

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

SIERRA

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Reaching More Than
26,000 Sierra Club Members
in Massachusetts

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Massachusetts Sierra Club

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

A VICTORY FOR FALL RIVER

Letter from the desk of James McCaffrey, Director

In late October the US Coast Guard issued a landmark decision denying an energy company permission to bring massive tankers into Fall River to reach a proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility. The "Weaver's Cove" LNG project had been approved previously by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the government agency with oversight for onshore energy projects. The project was opposed by the Sierra Club and countless other environmental groups, local politicians and citizens of the New Bedford/Fall River area.

Shortly following FERC's approval in 2005, US congressmen and Fall River Mayor Lambert worked to identify the shipping route. A 101 year-old bridge was right in the way. Interestingly, as Congress remained silent on another LNG proposal that would have removed the protected status for the Boston Harbor Islands National Park, they quickly enacted legislation protecting the historic bridge in Fall River. Weavers Cove was suddenly forced to find another route for its massive and dangerous vessels. The October decision by the Coast Guard to deny the revised shipping route, which would still be dangerous to the residents of Fall River, may end up being the fatal blow to the project.

Industry is attempting to find new energy sources as the threat of diminishing oil looms large. Yet LNG itself is a fossil fuel with finite supplies and massive environmental costs to process and distribute it. Weavers Cove plans to appeal the decision, so it may not quite be time to celebrate. Still, the Coast Guard's decision to deny dangerous tanker traffic in Fall River is the first step in establishing sensible guidelines for the types of industrial facilities that should never be permitted in densely populated areas. Mayor Lambert and all the citizens of Fall River are to be applauded for a just victory. The earlier decision by FERC was an irresponsible handout to the energy industry and represented environmental injustice in its most blatant form. ♦

ON THE COVER: Chris Hallgren, chair of the Greater Boston Group, works the Sierra Club table at AltWheels. *Photo by Erik Gehring*

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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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AltWheels 2007

by Chris Hallgren

The Sierra Club was there for the fifth annual AltWheels event on City Hall Plaza in Boston in late September — in fact we are five for five, having been at every AltWheels since the first event in 2003. This year the Sierra Club representatives focused on public transportation, encouraging attendees to learn about Boston area transit projects and to make sure their representatives know they care.

Over 20,000 people attended the event. By my estimate, at least 200 of those attendees stopped by the Sierra Club table — and stayed to talk a while. We gave away a small flyer about public transportation, dozens of membership brochures, stickers, and buttons. The “I’m here to save the planet” button was a big favorite. Several people went out of their way to thank us for the focus on public transportation. Most importantly six people filled out forms indicating their interest in volunteering for future Sierra Club events. Several college campus group organizers also



Sierra Club volunteers (Rebecca Sher, Chris Hallgren, Ethan and Blossom Hoag) and Ian Bowles, Secretary of Energy and the Environment, at AltWheels.

Photos by Erik Gehring. There are more AltWheels photos on his website, www.erikgehring.com



stopped by looking for help with their on-campus efforts — there is a huge opportunity to facility inter-campus activities.

Blossom Hoag, Rebecca Sher, Lisa Hallgren and I worked the table. We

were assisted by Jeremy Marin, who used to work for the Club. ❖

Chris Hallgren is the chair of the Greater Boston Group of the Sierra Club.

Sustainable Holiday Decorating



The New England Wild Flower Society reminds us to avoid Oriental bittersweet and multiflora rose in holiday decorations. “Too often birds carry the fruits right off wreaths and garlands, or the fruits end up in landfills where they resprout. These plants create severe environmental damage in many parts of the country. They invade open fields, forests, wetlands, meadows, and even your own backyard, aggressively killing off whatever plants are nearby. Bittersweet can even kill mature trees. Both plants are extremely difficult to control — when they are cut off they quickly resprout.” Even though you may still see them for sale, it is now actually illegal to sell bittersweet and multiflora rose in any form (plants or prunings) in the state of Massachusetts.

In the spirit of the holiday season, the New England Wild Flower Society urges you to select decorations that will consider the health of the earth. They suggest: winterberry, the evergreen American holly, pine and spruce boughs, cranberries, blueberry twigs,

dried flower pods, dried ornamental grasses, pine cones, and more.

For a list of suggestions, visit the FAQ page at the Society’s website at www.newenglandwild.org.



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Chair's Column by David Heimann

Both the National Club and the Massachusetts Chapter are gearing up to pass much-needed global warming legislation in Congress. We are focusing on the House of Representatives to match and exceed what has passed the Senate earlier this year. By the time you read this, you'll likely know how it all has worked out. Hope everyone sent in their letters supporting the bill!

This fall, the Chapter participated in the Northeast Region's Fall Energy Conference. At the conference, held at Camp Jewell in Colebrook, Connecticut, many speakers discussed renewable energy and especially wind power in the Northeast. They covered both technical and political aspects, from community-based wind power to the focus on decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050. We also discussed the attempt by FERC to force huge corridors for electricity transmission lines through areas ill-suited for it, and efforts to roll back such authority.

Considering this year there were no general presidential, congressional, or state elections, our Political Committee has been active on many fronts. While the most significant effort was our successful endorsement of Niki Tsongas for a Congressional special election to replace Marty Meehan, we had quite a number of special elections in the state legislature to replace legislators, many of whom left to assume positions in the Patrick administration, as well as many local elections. The Political Committee did a yeoman job of sending out questionnaires, vetting various candidates, and making endorsements. Many of our endorsed candidates won, filling the pipeline with more new environmentally-friendly officeholders. Thank you, Political Committee, and all the best for the big year of 2008!

Meanwhile our ongoing efforts continue: Cool Cities, our energy outreach program, comments on Cape Wind, toxic plumes at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, the MBTA, the North-South Rail Link, and many more — see our Web site at www.sierraclubmass.org for details. Please volunteer your efforts on your issue of choice by emailing volunteer@sierraclubmass.org or visiting www.sierraclubmass.org/ps/volunteer.htm.

We have a new office! After seven years at 100 Boylston Street, we have moved because Emerson College has bought the building and is using it them-

selves. We're now at 10 Milk Street, only a few blocks from our old location and the State House. It has plenty of space for our staff, for meetings, and for conferences and presentations. Be sure to stop by and say hello!

Finally, this issue of the *Sierran* is our annual Chapter and group elections issue. Please be sure to take a look at the candidates' statements, then cut out, mark, and

send in your ballot. By all means vote — this is how you choose who runs your Chapter and your group during the critical year of 2008!

All my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season! ❖

Take a look at the candidates' statements — and vote!

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

Show your support for the Sierra Club! A portion of the proceeds of all sales directly supports the Massachusetts Chapter's programs and activities. You can pay by credit card or Paypal. Prices do not include sales tax, shipping, and handling.

Sierra Club 2008 Wilderness Wall Calendar \$13

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Lightweight and sturdy - and not just for trailblazing! Measures 17" h x 12" w x 9 3/4" d and features 3 zippered compartments (one with a key clip, 3 storage slots and a built-in pocket), adjustable padded shoulder straps, cushioned back side straps with quick-release latches, and 2 large mesh pockets (E-34)



Adventure Backpack \$10

This gray and black bag has 2 zippered compartments, 3 large mesh pockets, padded shoulder straps and a cushioned back. Great for school! (E-41)

Organic Fair Trade Hot Cocoa \$8

Blended for us by a company whose rigorous standards for selection and processing match our own. This is a treat you can truly feel good about. One 12oz bag makes approx. 12 cups. (HC-1)



Sigg 1L Water Bottle \$15

Made of aluminum and the inside is coated with a non-reactive, baked-on, food-compatible stone enamel. A solvent-less powder paint is used on the outside and heat bonded. Approved by the Sierra Club Water Committee. Holds 1 liter. Available in Blue, Green, Red (E-51/52/53)



Weekender Bag \$7

For today's person on the go. Lightweight and durable, stores easily in its own self-contained zippered pouch. Dimensions 24" x 12" x 12" (PC-1)



Sierra Club Organic Cotton Cap \$8

Black cotton twill; adjustable closure with brass slider and hidden tuck-in. (E-30)



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Water Policy in Massachusetts —

Letter to the Editor

Editor's Note: An article in our fall Sierran entitled "Water Management: Politics and Science" by Jesse Schwalbaum evoked more negative reaction than any other article we have published in years. We include here an edited version of a joint letter objecting to Schwalbaum's article. For space reasons we have not been able to include the extensive references include in the letter; the editor can supply those on request. In addition, the photo that was included with the article was a file photo, and should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the article by the photographer.

The Letter

... [Schwalbaum] argues that "management of water resources should be based on good science, protect sensitive aquatic ecosystems, and be equitable, reasonable, measurable and openly deliberated"—points of hearty agreement. He then goes on to disparage the Department of Environmental Protection's (Mass DEP's) water management policy without telling the reader anything about it. While Schwalbaum appears to write as a neutral if not environmentally-protective voice, what he doesn't tell the reader is both revealing and important.

Schwalbaum doesn't explain that Mass DEP's water management policy is aimed at using water wisely and reducing outdoor nonessential uses in the summer when rivers and aquifers are stressed. Nor does he mention the fact that water suppliers have fought Mass DEP's conservation-oriented water withdrawal permits every step of the way, preventing any evaluation of their effectiveness. Also omitted is any reference to the scientific studies by the US Geological Survey establishing the impact of withdrawals on stream flows. Numerous reports have shown that water withdrawals can reduce flow in rivers, that these withdrawals can be a large part of the problem of reduced flows, and



Photo by James McCaffrey

Paddling the Ipswich in summer drought.

that water conservation is often the most cost-effective first step to take toward restoring adequate flow to rivers. Lastly, Schwalbaum does not disclose his bias (he was a paid witness for the Town of Hamilton in a challenge to the new conservation conditions) or that his conclusions were largely rejected by the administrative magistrate who heard the appeal. (In the spirit of full disclosure, Van Deusen was counsel to the Ipswich River Watershed Association, which intervened in the Hamilton appeal.)

Massachusetts is finally moving forward with sustainable water management policies. While environmentalists agree that "water conservation is not nearly enough," it is a cost-effective part of the solution to our worsening water problems. According to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council 36 communities between Routes 128 and I-495 will exceed their permit volumes and demand more water by 2010. With Mass DEP's conservation conditions in place

those same communities would not exceed their current withdrawal limits until 2030. This gives us time to change our water infrastructure and practices both to reuse water and to put it back in the ground locally to recharge aquifers. For further information on Mass DEP's water management policy see <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/laws/policies.htm#wmgt> and Executive Office of Energy and the Environment's policy ("Keeping Water Local") http://www.mass.gov/envir/wptf/publications/mass_water_policy_2004.pdf. ♦

Signed by:

Margaret Van Deusen, Charles River Watershed Association; Kerry Mackin, Ipswich River Watershed Association; George Comiskey, Parker River Clean Water Association; Eileen Simonson, Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee; Deirdre Menoyo; Ian Cooke, Neponset River Watershed Association; Becky Smith, Clean Water Action; Paul Lauenstein; Christine Tabak, Merrimack River Watershed Council.

The World's Water Crisis

by Anita King

On September 20, Margaret Catley-Carlson spoke at Smith College on "New Worlds of Water." The program was co-sponsored by the chapter's Population Program and two programs at Smith College (the Project on Women and Social Change and the Environmental Science and Policy Program) as well as nine other organizations. In the audience were students and faculty from Smith and other local colleges as well as members of the community.

One billion people now lack sufficient clean water and two and a half billion lack access to sanitation. With population growing at the rate of 75 million people per year, by 2050 one quarter of the world's people are likely to live in countries with chronic water shortages.

There are significant health effects: every day 3,900 children die because

of dirty water or poor hygiene. Six million people are blind because of trachoma (spread by the absence of clean water for washing) and 150 million are in need of treatment.

*One billion people lack sufficient
clean water and two and
a half billion lack sanitation*

The amount of fresh water on the planet remains the same so we have to get better at managing human uses of it. Catley-Carlson discussed action at the local, national, and international level. Nations are only beginning to be aware of this crisis. The US should have a water agency to manage our water resources and we should contribute to the poor nations where children are dying and

blindness is prevalent. Newer types of irrigation and sewage treatment are needed in the poor countries. Communities need to be involved. Catley-Carlson stressed that everything we need for survival is connected to water: health, food, the environment, and economic development. For example, girls in poor nations spend so much time carrying water they can't go to school. Educated girls and women find their voice and are likely to use contraception.

For more information on water and sanitation, please see the web page for the Stockholm International Water Institute (www.siw.org). Or, contact me at P.O. Box 903, Williamsburg, MA. 01096 or 413-268-9212. ♦

Anita King is Chair of the Massachusetts Chapter Population Program.

Sustainable UMass

by Kenneth Toong

The University of Massachusetts Dining Services (UMass Dining) were recently awarded grand prize by the National College and University Food Services for our outstanding food service. UMass Dining does much of its own food processing and we emphasize buying local: in 2006, we purchased 20 percent of our produce from nearby growers, such as Joe Czajkowski's Farm, located two miles from campus. We buy tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, green beans, potatoes, onions, zucchini, summer squash, bean sprouts, spinach, corn, carrots, pickles, turnip, cabbage, apples, asparagus, pears, apples, fresh eggs, strawberries, eggplant, and acorn squash.

How we got where we are

We began with apples from the UMass Orchard and local peeled butternut squash through the Pioneer Valley Growers' Association. Since 2001 we have bought eggs from Diemand Farm in Wendell. In 2005, we began local purchases for dairy, bread, and yogurt. We also met with the directors of food service at Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith colleges to discuss ways to expand local purchasing, and hosted an international "Tastes of the World Chef Culinary



Conference" which focused on sustainability.

In the fall of 2005 we joined "Community In Support of Agriculture," ran Local Farm Fest specials, and added pickles, maple syrup, honey, and jam to our local purchases. By the spring of 2006 we had met our 15 percent target, buying about \$160,000 worth of local produce from September 2005 to May 2006. In the spring of 2007 we met our new target of 20 percent and joined Seafood Watch (a program that informs consumers about sustainable seafood). We continue to move forward: our target for this fall was 22 percent locally grown food.

UMass Dining Services' additional environmental efforts

- * Recycle within our Dining Service operations
- * Compost all our wet food waste every year
- * Serve seafood in accordance with the Seafood Watch guidelines
- * Educate our students about combating food waste
- * Provide meals for local Meals-on-Wheels program
- * "Skip-a-meal" program to support just causes
- * Serve Fair trade, shade grown and organic coffee
- * Serve organic produce as often as we are able
- * First organization in Massachusetts to quality for (OS1) green certified program ♦

Kenneth Toong is Executive Director of Food Services at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

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 and Islands Group, Essex County Group, and Thoreau Group. (The Greater Boston Group election will be in the spring *Sierran*.) 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, 10 Milk Street, Suite 632, Boston, MA 02108**. Ballots must be received by 5:00 PM, Monday, December 31, 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)*

DAVID HEIMANN As Chapter Chair I have guided the fortunes of the Chapter in its various activities, including its office relocation and working to formulate Chapter strategy building on the workshop we held last year. As Energy Chair last year I coordinated comments on Cape Wind, LNG, and RGGI and guided community outreach.

I am also a delegate to the Northeast Regional Committee (NERC) and run its Web site. This year NERC held a Cool Cities training in June and a conference on wind energy in October.

Our strategic planning process has identified energy/global warming and transportation as important elements, so I intend to move ahead on these and other conservation efforts. I bring to the table many years of Chapter experience and institutional memories.

DEBORAH HOLT I am running for a second two-year term on the Chapter Executive Committee, and I appreciate your consideration. My commitment to grassroots environmental activism has historically found its greatest expression in the Sierra Club's Outings programs, where I hold leadership positions at local and National levels. But membership on the Chapter Executive Committee is one of the best ways to stay informed and support Chapter and National initiatives, regardless of one's interests. If elected to serve for a second two year-term, I expect to become more involved with other Chapter priorities when I retire as Local Outings Chair at the end of 2007.

CRAIG KELLEY My name is Craig Kelley and I am running for the Sierra Club's Massachusetts Chapter Executive Committee. I am a life member of the Sierra Club, a Cambridge City Councilor, a past member of the Greater Boston Group's Executive Committee and an active member in the GBG's Inner City Outings program for the past 15 years. I would like to help the Massachusetts Chapter focus its efforts on energy conservation and renewable energy creation, as well as the lifestyle changes that are necessary to make any changes sustainable. I currently work as an environmental consultant to the Army Reserves and have co-authored a book on environmental compliance. I live in Cambridge, MA with my wife, Hope and our sons Robbie (10) and Cooper (8).

DANIEL MARIEN, PHD I have been involved with the Essex Group since its inception in 2002. I would now also like to serve the Sierra Club at the state level. I am particularly interested in climate issues, energy efficiency, and marine life protection. I plan to help with the Club's Cool Cities Campaign. I teach political science at Salem State College and taught courses in environmental politics and energy policy. I also participated in the Club's Cool Cities training last summer. This background gives me solid understanding of the many dimensions — technical, scientific, political, and cultural — involved in climate change issues. I believe I can make a significant contribution to the Club's effort to stop global warming and I ask for your vote. Thank you.

Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Cape Cod and Islands Group Executive Committee

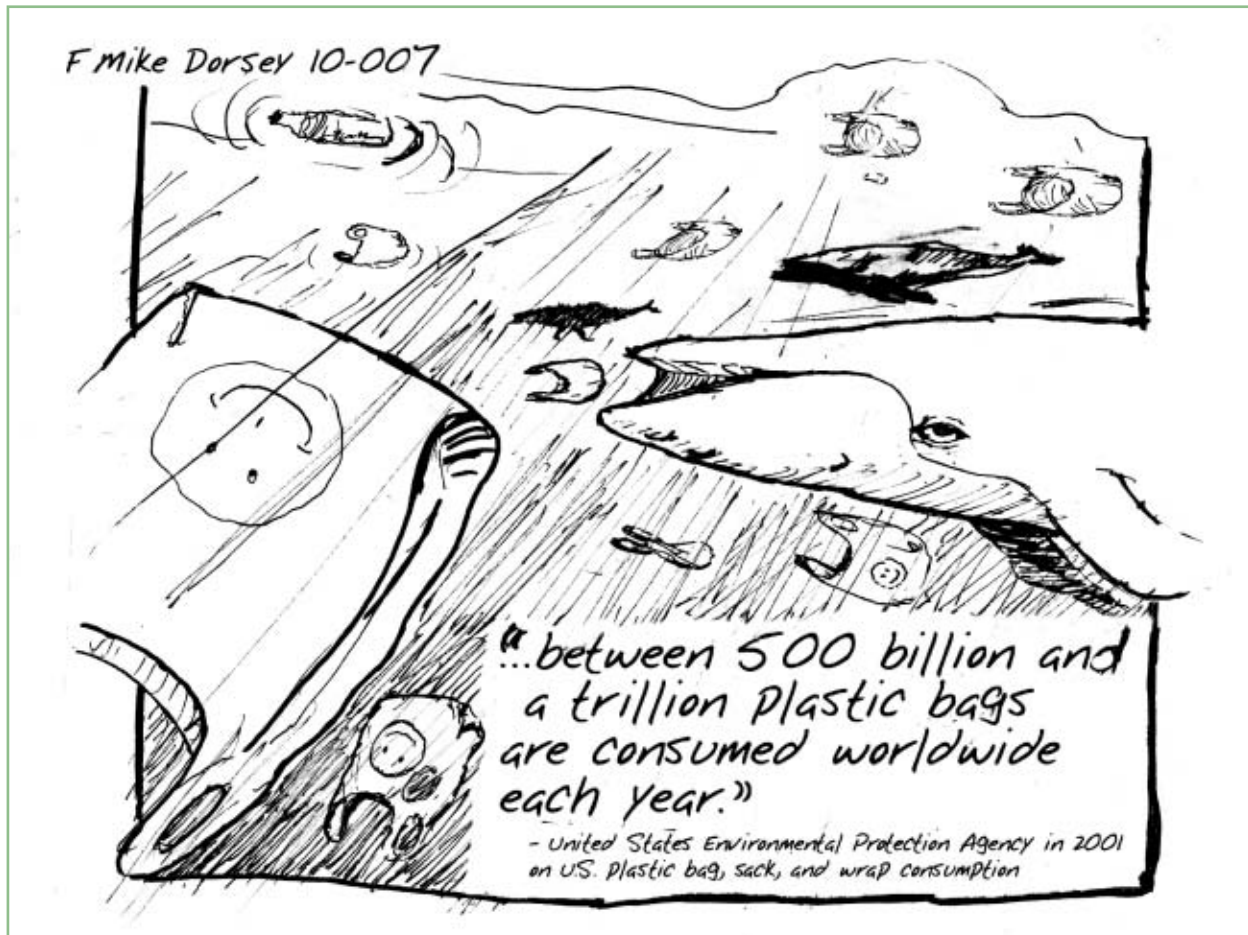
Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

BILLIE BATES As Chair in 2007, I set the agenda and called monthly meetings. We clarified our geographic inclusions and re-organized as: Cape Cod and Islands Group. I did more clerical work than expected, as did others, due to our secretarial vacancy. I framed the Chapter's response to proposed increased ORV roads at CCNS and am working on careful siting of affordable housing. I've encouraged collaboration with other organizations regarding climate change, and opened new dialogs.

DAVID DOW David Dow is currently treasurer of the Cape Cod and Islands Group and also represents the Group at the Massachusetts Chapter ExCom meetings. He has worked on the Superfund/Safe Drinking Water Act groundwater plume cleanup at the Massachusetts Military Reservation for many years. He is a member of the Sierra Club's Environmental Quality Strategy Team where he serves as liaison to the national Water Committee.

CHRISTINE MURLEY I have been a Sierra Club member since my high school years. My mother, long-time Sierra Club member Elizabeth Murley, taught me early on a deep appreciation for nature. I received my BA in Environmental Studies from New England College. My focus will be to foster a stronger awareness here of environmental concerns specific to Cape Cod and the Islands.

CHRIS POLLONI Chris Polloni has served as the Outings Chair for the Cape Cod Group and is especially interested in renewable energy options for Cape Cod and the Islands. He has installed passive solar and solar hot water heating systems in his own home. Chris Polloni lives an energy conservation and reduction lifestyle, frequently riding the 20 mile round trip to work on his bike.



Massachusetts Chapter and Group Elections

Essex Group Executive Committee

Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

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

BILL CARLSON This past year my efforts with the Sierra Club Essex Group have been directed at improving recycling levels in North Shore towns by working with the Massachusetts regional recycling coordinators to encourage adoption of pay-as-you-throw plans which have been shown to result in significant, sustainable reductions in solid waste. I have also been active in trail building and trail maintenance activities with the Friends of North Andover Trails and the Trustees of Reservations. I am increasingly concerned with global climate change and will seek to find practical ways to reduce human impact on our global climate.

DEBORAH LONGMAN-MARIEN, MA ED I am an educator who has taught about human cultures and the natural wonders of this planet at a number of museums. I also have experience in organizing travel and outings and would like to share my expertise in this area. I've been working with the Essex Group since its foundation in 2002. I want to be re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Essex County Group and help safeguard the county's diversity of fields, forests, shore, and sea.

DANIEL MARIEN, PHD 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 courses in environmental politics and energy policy at Salem State College and have a solid understanding of organizational, political,

and environmental issues. I would like to have the opportunity and responsibility to be re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Essex County Group of the Sierra Club. Thank you.

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

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

HEIDI ROBERTS I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years. I became active in 2002 when I was a founding member of the Essex Group, started the group's outings program and have served as the group's Membership Chair ever since.

Through my work as a realtor, I experience first hand the many challenges to preserve open space throughout Essex County. My other big interest is in alternative energy; I am a board member of Solar Now in Beverly.

Please re-elect me, so we can continue our vital work to protect our environment for future generations.

Thoreau Group Executive Committee

Candidate Statements *(Ballots are on page 10)*

NANCY CARAPEZZA Recently served as President of Massachusetts League of Women Voters. A Club member who is familiar with her League work declares that she is "an organizational genius."

JON HARDING Jon Harding served as acting Secretary/Treasurer of Thoreau Group for the past 10 months. He was a Group Conservation Chair while living in Long Beach, CA.

PAULINE OLIVER Polly grew up on her family's farm in Concord and currently serves on Thoreau Group's act-

ing Executive Committee. She also served a stint on the Chapter Political Committee.

BRIDGET NEALE PARIS Bridget is a native of this area, and would like to see existing communities turn themselves into ecovillages.

DAN PROCTOR Dan served as acting chair of Thoreau Group for the past 10 months. He served as Vice Chair of Chapter Political Committee for past five years.

MAIL BALLOTS TO: Sierra Club Elections

10 Milk Street, Suite 632 Boston MA 02108

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

Ballots must be received by Monday, DECEMBER 31, 2007 by 5:00 PM, in order to be counted.

BALLOT

**Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than four candidates.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Holt | <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Kelley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Marien |

BALLOT

**Massachusetts Chapter
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than four candidates.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Holt | <input type="checkbox"/> Craig Kelley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> David Heimann | <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Marien |

BALLOT

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

Vote for no more than two candidates

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Murley | <input type="checkbox"/> Billie Bates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Polloni | <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow |

BALLOT

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

Vote for no more than two candidates

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christine Murley | <input type="checkbox"/> Billie Bates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Polloni | <input type="checkbox"/> David Dow |

BALLOT

**Essex Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than seven candidates.

*The four candidates receiving the most votes will have two-year terms,
the next three will have one-year terms.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin McCarthy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Marien | <input type="checkbox"/> Heidi Roberts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Amatucci |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Longman-Marien | |

BALLOT

**Essex Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than seven candidates.

*The four candidates receiving the most votes will have two-year terms,
the next three will have one-year terms.*

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Peters | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin McCarthy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Marien | <input type="checkbox"/> Heidi Roberts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Carlson | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Amatucci |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah Longman-Marien | |

BALLOT

**Thoreau Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than five candidates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pauline Oliver | <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Carapezza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Proctor | <input type="checkbox"/> Jon Harding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridget Neale Paris | |

BALLOT

**Thoreau Group
Executive Committee Election**

Vote for no more than five candidates

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pauline Oliver | <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Carapezza |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Proctor | <input type="checkbox"/> Jon Harding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridget Neale Paris | |

Wildlands & Woodlands in the Suburbs

by Brian Donahue

Massachusetts is one of the most urbanized states in America. It is also one of the most densely forested, at about 63 percent. This forest could be a great source of energy-efficient building material and carbon-neutral biofuel. Carefully managed, it could both sequester carbon and reduce our reliance on coal and oil. Yet scarcely any Massachusetts wood is cut, and no wonder: logging is unsightly, and has an unsavory ecological reputation. How can we harvest trees without sacrificing the forest?

Usually, whenever logging is proposed, a dreary old scripted debate ensues. Forest neighbors hear mercenary troglodytes who claim that the forest needs to be logged for its own good as if trees would wither and die without human intervention. Foresters hear hypocritical nimbys who claim that if a single tree is cut, an ancient, delicately-balanced ecosystem will collapse — never mind that all our woods have a deep history of dramatic natural and human change. But will suburbanites, even those who know this history, tolerate logging in their backyards?

Weston's experience

Weston, where I live, is one affluent suburb that has long been harvesting firewood and timber, on a small but measurable scale. The program is overseen by the Conservation Commission, and carried out by the non-profit organization Land's Sake, which also runs the town's community farm. Weston owns about 1,700 acres of town forest and conservation land, of which a few hundred are actively managed. Every winter, about 5 or 10 acres are cut, removing firewood and sawlogs. This has been going on since 1981 — more than a quarter of a century.

These thinnings improve the value of the timber, not the forest. Such logging is hardly necessary for the health of the trees, but it can reasonably be seen as benign. In the process, wood harvesting engages people in productive use of the land. Some of the fire-

wood is split by students, who learn to handle a six-pound maul. The resulting woodpiles along the trails don't hide the fact that people have been working in the woods; they celebrate it.

Wildlands and woodlands

What is happening in Weston is one illustration of the "Wildlands and Woodlands" approach recently proposed by Harvard Forest, and broadly endorsed by many forest and conservation organizations. That proposal calls for *half of Massachusetts* to be permanently protected as forest. This would provide a broad range of social and environmental benefits, from biodiversity and watershed protection to recreation and renewable resources. At least one-tenth of the forest would be set aside as "wildlands" in areas of

*Wildlands and Woodlands calls
for protecting half of
Massachusetts as forest*

5,000 to 50,000 acres each. The bulk of the protected forest, however, the "woodlands," would remain "working forest" available for sustainable harvest of wood products and other ecological management — prescribed burning, for example. If enough forest is protected, wildlands and woodlands can become mutually supporting goals rather than conflicting ones. Urban, suburban, and rural forests all have important roles to play — some supply more acreage, but others touch more people.

Making it work

Making this work will require adherence to a few basic ecological and social principles. We need substantial wild areas at every scale, but also an understanding that *most* (though not all) of the values that are associated with wild forest can also be found



Piles of firewood on Weston conservation land.

Photo used by permission of Land's Sake

in well-managed woodlands. To that end, cutting in the woodlands must aim to safeguard these environmental benefits first, and respond to economic drives second. Management should resemble natural disturbance patterns with which forest species are familiar, so that they can continue to thrive.

On the social side, forest stewardship should enthusiastically engage people. Managers should treat every cut as an opportunity both to educate and to be educated, hold plenty of walks, and get kids out working in the woods. In Weston, residents have grown comfortable with logging: after decades of cutting, the forest is still standing. Finally, we need to build markets for local forest products so that sustainable forestry becomes economically viable in the manner of small organic farms. People who have a tangible connection to the forest will be more likely to support its protection.

Forest lovers of all kinds can join together in support of wildlands and woodlands. Henry Thoreau, after all, made his living surveying wood lots by Walden Pond, and still called for the preservation of wildness. The forest doesn't need human care — it would do fine without us. But since we live here, we do need to care for the forest. ♦

Brian Donahue is co-founder of Land's Sake as well as a professor at Brandeis University, where he researches the environmental (farm and forest) history of New England. He is also a co-author of the "Wildlands and Woodlands" proposal.

BOOK REVIEW:

The Unnatural History of the Sea

by Callum Roberts

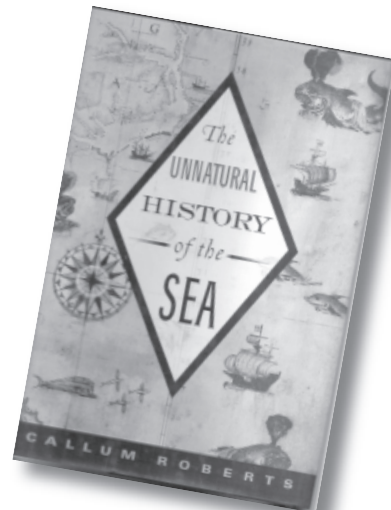
2007

Island Press

435 pages

\$28.00

by Daniel Marien



Sailing the coast of Labrador in 1508, Sebastian Cabot complained that fish were so numerous they sometimes slowed the passages of his ships. Jacques Cartier, exploring the Gulf of the St Lawrence in 1535, wrote: "I believe that there were never so many Whales seen as wee saw that day." Companions to Captain Gosnold reported in 1602 that "Neere this Cape ... where we took great store of Cod-fish, for which we altered the name to Cape Cod...in five or six hours ... [the fishing party] ... had pestered our ship so with Cod fish that we threw numbers over-board again."

We have lost a sense of the extraordinary quantity of life that the sea can, and once did, sustain. Callum Roberts, a marine biologist at the University of York, combs through ancient tales of exploration and sea voyages to draw a stunning picture of historical plenty in virgin seas. Roberts also throws a denunciatory light on the dire state of marine life after centuries of fishing and exposes the insidious effects of shifting environmental baselines.

Shifting environmental baselines

Each generation perceives contemporary conditions as normal and natural; however, because marine life depletion unfolds over time what seems normal to us is in fact the diminished condition resulting from centuries of over-fishing and habitat destruction. Few realize that we eat today what our grandparents used for bait: lobsters, prawns, crabs, etc.

Shifting baselines sap our ambitions for conservation by distorting our sense of what is biologically possible. For instance, the International

Whaling Commission estimates that there must have been between 30,000 to 50,000 fin whales before fishing decimated the species. After a few decades of protection, fin whales are now estimated to number 56,000 so some conclude that protection may be relaxed.

However, evidence derived from explorers of virgin seas and modern scientific estimations based on genetic variability suggest much larger historical populations. The fin population might have been 360 million individuals before the onslaught of whaling! The current population remains a shadow of its original self. More protection is in order.

Every ocean and all the edible species have been exploited. And the marine biomass is in free fall.

Multiply marine reserves

Roberts believes our impoverished sea can be made rich again by the creation of extensive networks of protected marine areas, covering as much as 30 percent of the oceans. The reserves, prohibiting all fishing within their boundaries, would regenerate marine life all over the globe. Currently, marine protected areas amount to less than 1 percent of the sea.

The author confidently argues that greater conservation effort has become the only option available. In the past, fishers responded to the decline of specific fisheries by search-

ing for the same species in more distant areas or by seeking out heretofore neglected species. Today, however, every ocean and all the edible species have been exploited. And the marine biomass is in free fall. Furthermore, Roberts claims, conservation is in everyone's interest. Fishers are now working harder and harder to catch less and less fish. Greater conservation would, in time, deliver better catches for less effort.

Roberts' optimism will not convince everyone. Many of the stories narrated here provide ready illustrations for the more pessimistic analyses of Carolyn Merchant (mechanistic science), James O'Connor (toxic capitalism) or Garrett Hardin (tragedy of the commons). Roberts does not explain why destructive social forces will not simply lead to fishing the seas to death.

But this reservation should not reduce the book's value. *The Unnatural History of the Sea* helps us re-discover the immense life-sustaining potential of the oceans and raises our expectations of what marine life can be. It is also a beautiful volume, filled with illustrations and wrapped in an attractive dust jacket. Writing effortlessly of "convict surgeonfish," "bumphead parrot fish," "Napoleon wrasse," and "roundnose grenadier," Roberts' prose at times conveys a poetic evocation of ocean biodiversity. This book will engross the reader while sounding a powerful call to action. ♦

Daniel Marien works with the Essex County Group of the Massachusetts Sierra Club.

Energy Saving Tips: Space Heating from the national Sierra Club website

SIMPLE FIX

Change your furnace's air filter every one to three months. You can do this easy step yourself. A clean filter allows your heating system to work more efficiently, which saves energy and extends the life of your furnace.

MORE SOPHISTICATED

Install a programmable thermostat. Having a thermostat that automatically turns the heat down while you're asleep or away from home significantly reduces energy use. Setting the temperature to 65 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and 60 degrees overnight, for example, can cut energy consumption by 10 percent. You'll probably recover the cost of the programmable thermostat in the first year. For more information, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Web site and search for "programmable thermostat."

Seal your ducts. Homes with forced-air heating systems commonly lose 20 to 40 percent of their heat through

poorly sealed duct joints. Some states offer tax credits for duct work done by a qualified contractor. For duct-sealing and other insulation tips, go to the Energy Star Web site and search for "ducts."

WHOLE HOG

Replace your old furnace with a high-efficiency model. If your furnace was purchased before 1978, it probably burns about twice as much fuel as necessary. Installing a modern gas furnace, which can achieve up to 97 percent efficiency, will slash your natural-gas consumption nearly in half. For details, read the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's online consumer guide.

Let the sun in. Even in cold climates, homes can be weaned off fossil fuels with a remodel that integrates passive solar techniques. A sunroom, double-paned, south-facing windows, and overhangs can create a bright, efficient abode. The Northeast Sustainable Energy Association provides good resources at nesea.org/buildings/passive. ❖

For more tips, see <http://sierraclub.typepad.com/greenlife/2007/06/what-to-watch.html>
You can sign up for an email newsletter and get a new green tip every day.



England Coast-to-Coast Walk.

Experience England's breathtaking shoreline views with our *Coast-to-Coast Walk*. Beginning in St. Bees, venture eastward through the Lake District National Park, Gasmere, and Ullister Valley to arrive at Yorkshire Dales National Park. Stop at poet William Wordsworth's home, the quaint cottages of Robin Hood's Bay, and Norman Castle. Return to fine meals and luxury B&B accommodations. **For more information or to make a reservation call Cross Country International at (800) 828-8768, or e-mail info@xcintl.com.**



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Energy Conference Considers Wind Energy

The North East Regional Committee of the Sierra Club (NERC) held a conference on Wind and Renewable Energy October 13 in Colebrook, Connecticut. It was attended by over 25 activists who came from the north east (Delaware, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine) and from as far away as Minnesota and Oregon. The speakers included: Sally Wright from the Renewable Energy Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, John Rogers from the Union of Concerned Scientists, Tom Gray from American Wind Energy Association, Shawn Shaw from the Cadmus Group, Joel Gordes from Connecticut, and Alice Lidell from Energy NorthEast. We learned about wind in general, small turbines, large turbines, on and off shore applications, and the regulatory process.

Watch for the next event by NERC which will be a training for conservation and legislative leaders in the spring — proposed date March 15. Be sure to check the Chapter's website for this event early in 2008. ♦

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Massachusetts Chapter Outings

BEGINNER SNOWSHOE OR HIKE – PIONEER VALLEY GROUP

February 2, 2008

Time: 10:00 AM

A beginner snowshoe exploration of either the Quabbin, the Mt Holyoke Range or Mt Toby, depending on conditions. Dress for the weather with layers so you can remove them as you get warm and put them back on as you cool down. Wear good boots; bring snowshoes, lunch and water. Lack of snow turns it into a hike; rain or ice instead of snow cancels. Sorry, no dogs.

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

BEGINNER SNOWSHOE OR HIKE – PIONEER VALLEY GROUP

March 8, 2008

Time: 10:00 AM

A beginner snowshoe exploration of either the Quabbin, the Mt Holyoke Range or Mt Toby, depending on conditions. Dress for the weather with layers so you can remove them as you get warm and put them back on as you cool down. Wear good boots; bring snowshoes, lunch and water. Lack of snow turns it into a hike; rain or ice instead of snow cancels. Sorry, no dogs.

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



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

Bruce Spencer and Liz O'Dair consult the map of Quabbin during the forestry education outing there in November.

Photo by Elisa Campbell

Thank you to our 2007 Donors!

I'd like to say a special thank you to the many Sierra Club members who responded to our Annual March Appeal. If you haven't contributed yet, it's not too late! Just send a check to the Massachusetts Chapter, at 10 Milk Street, Suite 632, Boston, MA 02108.

Your contributions to the Chapter provide critical support for the work we do to protect the environment here in Massachusetts!

Thank you!

David Heimann, Chapter Chair

EVENTS

Annual Holiday Party/Meetup!

December 13

Time: 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Sierra Club Office,
10 Milk Street,
Suite 632, Boston

All Sierra Club members and their guests are welcome! If you've never been to a Sierra Club Meetup night, this is a great opportunity to meet some of the leaders and activists from around the state. We'll supply snacks and beverages — plus lots of literature about the projects we're planning for 2008 and ways you can get involved in helping protect the environment. The Sierra Club office is fully accessible, located near the MBTA's Park, Government and State Street stations. Come anytime from 4 to 7 PM. Free.

Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

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

GROUP & CHAPTER MEETINGS

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

December 6

Time: 5:30 PM

Work to write, support, lobby, and testify on important environmental bills. Volunteers are needed to help write bill testimony.
Contact Leslie Doyle, doyleleslie@yahoo.com

GREATER BOSTON GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 11

Contact us at gbg@sierraclubmass.org

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

December 15

Time: 10:00 AM

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

CHAPTER POLITICAL COMMITTEE

December 12

Time: 6:30 PM

In the next election, we'll be endorsing in the state's major cities and towns. Because of this, it's crucial that Sierra members put significant effort into electing pro-environment legislators. Drop by our next meeting! Please contact Phil Sego, at cpc@sierraclubmass.org for more information.

SPRING TRAINING CONFERENCE

March 15, 2008

Time: 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM

Contact Blossom Hoag at blossomhoag@gmail.com,
or 617 567 4749.

For more information, see

<http://www.sierraclub.org/rcc/northeast/>

Focus of Training:

- global warming & energy efficiency
- lobby training, recruitment, and media
- how Congress works
- role playing

www.sierraclubmass.org

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