

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

SIERRA

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

IF A TREE FALLS IN A STATE FOREST...

Agency Responds to Outcry Over Timber Harvesting Plans

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

Massachusetts is graced with a myriad of public lands and open space. From the wild forests of the Berkshires to the beaches of Cape Cod, these vital areas are popular for recreation and tourism, as well as essential to providing plant and wildlife habitat and protecting watersheds and drinking water supplies. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) manage these lands, and jointly are responsible for nearly 10 percent of the landmass of the Commonwealth. Recently, the state acted to enhance protection of these lands by designating large Forest Reserves that will ultimately safeguard more than 50,000 of acres of forested lands.

The designation, announced in September and applauded by environmentalists, is part of the state's larger timber management program. Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to receive "Green Certification" by the Forestry Stewardship Council, an independent non-profit organization devoted to encouraging sustainable forestry — the practice of selectively harvesting trees using techniques and strategies that ensure continuous production and long-term forest health while strengthening both local economies and ecosystems.

Unfortunately, while much fanfare surrounded the announcement of Forest Reserves, DCR conducted little public outreach on its plans to harvest 3,000 acres of trees in non-reserve areas. In late summer, after the Sierra Club received calls from members near October Mountain State Forest in the Berkshires and Robinson State Park in central Massachusetts, it became clear that many of our members were concerned about (or unaware of)

continued on page 12

ON THE COVER: Cascade last winter near Mt. Toby in Sunderland, Massachusetts

Photograph by Elisa Campbell

MASSACHUSETTS

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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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Letter to the Editor and Response

This summer, the *Sierran* received a letter to the editor questioning the chapter's position on Cape Wind. Here are the letter (slightly edited for space reasons) and the chapter Energy Committee's response.

The Letter

I've been a Club member since 2000 and have also supported our local chapter several times through its annual appeal. I'm writing to voice my disagreement with the chapter's support of the Cape Wind project. I oppose it principally because the site ... was ... designated as a state sanctuary in the 1970s ... [and was] being considered to become a national marine sanctuary.... just as it's inappropriate to site [a Liquefied Natural Gas] depot in Boston Harbor National Park, we don't want a power plant (even a renewable power plant) in ... Nantucket Sound. ... there are other concerns ... impacts on the fishery, recreational boating, and navigational safety.

I strongly support expanding wind energy, but I don't support it everywhere and under any conditions. ... [we sailed] past the Hull wind turbine, which I support... It's my understanding that the Cape Wind developer has asserted that Horseshoe Shoal is the only feasible site because of its shallow depth and that the technology doesn't yet exist to site the turbines further out in the ocean. That may be true, but it's still not enough of a reason to install wind turbines in such an ecologically sensitive area. Offshore wind energy may well be a significant part of our clean energy future, but we have the responsibility to get it right. ❖

— Paul Winters

The Response

David Heimann and Erik Gehring for the Chapter Energy Committee

We have at times had similar concerns about the project. However, both the project and our energy views have since evolved.

If we are going to be serious about supporting clean, renewable energy — and the Sierra Club is — then we have to accept that no energy source is without impact. Wind power is currently the only utility-scale renewable resource in Massachusetts. Wind turbines need siting where the wind is strong, which is usually mountain ridges and offshore. Such locations may be unaccustomed to structures, but would we prefer fossil fuel plants instead?

Cape Wind has been subject to an intense public interest review, one involving five years and 17 governmental agencies. We began our participation concerned about potential threats to birds. Similarly concerned, the Massachusetts Audubon Society conducted a study with encouraging preliminary results earlier this year. We could therefore give preliminary endorsement to the project, subject to several reasonable conditions. These include study completion with no adverse findings, appropriate compensation for using public waters, and independent monitoring with enforceable mitigation.

The “elephant in the room” is climate change. According to Dr. James Hansen, NASA's top climatologist, humanity must reduce greenhouse gases by 75 percent by the middle of the century, or else we face a future on “a different planet.” That means building not just one, but several Cape Winds, every year, in all 50 states. What would it say about our prospects if even the first small steps were blocked, in perhaps the windiest spot on the eastern seaboard?

Rest assured, we will continue to be involved in the review process. We know the importance of preventing a poor wind project. However, we also know that wind turbines are vastly preferable to smokestacks. ❖

South Shore: Get Involved!

South Shore communities have been very active in environmental issues. After several showings of “An Inconvenient Truth,” each community met as part of the Sustainable South Shore Community Organization, and the Sierra Club has held two meetings to learn about what issues matter most to our members. Residents chose becoming a “Cool City.” Cool cities are those that sign on to a letter, originated by Seattle's mayor, Greg Nichols, agreeing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent by 2020. This is a small but urgently needed step in addressing global warming.

Other issues identified include the ground water being polluted by the Weymouth Naval Air Station, the possibility of developing more municipal utility companies similar to the one in Hull, developing renewable energy sources, and addressing continuing sprawl and its impacts. ❖

If you would like to get involved please contact Blossom Hoag (mb.hoag@verizon.net, or 617-567-4749), or Mary Sacksteder (s082116@yahoo.com).
We welcome your participation.

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Hunting and Conservation

by Jan Dizard

Even though the ranks of hunters are thinning nationwide (and dropping sharply across New England), there still are millions of men and women who go afield each fall who feel passionate about their sport. They were once the bedrock of the conservation movement in the United States and they could once again be very important allies. For this reason, if no other, it behooves environmental groups such as the Sierra Club to understand hunters and, even more, to understand how hunters and environmentalists diverged, to the detriment of both groups and the environment each professes to cherish.

The hey-day of modern sport hunting came in the decades following World War II. Abandoned farms in New England and soil banks in the Midwest provided ideal habitat for deer, waterfowl, and upland birds. Many Americans were only one generation removed from the land, where hunting was a common and respected activity. Paid vacations and the easy availability of automobiles made weekend hunting trips common across society. In the late 1950s as many as 40 percent of adult males had hunted and easily a quarter were actively hunting still.

And then things began to change. New suburbs were not the fertile soil that small towns and rural communities had been for growing hunters. Other sports competed for the attention of young boys and their fathers. The ranks of hunters began to thin in pace with their balding heads. The traditional recruitment of hunters — father to son — began to collapse. Ironically, this decline in interest comes at a time when the iconic game species, white tailed deer, is at or has exceeded historic numbers.

Changes were afoot among those who called themselves environmentalists as well. For reasons too complicated to fit into this short essay, environmentalists came to regard consumptive uses of natural resources as an anathema. Forests and wild animals were granted intrinsic value and

those who “harvested” natural resources could not be seen as allies — they were part of the problem. Hunters felt that environmentalists suddenly forgot the crucial role hunters had played in protecting the environment, decades before environmentalism became a household word.

On top of this, hunters’ support for the Democratic Party eroded over the past 30 years, largely as a result of many prominent Democrats’ support for gun control. This widened the gap between hunters and environmentalists even further. Of course, hunters were shooting themselves in the foot — the Republican protectors of gun rights have a terrible record when it comes to protecting the environment.

Repairing the rift will not be easy but it is worth it from both sides. The environmental movement needs the support of hunters. Their numbers may be dwindling, but the willingness of hunters to back up their environmental concerns with money and lobbying are well known. This is a constituency that environmentalists should actively court. For their part, hunters need the environmental movement as urgently. Hunters face two challenges for which they have thus far shown little preparedness. One is growing opposition to hunting. No matter how environmentalists feel about hunters, the fact is that hunting remains a central tool for managing key wildlife species (white-tailed deer especially) who, unchecked, can

for a Sierra Club statement on hunting, see <http://www.sierraclub.org/huntingfishing/>

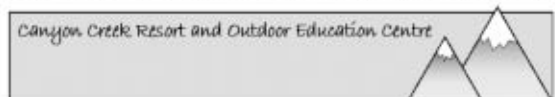
wreak havoc on habitat. Hunted animals, even when their numbers are not the problem (like bears or mountain lions), avoid contact with humans and are thus much less likely to become a nuisance or worse. Hunting is, detractors notwithstanding, an important component of managing our relationship with the wild.

The second challenge hunters face is a novel one. Modern hunting, as I noted earlier, was born of scarcity. As important as hunting is to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and a sustainable relationship between animals and habitat, it is by no means clear that modern hunters will be able to be a match for the swelling numbers of deer, particularly in the suburbs, urban parks and open spaces. Hunters, environmentalists and wildlife experts are going to have to cooperate much more closely than they have in the past to come up with a practical response to an overabundance of some wildlife species. For this and many other reasons, it's time for green and hunter orange to join forces. ❖

Jan Dizard is the Pick Professor of Environmental Studies at Amherst College and the author of Mortal Stakes: Hunters and Hunting in Contemporary America (2003) and Going Wild: Hunting, Animal Rights, and the Contested Meaning of Nature (1999).

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BOOK REVIEW:

The Weather Makers

by Tim Flannery

Atlantic Monthly Press, 2005

(originally published 2005, by Text Publishing Company, Melbourne Australia)

\$24.00

by George Ekel

Tim Flannery is a rare hybrid of a world class research scientist and a fascinating investigative reporter. *The Weather Makers* reads like a first-class thriller, yet it is non-fiction. Every statement Tim Flannery makes is backed by and based on solid science.

Flannery shows that climate change is not a speculation, it is a fact. "It results from air pollution, and the size of our atmosphere and the volume of pollutants that we are pouring into it are known with high precision." For over 20 years, scientists have been noticing events indicating that since 1850 (the beginning of the Industrial Revolution) our climate has been slowly but persistently warming. The changes since 1950 are dramatic:

- of the 20 hottest years on record, 19 occurred in the last 25 years;
- an August 2003 heat wave in Europe killed over 20,000 people;
- Antarctica, Greenland and mountain glaciers all over the world are melting and receding;
- Arctic sea-ice cover has been thinning and disappearing to the point that polar bears drown trying to swim from one ice-flow to another.

What Caused this Global Warming Trend?

Industrialized societies burn carbon-based fuels for energy and emit carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, where it accumulates in higher and higher concentrations. Sunlight hits the earth, warming its surface; but when the warmed-up earth emits heat (infrared) radiation, the CO₂ doesn't allow the infrared radiation to escape, just like glass windows covering greenhouses — hence the name "greenhouse effect." The more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the stronger the greenhouse effect and the warmer our climate becomes.

Also, different types of surfaces on the earth absorb different amounts of the sun's radiation; oceans absorb more solar radiation than bare ground, and much more than snow or ice. So, as glaciers melt, more water is exposed and the earth absorbs even more heat.

What Will Happen?

Tim Flannery shows that climate change will not be just a uniform rise of air and surface temperatures; it will be very complex, with some regions of earth actually considerably cooling down.

A case in point: the Gulf Stream, a big river in the Atlantic Ocean, now washes the east coast of the United States and northern Europe with warm ocean waters and gives them the mild temperatures they have. Flannery shows that global warming will gradually slow the Gulf Stream to a standstill. Tropical ocean waters will no longer wash the US east coast and northern Europe.

On the other hand, most of Australia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of South America will become deserts.

A more obvious effect of global warming is that as the ice and snow in the earth's glaciers melt, the ocean level rises. By how much? Twenty-three feet is the most reliable prediction. Did you know that 13 of the world's 20 largest cities are located at sea level? With a 23-foot rise in sea

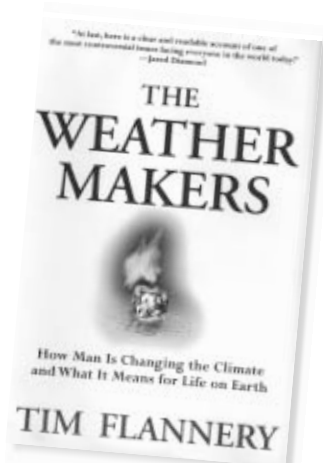
level these will be submerged under water. That includes much of eastern Massachusetts and most of Florida. Some Pacific island nations will cease to exist as well as most of Bangladesh.

Some species, like the golden toad of Costa Rica, have already become extinct. In a study published in *Nature* in 2004, it was estimated that between 18 percent and 33 percent of species will become extinct due to global warming.

Tim Flannery thinks we can still save our planet and he tells you how. I'm sorry to say that I'm much more pessimistic than he is. Many scientists involved in the global warming debate are wondering if it is already too late to stop the global warming process. I'm afraid it might be; I hope I am wrong and Flannery is right. But as I see it our planet earth, like the Titanic, is on an irreversible collision course with an iceberg — the last one left, as all others melted down during the decades of global warming.

P.S.: If Flannery's book doesn't make you worried, read *Be Worried, Be Very Worried*, the feature story in *Time* magazine of April 3, 2006, and rent the movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*. ❖

George Ekel is a Ph.D. retired full professor of several major universities and an activist in the Sierra Club which he joined in 1980.



Five-term President of the Sierra Club Turns 100!

by Blossom Hoag

Dr. Edgar Wayburn, five-time Sierra Club president, is considered one of America's most effective (yet least known) wilderness advocates. In California, he helped create many state parks and add acreage to others, including Mt. Tamalpais, Point Reyes and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. (The Golden Gate National Recreation Area ties together many of the parks in Marin County and San Francisco, including Alcatraz, the Presidio, and the city's beaches.) His other efforts included adding to Redwood National Park and, perhaps his most fulfilling work, helping pass the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, which effectively doubled the size of America's National Park system.

It is easy for both visitors and residents alike to take open space for granted, but it could so easily have been otherwise. No land is preserved by accident, and San Francisco's backyard wilderness was no exception. Dr. Wayburn was a practicing physician and a family man, who dedicated his spare hours and weekends to the planet's health. His wife, Peggy, who passed away this past summer, was herself an avid conservationist and wilderness advocate.

When Dr. Wayburn was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999, President Clinton said of him, "He has saved more of our wilderness than any person alive." Dr. Wayburn celebrated his 100th birthday on September 17, 2006.

To learn more about this quiet conservationist, I suggest reading his recently released memoir, *Your Land and Mine*. See <http://www.sierraclub.org/books/catalog/1578050901.asp> ❖

Blossom Hoag has been active in the Sierra Club for decades; she is currently co-chair of the club's Northeast Regional Committee and Vice Chair of the chapter.

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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 elect the Sierra Club leadership each year. In this issue of the Sierran, you will find candidates' statements and ballots (on page 10) for four separate Sierra Club Executive Committee elections: Massachusetts Chapter, Cape Cod Group, 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 questions 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, Monday, January 8, 2007 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)*

PARAS BHAYANI—A Sierra Club member since seventh grade, Paras Bhayani has a broad range of experience within the club, serving in board positions for three groups and two chapters. A Chicago native now residing in Cambridge, Paras serves on the chapter Political Committee, and has helped the committee cap off its most active year and a half in recent memory. Paras' goals on the executive committee are to refine chapter operations so that we are poised to continue our recent successes. In particular, Paras seeks to overhaul the chapter's use of technology in its communications, direct resources and energy into developing a volunteer base, and build stronger relationships with progressive and other nature-oriented interest groups.

PHILIP DOWDS—As an architect and an activist in Cambridge, I'm long committed to environmental issues ranging from regional development policy to LEED construction, green roofs, and recycling. I once formed my own 501(c)(3) to enforce conservation legislation like the Clean Air Act "parking freeze." My wife and I seek to simplify our lives, in the belief that everyone must change in support of a sustainable future.

My official involvement with the club began with national backpack outings in the Southwest. For several years, I've served on the GBG ExCom, and as our chapter's Political Compliance Officer. My participation in the 2005 Summit confirmed for me that the Sierra Club is a great organization of great people. I'm ready to put in more time to help out.

ERIK GEHRING—I am a writer and photographer who lives in Roslindale with my wife Julie and dog Anna. I have been a devoted environmental activist since 2001, volunteering for the Boston Climate Action Network, its parent organization the Massachusetts Climate Action Network, and Clean Power Now. I joined the Sierra Club in 2002, and became active in the Energy Committee

given my strong support for renewable energy in general and the Cape Wind project in particular.

Climate change is by far the biggest threat we face. The science says that if we fail to take aggressive action now our planet will be radically altered. And so every action that we take needs to be evaluated through this lens — will it reduce our greenhouse gas emissions? www.erikgehring.com

JOHN LEWIS—I once again solicit your vote in order to continue to represent the Massachusetts Chapter of the Sierra Club. I would continue to work on the issues that come to the chapter such as Right Whale protection issues, transportation policy for the region, North-South rail link protection, wind power generation proposals (sometimes good, sometimes ill-advised), parkland policy (such as the Harbor islands National Park, Mt Wachusett, lumbering in the state parks) and all the other proposals that the chapter must act on that have sooner or later such a large effect on the structure of our civilization. Professionally, I am a jewelry designer. Thank you for your consideration.

PHILLIP SEGO—In his decade of activism in the Sierra Club, Phil was the founder of the chapter website. He created and manages the chapter's growing SCAN listserv, and also serves on the chapter's Legislative Action Committee lobbying for the passage of important environmental bills, focusing on the Bottle Bill. He chairs the chapter Political Committee. This year, the committee had its busiest year yet; all 200 Legislative and 10 Congressional seats were reviewed, and 70 endorsements were made. He co-chaired the Environmental Gubernatorial Forum — a first for the chapter. Phil's goal on the ExCom is to make the club more volunteer-friendly and further the club's presence in the state legislature. He is a committed environmentalist, focusing on the political and legislative aspects of conservation.

Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Greater Boston Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

CINDY DELPAPA—I currently work in the environmental field — an outgrowth of my life long interest in conservation. I have a keen interest in water issues including water quality and quantity. I have served on the GBG in the past and now that I have moved back to the Boston area, I would like to become involved in the GBG once again.

BLOSSOM HOAG—I have been an active Sierra Club member since 1983 and have held various executive committee positions at the group, chapter and regional levels. I have served six years on the chapter executive committee so will not be a candidate for that committee.

I am currently working on energy issues, particularly the club's Cool Cities Campaign, LNG and group development on the south shore. I look forward to hearing what concerns you most about the environment and would welcome any questions or suggestions that you may have. I look forward to working with you next year. My email address is: mb.hoag@verizon.net.

ETHAN HOAG—As an active member of the Sierra Club since 1983, I would be happy to serve on the Greater Boston Group executive committee. I am currently the group Energy Committee chair and work closely with the chapter Energy Committee. I have been concerned for many years about global warming and the global use of energy and the role it plays for future generations. In my opinion, it is by far the most critical issue we all face today and in the coming decades.

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

ELENA SAPORTA—I am a registered landscape architect and have been responsible for completing many successful urban design and environmental planning projects. I served on the GBG ExCom in 1989-1990. I am now eager to resume my activities there.

In the United States, city dwellers consume fewer environmental resources than their counterparts in the suburbs and beyond. As our cities become more densely populated, it is critical to balance growth with quality of life. As an inhabitant of the Boston metropolitan area, I am committed to improving our air and water quality, developing walkable, transit-centered communities and protecting open space.

GIL WOOLLEY—Since 1974 I have been, at various times, Chair of a group and of committees dealing with toxics and hazardous wastes, conservation and transportation. I am presently Conservation Chair of the Massachusetts Chapter, a member of the Political Committee, and a regular contributor to the chapter newsletter.

Taking Action for Family Planning

Sierra Club member Jane Roberts devotes her life to helping women gain access to family planning and reproductive health services, and giving Americans a chance to assist and send a positive message to the world.

Roberts is co-founder of "34 Million Friends of the United Nations Population Fund" (UNFPA). This grassroots movement was founded in 2002 in response to the Bush administration's withholding of \$34 million from the UN Fund. The UNFPA asks people to contribute at least one dollar each for family planning; the goal is for 34 million people to contribute.

According to Roberts, UNFPA is the largest family planning and reproductive health agency in the world. She adds, "when the world takes care of women, women take care of the world... Women's equity and access to education and health areas are the keys to a better future for human beings, the environment and any chance for peace and stability."

Roberts spoke at Smith College in September. Her talk was sponsored by the chapter's Population Program. At that time, the effort had raised over \$3.2 million. ❖

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Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Essex Group Executive Committee

Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

MARY CLELAND-TERRY—I would like to be elected because I will be a great representative for the Sierra Club by effectively initiating change and cooperation within the community to protect our environment.

LYDIA HARRIS—As a project manager, I support diverse groups to achieve specific goals. I hope to use my professional experience to support the ECG in its work on sustaining our waterways, increasing environmental activism, and promoting alternative energy. Early in my career I worked with the Essex County Greenbelt Association as an administrative coordinator and most recently in my role as an Officer with the Upper Dam Owners Association. I collaborated with Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust to preserve acreage surrounding Mooselookemeguntic Lake in Maine. I want to further support the Sierra Club and its local work by joining the ExCom.

DEBORAH LONGMAN-MARIEN—My love of nature's beauty and promise and my hope to preserve what we have for future

generations attaches me to the Sierra Club. I am a museum educator with knowledge of history and science. I want to continue to serve the club and the club's goals of education, preservation and advocacy through continuing to serve on the Essex Group's board.

I hope to share my knowledge about the special nature of Essex County through leading outings to the special places I have learned about in my six years living here.

RICHARD PETERS—I am serving as Vice Chairman of our group. This past year, we have worked with West Newbury and state representatives to ensure the continued protection of a 2,000-acre sensitive ecological habitat; advised residents with concerns regarding the taking of sensitive areas in their localities; participated in the Solar Fair in Beverly; co-sponsored a talk on nuclear power in Newburyport; organized several walks in local parks and forests; and organized an annual BBQ. If re-elected, I will continue to help drive our mission in Essex County. Please join us in our efforts to protect our beautiful region.

Cape Cod Group Executive Committee

Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

BILLIE BATES—Grew up in South Chatham, exploring the wondrous natural riches discovered while ranging from Red River territory to Cockle Cove Creek.

—Learned to read on her mom's lap, during read-aloud nightly Thornton W. Burgess bedtime nature stories.

—Became active with Sierra Club because of our loud national, regional, and local voice in environmental protection.

—Worked on the ORV issue at CC National Seashore, and Myles Standish State Forest. Wrote the Massachusetts chapter ORV position.

—A Chatham Conservation Commission Associate, working to uphold legal environmental protections.

—Wants to activate more Cape Cod Sierrans, to increase our effectiveness.

DAVID DOW—David is currently Acting Chair and Treasurer of the group. He is one of the co-founders of the group in 1989. He was the first chair of the Cape Cod Group and has held a number of other positions over the years. He has worked on the groundwater cleanup at the Massachusetts Military Reservation (MMR), since he moved to Cape Cod in 1987. He has also worked on issues related to the potential health impacts of the PAVE PAWS phased array radar system at the MMR. In the past he and Keith Smith led many outings for the group.

ROBERT MURPHY—I've been active in the Sierra Club since the 1970s. I'm particularly concerned about what is now called "environmental justice." We need to establish a safe, sustainable environment for all people, not just the fortunate few. I

was one of the environmentalists who responded to the hurricane damage in New Orleans. On Cape Cod, I work with community and religious agencies to help meet the energy needs of low-income people. I'm also involved with emergency services on the Cape and islands.

CHRIS NEILL—I have been involved in important conservation issues tackled by the Sierra Club on the Cape, including: cleanup of contaminant plumes from MMR; passage of a Cape Cod Land Bank; and designation of the Upper Cape Water Supply. I now devote energy to implementing expanded treatment of residential wastewater to reverse the chronic decline in the health of coastal waters and a project to restore wetlands along the Coonamessett River in Falmouth. As a professional ecologist, I bring accurate scientific information to bear on complex conservation issues, and write a monthly column on natural history and environmental issues.

ALISON ROBB—Alison earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies in 1992 at Antioch NE, and founded Nature's Circle, a nature center in Falmouth, in 1995. She has worked at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, at Green Briar Nature Center, The 300 Committee, Audubon, and others.

Dedicated to the protection and preservation of our natural world, she teaches by leading field walks and lecturing.

She is the recording secretary of the Botanical Club of Cape Cod and the Islands, coordinator of the nature program at Highfield Hall, and membership chair of the Cape Cod Group. Member of SC for 20 years.

MAIL BALLOTS TO: Sierra Club Elections

100 Boylston Street, Suite 760 Boston MA 02116

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 8, 2007 in order to be counted.

BALLOT

Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than five candidates.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Gehring | <input type="checkbox"/> Paras Bhayani |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Lewis | <input type="checkbox"/> John F. Deacon* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sego | <input type="checkbox"/> Philip Dowds |

* Due to term limits, this candidate is running for a one-year term.

BALLOT

Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than five candidates.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erik Gehring | <input type="checkbox"/> Paras Bhayani |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Lewis | <input type="checkbox"/> John F. Deacon* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phillip Sego | <input type="checkbox"/> Philip Dowds |

* Due to term limits, this candidate is running for a one-year term.

BALLOT

Greater Boston Group
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than five candidates.

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

BALLOT

Greater Boston Group
Executive Committee Election

Vote for no more than five candidates.

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

BALLOT

Essex Group
Executive Committee Election

All seats are one-year seats

Vote for no more than three candidates

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Cleland-Terry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Harris | <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Longman-Marien |

BALLOT

Essex Group
Executive Committee Election

All seats are one-year seats

Vote for no more than three candidates

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Cleland-Terry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lydia Harris | <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Longman-Marien |

BALLOT

Cape Cod Group
Executive Committee Election

Two-year terms. Vote for no more than three candidates

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Neill | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Murphy | <input type="checkbox"/> Alison Robb |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|

One-year terms. Vote for no more than two candidate

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow | <input type="checkbox"/> Bille Bates |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

BALLOT

Cape Cod Group
Executive Committee Election

Two-year terms. Vote for no more than three candidates

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Neill | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Murphy | <input type="checkbox"/> Alison Robb |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|

One-year terms. Vote for no more than two candidate

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow | <input type="checkbox"/> Bille Bates |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Senate, House and Neighbors Make Progress on Uplands

by Ellen Mass and Craig Kelly

There is still hope for the Belmont Uplands. A pending senate bill (1909) to study the impacts of development along the Route 2 corridor may come before the governor this year. A "moratorium" on area development would result until a state-funded study of the full effects of development along the corridor is completed. This study bill is backed by Senator Robert Havern of Arlington, with Representatives Paulsen, Wolf and Senator Tolman as the co-sponsors, and has been supported by the Belmont Board of Selectmen. As with any bill, the final result after committee hearings may or may not contain the language proponents want, in this case the moratorium. We need strong citizen support.

Preserving the greater Alewife area would enhance or restore natural ecosystems and storage of water for retention and recharge for Little River; it would also provide natural recreation areas for people without ready access to rural open space. While a Master Plan developed in 2003 by the Department of Conservation and Recreation delineated the entire area as an important floodplain, that alone does not provide protection against development. The Route 2 study would validate concerns about development in the Alewife area by examining relevant floodplain requirements and the impact of proposed development on local communities and green space.

Unfortunately, the study bill will do only that: study the area. It is incumbent on the rest of us to use the results of the bill to further our campaign. It is also crucial that significant development proposals be denied until the study bill, with the critical moratorium, is passed.

In the meantime, efforts to preserve the Alewife area are growing. Little Pond neighbors have expressed strong opposition to the inappropriate housing project currently proposed for Alewife's Silver Maple Forest area.

Residents were concerned about flooding, sewage overflow, public safety problems and huge traffic impacts. In addition, neighbors are working with the Committee to Reform 40B to make sure this well-intentioned but often misused state housing law does not lead to improper development at Alewife. Furthermore, Alewife advocates are seeking enforcement of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), hoping for immediate review of the project before any unfavorable changes to MEPA's review authority are adopted. The Town of Arlington has expressed concern and the City of Cambridge has declined to allow sewer hookups.

Residents who live in Belmont, Arlington, or Cambridge, and other

concerned environmentalists, are asked to thank the sponsors of the study bill by calling them at their legislative offices. Advocates should also let Belmont Community Development's Jay Szklut know that the zoning board should delay its decision on the O'Neil project until the long-requested hydrology, traffic and flooding study has been completed per the study bill. You may send an email to Szklut, at jszklut@town.belmont.ma.us or write to the Belmont Zoning Board of Appeals, Attention Chair: William Chen, 300 Concord Ave. Belmont, MA. 02478.

There will be a Solstice Service on the grounds December 17th behind the Alewife T stop. For more information on the service or the issue in general, see

www.friendsofalewifereservation.org ❖

Ellen Mass is president of the Friends of Alewife Reservation. Craig Kelly is a member of the Greater Boston Group Executive Committee and a member of the Cambridge City Council.



Beneath the Surface

Many would argue that the ultimate standard of beauty is set by nature. The natural world is much more than visual reference — it's the foundation of life support on this planet. Because of this, we're working hard to make printing on recycled paper the industry standard for the sake of future generations. And that's a beautiful thing.

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From the Director *(continued from page 2)*

DCR's forestry program. After site visits by staff and volunteers to both locations, the Club expressed its concerns and requested more information about DCR's overall forestry program.

In response to our concerns and those raised by local citizens, DCR has publicly pledged to provide more transparency and better notice to the public where timber harvesting is proposed. Green Certification also requires that DCR adopt management plans for its properties. Had they done so prior to initiating cutting plans, many of these conflicts might have been avoided. Fortunately, the public outcry has thus far convinced DCR to work cooperatively with interested parties to address forestry issues in Robinson State Park. It is unclear at this time what, if any, changes will be made to the cutting plans in October Mountain State Forest.

Unfortunately, the public does not always recognize that sustainable forestry means some areas will remain protected while others will be selectively harvested. It can be frustrating for an individual to learn of a cut in their local state forest only by inadvertently discovering trees marked for harvesting. Many people do not know what good forestry is, and therefore may not understand the difference between harvesting that meets FSC certification standards and bad practices that are environmentally damaging, like clear-cutting. The Sierra Club has undertaken to educate our members on these issues; over the past few years, the chapter outings program has included several hikes co-led with foresters, giving participants an oppor-

tunity to learn about forestry goals and talk with the people who do the work about what they are doing and why. We have also requested that DCR work harder to educate the public about its forestry program.

The Sierra Club supports DCR's sustainable forestry program, but it is important to remember that these forests belong to the people of Massachusetts. The more information DCR can provide, the better we can understand and support the agency's actions to manage its resources in a sustainable and balanced fashion. Unfortunately, DCR remains critically understaffed and under-funded to achieve these goals. We are hopeful the new administration will provide the necessary resources for DCR to enhance its public outreach programs and to produce management plans that provide meaningful information to the public and decision makers.

We will keep our members apprised of the latest developments, and we hope our members will continue to alert us to issues of concern in your local state forest or park. In spite of DCR's failure to adequately inform the public, for now it is good to know that even though the trees have not yet fallen, DCR did hear a sound, and responded. ❖



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Massachusetts Chapter Outings

"E" indicates educational content

DOGTOWN HIKE, GREATER BOSTON GROUP (E)

December 17

Time: 10 AM

Contact Deborah at holdtdj@verizon.net

MIDDLESEX FELLS NEW YEARS EVE HIKE, GREATER BOSTON GROUP (E)

December 31

Time: 10 AM

Contact Deborah at holdtdj@verizon.net

LOWELL DRACUT TYNGSBORO STATE FOREST, FOREST GUARDIANS (E)

January 13 (rain date January 14)

Time: 11 AM

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

SNOWSHOE OR HIKE AT IPSWICH RIVER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, GREATER BOSTON GROUP (E)

January 27

Time: 10 AM

Contact Jay at ecotourjay2002@yahoo.com or 617-924-1176

LEADER'S CHOICE HIKE OR BEGINNER SNOWSHOE, PIONEER VALLEY GROUP

January 27

Time: 10 AM

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

LEADER'S CHOICE HIKE OR BEGINNER SNOWSHOE, PIONEER VALLEY GROUP

February 3

Time: 10 AM

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

QUABBIN SNOWSHOE OR HIKE, PIONEER VALLEY GROUP (E)

March 31

(rain date April 1)

Time: 9:30 AM

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

Opportunity

The chapter Outings Chair seeks a volunteer trainee to assist with oversight of the Outings Program starting in 2007. Contact Deborah at holdtdj@verizon.net for information.

EVENTS

PIONEER VALLEY GROUP ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

December 10

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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

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

SIERRA CLUB'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY/MEETUP

December 14

Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

All Sierra Club members and their guests are welcome! This is a great opportunity to meet some of the leaders and activists. We'll supply snacks and beverages — plus lots of literature about the projects we're planning for 2007 and ways you can get involved. The Sierra Club office is fully accessible, located just a few yards from the MBTA's Boylston Street station. Come anytime from 4 -7 PM!

NORTHEAST REGIONAL COMMITTEE

May 31 – June 3, 2007

October 19 – 21, 2007

Cool Cities Training and Fall Energy Conference on Wind Power



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings at Sierra Club Office, 100 Boylston St, Boston, unless otherwise noted.

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 2

Time: 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

GREATER BOSTON GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 12

Time: 7:00 PM

Contact the Greater Boston
Group at gbg@sierraclubmass.org

ISSUE/ACTION COMMITTEES

CHAPTER FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

December 10

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Place: MIT, Stata Center Cafe

Enter at parking lot entrance,
Vassar & Main Sts, Cambridge.
Come with your ideas, time and
energies in crafting strategies to
engage current donors, recruit
new members and increase
revenues for the Massachusetts
Chapter. Please contact commit-
tee member Blossom Hoag or the
office at 617-423-5775.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

December 13

Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Silver Line Portals, MBTA fare hike,
plus other transportation projects.
Contact John Kyper,
Transportation Committee
617-445-8662, jkyper@gis.net

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

December 14

Time: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Upcoming Meeting: January 11,
12:00 – 1:30pm

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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JANUARY 1

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION

Time: Meeting at 11:00 am, Parade begins at noon

Place: Woods Hole Community Hall, Water Street, Woods Hole, MA

On New Years Day, religious groups, environmentalists, and human rights advocates will join together on Cape Cod to say “no” to global warming and “yes” to human rights. A “citizens meeting” at the Woods Hole Community Hall at 11:00 AM will be followed by a family parade around Eel Pond at noon. Bring costumes, flags, and noise-makers. This environmental justice event will identify strategies to save money on energy expenses while protecting Cape Cod's future. Contact: Rev. Robert Francis Murphy, capeminister@yahoo.com

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