

Sierra Club members attending the meetings about the proposed Large Forest Reserves found the experience “heartening,” in the words of Alison Robb, who attended the meeting focusing on the Myles Standish State Forest in Plymouth and Carver. All the proposals, which include state forests and wildlife management areas, are designed to preserve or enhance the biological diversity of our Commonwealth. Hiking, bird watching, hunting and fishing currently allowed will continue to be allowed. None of the proposed areas currently allows off-road vehicle use, and no changes are planned in that status. There will be management for species preservation and diversity.

The next steps in this process include rallying support for both the reserve proposal and for sufficient resources (e.g. people and money), for the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) to do the work to make the reserves reality: baseline data studies; developing plans with input by their staff, other professionals and the public; monitoring results; and, of course, enforcement of the rules that exclude destructive uses.

Please join us in this effort! To become one of the Chapter’s Forest Guardians, contact ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org. ❖

Elisa Campbell is Chair of the Chapter’s Public Lands and Open Space Committee, as well as Editor of the Sierran.

Ware River Needs Us: A Volunteer Opportunity

by Elisa Campbell

The Commonwealth’s major water supplier — the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority — gets its water primarily from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs in mid-state. The watersheds for those reservoirs have official Advisory Committees, and the Sierra Club, by law, is entitled to representation on those committees. I am currently serving as the Club representative on the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee (QWAC). On the Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee (WRWAC) we are entitled to one representative and an alternate — but our seats are empty. We’d like to fill them!

In addition to being important for water supply, the Ware River area is currently proposed to be one of the Large Forest Reserves, so we need someone to work on the details of that proposal. There are also recreational issues, including the Midstate Trail, the Central Mass Rail Trail, (both of which go through the watershed), and balancing use for snowmobiling, horseback riding and biking. There are also Eagle Scout projects and a fledgling “Quiet Area” where motorized vehicles are discouraged.

The Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee is required to meet twice a year. Typically, they meet five or six times, avoiding the summer season. Meetings are usually at the Hubbardston Center School on a Thursday from 7 PM to 9 PM, (they end promptly).

Please contact me if you’d like to volunteer. I prefer email (ecampbell@sierraclubmass.org) but I can also be reached by phone (413-256-4247). ❖

Elisa Campbell is Chair of the Chapter’s Public Lands and Open Space Committee, as well as Editor of the Sierran.

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Cambridge Takes on Global Warming

by Rosalie Anders

Scientists have been warning us for years about the consequences of global warming. National action is crucial, and we need to keep asking the federal government to act, but local action is necessary too.

In many communities, local grassroots activity has been scant, perhaps because global warming seems overwhelming, or because it is not yet quite real to us, though Hurricane Katrina may have made it more imaginable.

In Massachusetts, however, 21 communities have joined Cities for Climate Protection (CCP). Nationally, 159 communities are members; worldwide, 650. With help from CCP, member communities take an inventory of their greenhouse gas emissions, write a plan to reduce them, carry it out, and monitor the results.

Aided by an advisory committee, Cambridge has created an inventory and a plan. Cambridge's emissions from transportation are about 13% of the total (a smaller percentage than for suburban communities), and the city already has an extensive, nationally recognized program to promote walking, biking and transit use. Cambridge also has a comprehensive recycling program, (waste accounts for about 1% of emissions). We can do much more in both areas, but since about 86% of our emissions are connected with energy use in buildings, that is our current focus.

All municipal governments have important tools available to them: setting examples, persuading decision makers, and recognizing those who have succeeded. Cambridge uses all three.

Example is clearly key. It's not useful to ask others to take actions that you aren't willing to take. Among other measures, the city is making its new construction and major renovations consistent with "green" building standards and is undertaking energy efficiency measures in existing buildings.

We are working with many of the city's largest employers, bringing them

together and informing them of opportunities to make their operations greener. We have instituted GoGreen (business awards to recognize outstanding efforts) and have launched a Climate Leader program, which will both provide technical assistance and give recognition to businesses and institutions that meet standards in recycling, transportation and energy efficiency.

In the residential sector, our efforts are geared toward multifamily housing in which most residents live. Cambridge's households use less energy than the national average, but there is still a lot they can do: switch to compact fluorescent bulbs, take advantage of utility rebates, trade in old refrigerators for energy-efficient models, and install solar panels. The city publicizes these opportunities; it also sponsors "ecoteams," small groups that meet to learn about and support steps to reduce their households' environmental impact.

The good news is that virtually all the actions to tackle global warming have multiple benefits: cleaner air and water, healthier forests and wetlands, more walkable communities, more comfortable living spaces and a stronger economy.

Cities for Climate Protection offers communities a helpful framework, technical help and the exchange of ideas and possibilities for cooperative action. Often, it only takes a handful of advocates to get a community started and help keep it on track.

Virtually all the actions to tackle global warming have multiple benefits

If every Sierra Club member gets involved, we can transform our communities. And that is the surest way to make national change. ❖

Rosalie Anders works on environmental projects for the City of Cambridge, in the Community Development Department. She can be reached at 617-349-4604 or randers@cambridgema.gov.



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PAVE PAWS

(continued from page 3)

decibels. There are no federal standards for Rf exposure, since there are no perceived adverse health impacts.

Why the results vary with different methods are technical issues beyond my grasp, so only time will tell how the experts resolve these different perspectives. The National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (NAS/NRC) Panel will discuss these technical issues. One of the problems with the IEI exposure and health effects studies is that they have a technical focus which makes it hard for the public to evaluate the public health implications. Unlike health risk assessments which provide estimates of the likelihood of getting cancer after a lifetime of exposure, the IEI and NAS/NRC dose/response relationships are provided in terms that only epidemiologists can understand. One can't relate these to every day risks (like dying in a car accident).

A number of local environmental activists wanted the exposure estimates to include both the phase component and the power density aspect of the radar signal. They also wanted an analytical rather than a descriptive epidemiological study, so that one could adjust for con-

founding factors (like length of residency, alcohol use, smoking, chemical contaminant exposure, etc.). Better models are the Silent Spring Institute's Cape Cod Breast Cancer and Environment Study and the SSI household chemical exposure study.

No further studies are currently recommended, although the PAVE PAWS Public Health Steering Group (PPPHSG) has called for more studies. Thus it will be up to local and state politicians to decide on the health policy implications. Epidemiology is a crude tool for establishing cause/effect relationships between exposure to Rf energy or chemical contaminants and adverse health impacts. A dialogue between the public and our political leaders will be required to define "how safe is safe." This will probably necessitate a science translation effort for the public and political leaders on the implications of the technical studies and a risk communication outreach program on the possible environmental causes of the elevated adverse health outcomes on Cape Cod. The various epidemiological studies conducted on Cape Cod are the starting place for this dialogue. ❖

David Dow is the Acting Chair of the Cape Cod Group.

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Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

*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.)*

Voting Instructions and Election Procedures

You, as members, elect the Sierra Club leadership each year. In this issue of the *Sierran*, you will find candidates' statements and ballots (on page 10) for three separate Sierra Club Executive Committee Elections: Massachusetts Chapter, Greater Boston Group, and Essex County Group. All Massachusetts Sierra Club members may vote for the Chapter Executive Committee. You may also vote for the executive committee of the group of which you are a member. Please contact the Chapter Office if you have a question about your group membership.

Mail ballots to: Sierra Club Elections, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 760, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116. Ballots must be received by 5:00 PM, Tuesday, January 3, 2006 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.

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

DON CARLSON—I became an environmental activist in 1999, starting in the Atlantic (New York State) Chapter. There I chaired group and chapter conservation committees, served on group and chapter executive committees, and was elected chapter conservation chair. I've also served on the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Strategy Team, where I led the effort to establish a new national toxics committee. Currently I am a contributing member of the Club's Organizational Effectiveness Governance Committee, where we are planning implementation of the club's new priorities.

I'm a Boston native, recently returned, and am really looking forward to working on local and state-wide issues. My particular interests are in reducing toxics in our environment, preserving and expanding green space and wildlands, and achieving environmental justice.

DAVID HEIMANN—I serve as Chair of the Chapter Energy Committee. Under my direction Chapter comments were submitted on the Cape Wind DEIS. We have also been working on LNG, community outreach and education, and Green Power.

I am also involved in regional conservation as a chapter delegate to the Northeast Regional Committee (NERC) and in running their Web site. With my support NERC held an energy training in June and a Bi-National Symposium in October. On the national front, I attended the Sierra Summit as a Chapter delegate.

The Summit has identified energy and global warming as priorities, and I intend to support these important issues. On overall Chapter administration, I bring years of Excom experience, including that of past Treasurer, to the Chapter's varied activities.

DEBORAH HOLT—I joined the Sierra Club as a life member in 1988. Then and now I view the Sierra Club as the organization best suited to effect positive environmental outcomes through its focus on environmental activism and introducing people to the issues and areas that need protection.

My involvement and responsibilities for the Chapter (past and present) include serving on a North-South Rail Link strategy committee, chairing the Chapter outings program, leading outings for the Chapter, authoring articles for the *Sierran*, and serving on the Greater Boston Executive Committee with the additional duties of Secretary and Chapter Executive Committee liaison.

Chapter effectiveness is facilitated by continuity, experience, and commitment — which I can offer if elected. Please vote, and please give me your vote.

JOHN KYPER—For four years I have served on the Chapter ExCom, and more recently as Chair of its Transportation Committee. 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. We must expand the frequency and coverage of our often-disjointed public transportation system, as well as redesign our roadways to encourage walking and bicycling.

The long struggle for equity in transportation planning reflects how the state is neglecting the needs of its most transit-dependent citizens. For over a decade I have worked in the Washington Street Corridor Coalition, advocating true, light rail replacement service for the old Orange Line elevated instead of the inadequate "Silver Line" bus.

Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee

Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

DON CARLSON—I became an environmental activist in 1999, starting in the Atlantic (New York State) Chapter. There I chaired group and chapter conservation committees, served on group and chapter executive committees, and was elected chapter conservation chair. I've also served on the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Strategy Team, where I led the effort to establish a new national toxics committee. Currently I am a contributing member of the club's Organizational Effectiveness Governance Committee, where we are planning implementation of the club's new priorities.

I'm a Boston native, recently returned, and am really looking forward to working on local and state-wide issues. My particular interests are in reducing toxics in our environment, preserving and expanding green space and wildlands, and achieving environmental justice.

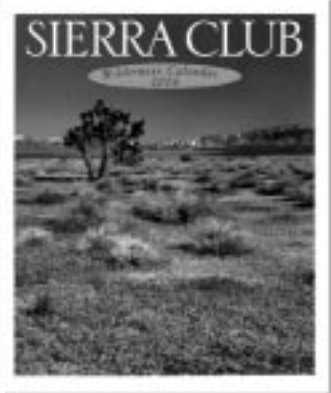
CHRIS HALLGREN—I've been a Sierra Club member for over ten years and I would call myself an active member for past four years or so; sitting on the Chapter's Energy Committee, participating on a national campaign to promote cleaner cars, and,

for the past two years, serving on the Greater Boston Group's Executive Committee. I'm an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys hiking, biking and skiing, but it was really my interest in issues related to energy and transportation that moved me to get more involved with the Sierra Club. I hope to spend more time working through GBG Executive Committee and on various campaigns to help others find opportunities to get more involved and take action on the issues that they find important.

MEG THOMSEN—Since I first became involved with the Sierra Club nine years ago as a canvasser, my involvement has enriched my life both personally and professionally. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in China, I utilized the teachings of the Sierra Club in my environmental education curriculum and have been actively involved in the Massachusetts Chapter since 2003. The Club's activities have given my work at the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School and my graduate studies in Environmental Policy greater meaning, and I hope to serve the Club with the same dedication that I have given to my roles as a student and a professional.

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Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Essex Group Executive Committee

Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

MICHAEL DORSEY—During grade school I moved from Missouri to the rural farmland of New Jersey. I was appalled by the transformation from a rural area to crowded suburban sprawl in four years. Now living in West Newbury, I see the same process moving through North Shore. For this reason I worked to re-activate the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club.

By profession I am in advertising. I believe this will be an asset. Environmentally speaking, I have been Chair of the Essex Group since its reactivation.

As a board member I hope we can bring in the disparate local environmental groups, citizen groups and recreational groups throughout Essex County together to preserve our heritage and precious wild spaces.

DEBORAH A. LONGMAN-MARIEN—As an educator, I have taught about life on this planet at many museums. I now teach the effects of manufacturing on the Merrimac River at a mill museum in NH. I taught about biodiversity at a major museum in Toronto. I also promoted recycling.

Essex County is a special place, rich in natural beauty, which I worry will be destroyed by development and pollution. I helped plan the rebirth of the Essex Group. I have served on the executive committee from the beginning. Currently, I am the group's Treasurer. I hope to continue to serve on the Executive Committee of the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club to guarantee that residents continue to enjoy the diversity of fields, forests, shore and sea.

DANIEL E. MARIEN, PH.D.—I participated in the founding of the Essex Group in 2002 and served as its secretary almost continuously since its inception. I've been involved in organizing the Group's Speaker's Series and most of its other activities. I teach American and environmental politics at Salem State College and have a solid understanding of organizational, political, and environmental issues. I would like to have the opportunity, and the responsibility, to be elected for a second time to the Executive Committee of the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club. Thank you.

KEVIN MCCARTHY—I have always been an advocate for protecting the environment and I believe I can be an effective ExCom Member for Essex County Group of the Sierra Club. I bring focus, energy and passion to ExCom and will work with other executive committee members to think creatively about the local issues, engage local members, recruit new members (and their energy) and reach out to like minded groups in the region, working on issues where we can have a greater voice speaking together.

HEATHER McMANN—I have 10 years experience in the non-profit sector and a passion for organic food, wildlife and open space. I hope to use my professional experience to support the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club in its work with the local community on such important issues as sustaining our waterways, increasing environmental activism, promoting alternative energy sources and supporting local, organic agriculture. Currently I am a volunteer with the Essex County Group and I want to further support the group by joining the Executive Committee.

LAUREL MILLER—We are currently working as a group with issues such as the LNG pipeline and off-shore platforms. This would negatively impact the Gloucester fishermen. Also, the majority of Gloucester residents are against the LNG pipeline.

In West Newbury there is a 1,400 foot log road on Ash St. that is under the protection of the Crane Pond Wildlife Management. We are concerned about the impact of a paved road through this protected area.

Essex County group has sponsored environment talks on Global warming and picnics with speakers on clean fuels and hybrid cars. We are volunteers who care about the planet we live on. Your vote will help me to continue our work in progress.

RICHARD PETERS, MD, PHD—As a healthcare professional, I am interested in protecting our environment because of the human health consequences of environmental changes. I believe that protection and preservation efforts begin at the local level and I wish to positively impact decision-makers in our area.

I am a member of the Sierra Club and have volunteered for the Essex County Group of the Club. I am also a member of the Trustees of Reservations.

My professional career is in the healthcare sector where I have held leadership positions at several companies and have held appointments at The Massachusetts Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

In my free time, I enjoy horseback riding and organic farming.

HEIDI ROBERTS—It has been a long and challenging process since we started up the Essex group 3 years ago, and I want to thank all of our volunteers who have helped us get established and have helped with our events like the speaker series, hybrid meet and annual picnic.

We are very fortunate that we have many concerned citizens and groups who are already active in Essex County with environmental issues. In order to be most effective in our shared goals, I would like to work together on renewable energy, keeping open spaces and in general keeping our part of the earth healthy for our grandchildren to enjoy.

I am asking for your vote, so that you and I may continue to work towards a healthy planet.

BALLOT

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than **four** candidates.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Holt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann | <input type="checkbox"/> John Kyper |

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BALLOT

Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than **four** candidates.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann | <input type="checkbox"/> John Kyper |

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BALLOT

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than **three** candidates.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Hallgren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meg Thomsen | |

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BALLOT

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than **three** candidates.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Hallgren |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meg Thomsen | |

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*Your membership number must appear on the **outside**
of your envelope in order for your ballot to be valid.*

**Ballots must be received by 5:00 pm January 3, 2006
in order to be counted.**

BALLOT

Essex County Group Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than **four** candidates
*The four candidates receiving the most votes will serve
two-year terms; the three next will serve one-year terms.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Dorsey | <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Longman-
Marien |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Marien | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin McCarthy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heather McMann | <input type="checkbox"/> Laurel Miller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | <input type="checkbox"/> Heidi Roberts |

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Two Views from the Summit

Highlights of an Extraordinary Experience

by R Phillip Dowds

On September 8th, following months of preparation, 11 delegates from the Massachusetts Chapter joined nearly 700 others in San Francisco for the Sierra Summit 2005 — a first-of-its-kind event for the Sierra Club.

In addition to the official delegates, the four day convention was attended by thousands of visitors, guests, professionals and Club staff from North America and beyond. Along with the customary exhibitors and break-out symposia, highlights included:

- A keynote presentation by Al Gore — whose arrival was a last-minute surprise when his prior engagement, a speech in New Orleans about climate risk management, was unexpectedly cancelled by Katrina;
- A varied fleet of high-efficiency hybrid cars, available for test drives;
- A report by sociologist Marshall Ganz of Harvard, who for more than a year has led a team investigating the dynamics of the Club's institutional and volunteer culture; and
- The Sierra Showcase, where a hundred Chapters and Groups from around the country displayed and explained their various volunteer projects and conservation initiatives. The breadth, depth and commitment of these diverse activities were remarkable.

The focus of the Summit was a two-session participatory deliberation where delegates sought to develop priorities and a direction for Club efforts for the next five years. Building on preparatory work done at the Chapter level, delegates discussed alternatives as small groups, then operated handheld wireless devices, ("option-finders," resembling a garage door remote control), for instantaneous real-time polling. Results of these polls, or "votes," were aggregated immediately and used as input for continuing dialogue. Issues were grouped into

conservation priorities, historical effectiveness, and implementation methods for reaching goals and influencing decision makers.

From all this evolved the top priority, "Building a New Energy Future." This was especially gratifying for the Mass. delegation, which had come prepared to promote energy conservation and climate change as the most urgent challenges confronting both the Club and the world. Runner-up priorities were "Building Vibrant, Healthy Communities," (interpreted as encompassing a local-action orientation), "Defending Federal Lands/Public Waters," and "Protecting People and the Planet from Pollution." In terms of effective methods, delegates favored seeking new allies and building creative coalitions, and influencing the voting public directly (in contrast to pestering environmentally tone-deaf public officials).

But was it "decision-making"? Probably not, at least not directly. Summit leaders indicated that the participation and polling information of the direction-setting sessions would be going back up to the National Board, which sets formal policy. From there, it will take time and effort to resolve divergences. For instance, will building coalitions really upstage litigation as one of our primary conservation tools? How will a national priority for energy reform work its way down to the volunteer group level, where many dedicated Club members have devoted their activist careers to protecting a particular forest or canyon?

We don't know yet, but most of us returning from the Summit are inclined to agree with delegate Ken Langton (Grand Canyon Chapter, Arizona), when he said the direction-setting was "one of the Club's finest hours — the most impressive display of democratic, large-scale, collective decision-making I have been involved in all my adult years in this country." ❖

Phil Dowds is a member of the Greater Boston Group and a practicing architect with a long involvement in local development issues.

Learning Who We Are

by Blossom Hoag

One of the sessions at the Summit revealed the results of an extensive look at the Sierra Club's membership conducted by Marshall Ganz of Harvard University. Just what is the Sierra Club? Why be a member? Ganz looked at all sixty-odd chapters, hundreds of groups and all the committees that make up the Sierra Club. He gathered information about Sierrans' ethnicity, age range and interests. Your Club now has over 750,000 members with broad and diverse agendas. Nationwide, we work on many issues such as preserving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, land preservation in Puerto Rico (our newest chapter), marine sanctuaries in Hawaii, and monitoring LNG, wind, and other energy proposals in Massachusetts.

There was a Priority Setting Process that met over three days to continue the selection of a major campaign that the Club will address over the next four to six years. The Massachusetts Chapter had reviewed several questionnaires that came from this process as had the Board of Directors, groups and other entities. The Summit was the time for an across-the-board representation of the membership — from new members to ones who had been active for over 50 years, from teenagers to members in their 80s and 90s. As reported by Phillip Dowds, the Summit selected "Building a New Energy Future" as the most important priority. This was in agreement with the issue that the Massachusetts chapter had selected as its top issue.

You may go on the national Sierra Club's web site, www.sierraclub.org to find out more about the process, the people involved and the outcomes. ❖

Blossom Hoag attended the Sierra Summit in September. She has been active for years in the Chapter and the Greater Boston Group.

From the Director

(continued from page 2)

experience of the Boston Harbor Islands National Park System. It must not proceed.

Yet it cannot be denied our regional energy needs are clearly growing, and LNG may be one way to meet that demand with less impact than burning coal or oil. Massachusetts is already a large consumer of natural gas. Around half of our electricity is generated by natural gas and a large numbers of homes are heated by it. Yet we have no plan for the future.

When we build transportation infrastructure, we conduct environmental studies and then decide where projects should go (at least in theory). Regardless of whether we ultimately agree with the outcome of the process, *at least there is a process*. Not so with the rush for LNG. Massachusetts needs a sensible procedure to site facilities in the safest and least environmentally damaging areas. We need a legitimate assessment — one which factors in all the necessary conservation measures as well as greener forms of energy such as wind and solar power — as to what our LNG needs truly are.

While it is true that an LNG facility, or perhaps several, will be built somewhere to service the region's energy needs, the environmental community remains well within our mission to oppose any proposal with adverse environmental impacts. And while the Club may not ultimately oppose all the proposed LNG facilities, if we support any project it will be because it is the best proposal for the environment, and not just the lesser of four evils. The question remains, does the energy industry have the vision to propose an LNG project we can truly support? ❖

A Long Strange Story: THE SILVER LINE

by John Kyper

The MBTA finally blinked. On August 17th, it responded to growing public outrage, and asked the Federal Transit Administration to remove Silver Line Phase III from its list of projects vying for federal funding.

For years the T has tried to convince Roxbury residents that running a slow, jerky bus through the congestion of Washington Street and calling it the "Silver Line" constitutes suitable replacement service for the old elevated Orange Line that once ran above the street. Phase II opened last winter from South Station and now provides bus service to the Airport. The T proposed to link the two legs of this "line" — Phase III — with a convoluted tunnel snaking through Chinatown — and a bus portal that nobody wants. The project would likely cost over a billion dollars and would not take people where they want to go, forcing them to make an awkward transfer to get anyplace else.

The Washington Street Corridor Coalition (WSCC) was formed in 1987 when it became clear the state would not build its long-promised light rail replacement service directly into Park Street Station (there is an abandoned streetcar tunnel that could be used). Ever since, WSCC has fought for the rail service that this heavily used corridor warrants. The Sierra Club has been a strategic ally throughout this period, lobbying and arguing at numerous public hearings that light rail would be the most efficient and



cost-effective option along the route from Dudley Square to Downtown.

The MBTA has proposed one unacceptable portal option after another to link Washington Street to the subway. First, it would have claimed Chinatown's new YMCA; then Bay Village stood to lose Eliot Norton Park. The two portals most recently under consideration — New England Medical Center (with "temporary" use of the Park for construction), and Columbus Avenue in front of a fire station — also provoked anger from those most directly impacted. The serpentine routes wouldn't even be useful for Roxbury residents.

In the spring of 2005, the Authority issued a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIR). The document named eight bus routes to run through the tunnel, including one into the congested Back Bay to the Hynes Convention center. A little calculating shows there would be 74 buses per hour running through the Core Tunnel Segment between Silver Line Way and Boylston station! This is not a realistic scenario. Other evidence of poor planning includes the location of much of the tunnel in Bay Village, which is built on landfill, and no plan for dealing with water seepage into the tunnels. The T's normal practice of pumping the water into the sewage system has badly aggravated existing problems with the area's water tables, endangering many old buildings.

The anger boiled over at a pair of public hearings in late June, when a wide majority of attendees opposed the latest tunnel-and-portal scheme. Representatives from the hospitals, Chinatown, Bay Village and the Back Bay all condemned the plan and its undesirable impacts upon their neighborhoods. The Sierra Club joined the WSCC in supporting the "No Build" alternative. Faced with such massive opposition, the MBTA retreated and announced it would hold off on further

continued on page 14

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Generating Your Own Energy

by Linda Raven

The spring 2005 issue of the *Sierran* had an excellent article discussing the various options Massachusetts residents now have for choosing renewable energy through their regular utility. Massachusetts homeowners also have several options for generating their own renewable electricity on-site. By installing a renewable energy system at your home, you can directly reduce both greenhouse gas emissions and your electric bill, as well as add to the value of your home. In some cases, you can guarantee yourself continuous power throughout power outages.

To make it more affordable to have a system installed, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) is now offering rebates of up to \$50,000 for new renewable energy installations on any facility that is connected to an investor-owned utility. These facilities can include municipal buildings and schools; commercial, industrial or institutional facilities; and residential properties, including single-family homes. The renewable energy technologies eligible for rebates are micro-hydroelectric, solar photovoltaics and wind electric systems. The exact rebate amount varies depending on the technology installed, the size of the system and several other factors.

For more information, please visit the MTC on the web at: www.masstech.org/RenewableEnergy/small_renewables.htm

The site includes information on finding a qualified installer, determining the rebate amount for which you are eligible and all of the terms and conditions for the program. ❖

Linda Raven is employed as a Sales Engineer at Beacon Power Corporation, a Wilmington, MA based manufacturer of solar power inverters. She is also passionate about reducing fossil fuel consumption worldwide.

**Thank you to our
2005 Donors!**

I'd like to say a special thank you to the 525 Sierra Club members who responded to our Annual March Appeal by donating over \$20,400. Your chapter contributions provide critical support for the work we do to protect the environment here in Massachusetts!

Thank you!

Mary Ann Nelson,
Chapter Chair

Walk Thru History



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Follow the Leaders: Our Neighbors are Cutting Emissions

by Blossom Hoag

When you receive this *Sierran*, government officials from all around the world will be meeting in Montreal, Canada to negotiate emissions reductions in response to the reality of global warming. It's a meeting of the "Committee of the Parties" (COP) which developed the Kyoto Protocols; since it's the eleventh meeting of this group, it's called COP 11. While the Protocol is not "the answer" to the global warming problem, it is the first step. The United States has not only refused to sign this agreement, it threatened Russia and Canada with retaliation if they signed—which they have. This meeting was purposefully scheduled just across the border to give advocates for U.S. involvement a chance to call for action by the U.S. For background information, see the article by Elizabeth May in the Summer issue of the *Sierran*. For current information, or to get involved, contact the National Energy Committee chair, Stephen Crowley at scrow@sover.net. Watch the Chapter's web site for upcoming local activities that will take place on December 3. ❖

Blossom Hoag is a member of the Chapter's Executive Committee, Chapter Energy Committee and Greater Boston Group Executive Committee.

Charles River Ad

The Silver Line

(continued from page 12)

planning for Phase III until it could find a consensus over the proposed portal location. That's not likely to happen.

The WSCC has long suspected that the T has no serious intention of connecting its tunnel to Washington Street, but is instead interested in building only its "Core Segment" from South Station to Boylston — which would sever the old streetcar tunnel that could provide rail service to Roxbury. Instead, the Club, the Coalition and other allies are calling for the MBTA to amend its application for federal funds to separate the two legs of the misbegotten "Silver Line." We urge the MBTA to build them both as light rail links that would hook into the existing Green Line in a manner that would save many millions of dollars and make sense for real-world transit users, not a fictional ridership invented to justify federal funding. ❖

John Kyper is chair of the Chapter's Transportation Committee, and a long-time member of the Washington Street Corridor Coalition, which advocates for light rail service; he is also a regular user of the MBTA.

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Massachusetts Chapter Outings

Please contact leaders for more information and to sign up for the following outings.
Outings marked with an E are educational in addition to being recreational!

MAUDSLAY STATE PARK WALK

December 11

Time: 11:00 AM

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

MIDDLESEX FELS BIRTHDAY HIKE/SNOWSHOE/XC SKI (LEADER'S CHOICE)

December 17

Time: 10:00 AM

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

NEW YEAR'S DAY XC SKI AT BARRE FALLS

January 1

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Leader Matt at
hopkinson34@charter.net or
978-928-5964

NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE/SNOWSHOE/XC SKI AT BLUE HILLS (LEADER'S CHOICE)

January 1

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Leader Karin at
karintate@verizon.net or
617-876-9507

LOWELL DRACUT TYNGSBORO STATE FOREST HIKE OR SNOWSHOE

January 7 (raindate Sunday Jan 8)

Time: 11:00 AM

Contact Leader Elisa at
campbell@oit.umass.edu or
413-256-4247

MIDDLESEX FELS HIKE/SNOWSHOE/XC SKI (LEADER'S CHOICE)

January 15

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Leader Deborah at
holdtj@verizon.net or 617-227-8898

BEGINNER SNOWSHOE AT QUABBIN RESERVATION, MT. HOLYOKE RANGE OR MT. TOBY (LEADER'S CHOICE)

January 22

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Leader Elisa at
campbell@oit.umass.edu or
413-256-4247

BEGINNER SNOWSHOE AT QUABBIN RESERVATION, MT. HOLYOKE RANGE OR MT. TOBY (LEADER'S CHOICE)

February 4

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Leader Elisa at
campbell@oit.umass.edu or
413-256-4247

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY HIKE/SNOWSHOE/XC SKI AT MIDDLESEX FELS (LEADER'S CHOICE)

February 12

Time: 10:00 AM

Contact Leader Deborah at
holdtj@verizon.net or 617-227-8898

MAUDSLAY STATE PARK WALK

March 5

Time: 11:00 AM

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

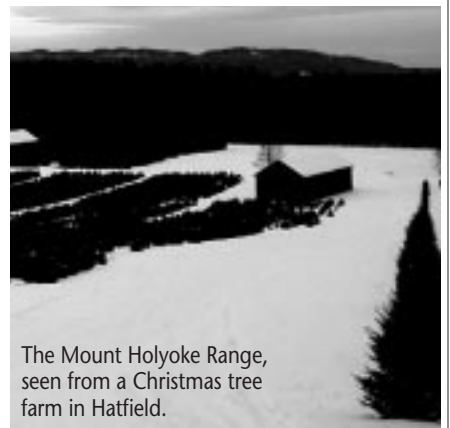
Conscientious Holiday Shopping

by Kristine Zeigler

The holidays are here and shopping — more specifically, consuming — is on all our members' minds. There is something that you can do to help your Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club *while* checking off your gift list. Here's how:

- **Give a gift to the Massachusetts Chapter** in honor of a loved one. Simply write, "Tribute Gift" on the memo line of your check and tell us the name and address of the honoree. The chapter will send a handsome holiday card to you and your loved one. Suggested minimum: \$25.00. *Use the enclosed envelope for speedy processing!*
- **Buy Sierra Club products** — sustainable, animal- and farmer-friendly teas and coffees, as well as beautiful wall and engagement calendars and more. Order your gifts from Karen Zeigler at (781) 395-3310 or send an e-mail to kzeiglermass@yahoo.com.
- **Give the gift of membership.** Introductory memberships begin at \$25 and help preserve irreplaceable wildlands, save endangered and threatened wildlife, and protect the environment right here in Massachusetts. Receive a free expedition pack when you buy a gift membership. Buy online at: <https://ww2.sierraclub.org/membership/gift/>. ❖

Karen Zeigler is a member of the Chapter's Fundraising Committee.



The Mount Holyoke Range, seen from a Christmas tree farm in Hatfield.

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**GROUP & CHAPTER EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

December 4

Time: 11:00 – 3:30 PM

Place: Sierra Club Office

All members welcome and encouraged to attend.

**GREATER BOSTON GROUP
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

December 13

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Sierra Club Office

Upcoming Meetings: January 10,
February 14, March 14

ISSUE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CHAPTER POLITICAL COMMITTEE

December 14

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Sierra Club Office

Sierra members who wish to work on electoral and endorsement activities are most welcome! Contact Phillip Segó, Chair, for more information: phil@sierraclubmass.org

Upcoming meetings: January 11,
February 8, March 8 at 6:30 PM

NORTH/SOUTH RAIL LINK COMMITTEE

January 17

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Sierra Club Office

Help strategize to extend the Northeast Corridor national passenger rail service from South Station to North Station, New Hampshire, Maine and beyond. Contact Louise Lewis, Chair, for more information: 617-266-5890

ANNOUNCEMENT

**Trail Maintenance Volunteers
Sought**

Help maintain the Middlesex Fells' Rock Circuit Trail, a 3.7-mile trail that the American Hiking Society has named one of the top-ten U.S. fitness trails. Contact Outings Chair Deborah Holt at holdtdj@verizon.net for more information and to volunteer.

PARTIES

**PIONEER VALLEY GROUP
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

December 11

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Place: Alexandra Dawson, 2 West Street, Hadley MA

Potluck supper: bring some food to share and, if you want, some wine or beer to drink. It's a great time to meet other Sierrans, to share a great meal, and to see some interesting slides of a trip. For more information, contact PVG Chair, Elisa Campbell (campbell@oit.umass.edu) or the hostess, Alexandra Dawson, (413) 586-5586

CHAPTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 14

Time: 4:30 PM – 7 PM

Place: Sierra Club Office

**BOSTON INNER CITY OUTINGS
(ICO) FUNDRAISER: BREWFEST**

February 17, 2006

Place: Boston Beerworks

Time: 6 PM – 10 PM

See the Chapter's web site for details.



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Director, Gift Planning
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San Francisco, CA 94105
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planned.giving@sierraclub.org

www.sierraclubmass.org

*for current information
about events and
announcements*

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