

green news

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN DECADE / NEWTON



VOL.20 - NO.2

MAR/APR 2010

Environmental Speaker Series

Co-sponsored with the Newton Free Library at the library Mondays, 7pm

Monday, March 15 - 7pm: *Dr. Joe Elkinton, Entomology Professor at U. Mass, Amherst* Speaking of: **winter moths**



Dr. Joe Elkinton will speak on "Winter Moth: A New Invasion of New England." He will describe state efforts to control winter moths, a new invasive pest attacking New England trees. Prof. Elkinton has been working on nontoxic control measures for this forest pest since 2005.

He will describe efforts underway to establish a highly specialized natural enemy that attacks only winter moth caterpillars. It will take time for that effort to become effective, and meanwhile this coming spring the moths are expected to cause severe defoliation this year, so Dr. Elkinton will also describe measures that we can take now to protect our ornamental trees. Green Decade's co-sponsors are the Newton Free Library, the Newton Tree Conservancy, Newton Conservators, Newton Community Farm, and Friends of Hemlock Gorge.

Monday, April 12 - 7pm: showcasing school environmental projects: ***Celebrating the Earth with the Next Generation***



Eliana Gevelber shows Supt. James Marini & Gina Healy, F.A. Day principal the Green Decade "Magic Energy Bike."

Celebrate the upcoming Earth Day 2010 with the next generation of environmentalists, right here in Newton! Green Decade/Newton's April program will feature Greengineer students from Newton North

High School and students from elementary and middle schools, showcasing their environmental projects which have been school and community focused. Join us for this delightful look at conserving our natural environment through the eyes of 4th and 5th graders, the student-coordinated projects of Students for a Greener World all over Newton, and more. Teach your children well -- and see how they are teaching their friends and classmates to care about the earth!

Save June 8 - Green Decade's 20th anniversary celebration

We hope you will join us at our 20th Anniversary Celebration for wine, light hors d'oeuvres and desserts, live entertainment and a silent auction. As part of the gala event, we will honor Peter Smith, one of the founding members of Green Decade, past Co-President, longtime Co-Editor of the Green News, Liaison to the Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce and a most dedicated environmental steward for our community. You are invited to compose a message to honor Green Decade for its 20 years of environmental accomplishments and/or Peter. Your message will be displayed at the celebration. Please visit www.greendecade.org to find out more. **This is our major fundraiser for the year, so please sign up to support this event and we will list you in our sponsor promotion acknowledgements.**

A good example of Green Decade's important environmental work is represented by a recent \$95,500 grant received by the City of Newton to install solar panels on the Oak Hill and Bigelow Middle Schools in the spring of 2010. This was awarded in large part from the efforts of our organization!

In addition to that achievement, we spearhead Newton's Eco-Team Project, sponsor an environmental speaker series at the Library, host organic garden and green homes tours, co-sponsor the Green Business Expo with the Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce and sponsor an art contest in Newton Schools. We also work with the City of Newton to reduce energy consumption in City buildings and increase recycling, safe alternatives to pesticides, as well as increased public transportation and bike safety.

Please consider making a donation to our silent auction by contributing :

- A week or weekend in your vacation home,
- Tickets to theatre or sport events or sports memorabilia,
- A celebrity lunch or dinner invitation,
- Restaurant gift certificates or sports club memberships
- Building insulation or organic lawn care offers,
- Child or pet sitting services,
- Frequent flyer miles or vacation resort offers,
- Gift certificates to local businesses,
- Home repair or professional services/lessons or
- Meals to go (e.g. brunch for 4,6,8...)

To donate an item to the auction or to volunteer to help with small or larger tasks, call Myron Rosenberg at 617-244-0509 or e-mail 20thAnniv@greendecade.org.

by Marcia Cooper



Strong growth for Eco-Teams

By partnering with social, civic and religious groups, the Eco-Team Project is well on its way to establishing teams throughout the Newton community. An impressive group of organizations has come on board to support this project to reduce Newton's carbon footprint 25% within the next three years. They understand how supporting Newton's Eco-Team Project offers opportunities to help their members reduce household energy usage and save money.

As of this writing the Eco-Team Project has been joined by the West Suburban YMCA, Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton, Rotary Club of Newton, League of Women Voters/Newton, New Art Center, Historic Newton, Hyde Community Center, Newton Senior Center, Newton Conservators, Bike Newton and a number of neighborhood associations. Participating religious congregations include The First Unitarian Society of Newton, Temple Shalom, Temple Emanuel, Temple Beth Avodah, First Baptist Church, Newton Highlands Congregational Church, Newton Centre Minyan, Congregation Mishkan Tefila, Unitarian Universalist Church, Congregation Dorshei Tzedek and Congregation Shaarei Tefillah.

The Leventhal-Sidman JCC in Newton is one organization offering an opportunity for you to join a team. The JCC team will meet on four Tuesdays from April 13 to May 4 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Preregister by April 8 as enrollment is limited, www.easyreg.jccgb.org.

The goal for our first year is the creation of 200 teams. Currently there are 50 teams in process—a wonderful start. Make sure to get in on the action. Contact Jay Walter at —entasis@rcn.com or Bonnie Glickman at bglickman@mindspring.com to find out how to be part of an Eco-Team.

Visit www.NewtonEcoTeams.org for more information.
by *Bonnie Glickman*

Volunteers update

The following Green Decade volunteers were omitted by mistake from the last Green News: **Media:** Miles Smith and Jane Pipik. **Transportation Committee:** Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Nathan Phillips, Helen Rittenberg, Sean Roche.

Green Decade library display

March is Alternatives to Pesticides Month in Newton, an annual event initiated in 1997 through the efforts of Green Decade's GreenCAP committee. In March the Organic Garden committee is planning an informative display in the library's first-floor exhibit cases.



New solar-rebate programs

Massachusetts energy officials unveiled a pair of new solar rebate programs, to be called Solar II and Commonwealth Solar Stimulus. A mix of ratepayer funds and stimulus money will pay for the incentives. Commonwealth Solar II will provide rebate incentives for small residential and commercial systems, with a total of up to \$4 million per year available. Funds will be awarded through the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, which managed the last Commonwealth Solar program, and is funded by a surcharge on electricity bills. For larger projects, state officials will provide rebates drawn from \$8 million in state energy plan funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Both programs were expected to begin in late January. More than 1,200 homeowners, businesses and municipalities took advantage of the original Commonwealth Solar program that ended last fall.

[Information for this article came from the Boston Business Journal]

Environmental art student winners to be announced

The winners of the Newton Student Environmental Art Contest 2010 will be announced at City Hall, War Memorial Auditorium, on Thursday, April 8. This year's art contest expanded the scope beyond the energy conservation focus of previous contests to the environment in general and how students are helping their schools and Newton "go green." Mayor Setti Warren will present awards to winners and certificates to all participants. All art will be exhibited in the rotunda at City Hall from April 26 to May 7.

Come to the annual meeting

Green Decade's Annual meeting will be held this year on Monday, March 15, 6:30pm at the Newton Free Library before the environmental speaker series event. All Green Decade members are encouraged to attend. The following is the slate of incumbent Board members nominated for an additional term: Ed Cunningham, Robbie Durschlag, Paul Eldrenkamp, Kevin Dutt, Jean MacRae, Eric Olson & Maeve Ward.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create an environment in better balance with the natural world by making significant, measurable improvements in the way we use resources.

- Goals include helping households, businesses and institutions to:
- Increase energy efficiency & seek alternatives to fossil/nuclear fuels;
 - Use IPM and organic alternatives to pesticides;
 - Promote high performance (green) building measures;
 - Prevent pollution through source reduction and reduced consumption;
 - Promote reuse and recycling practices;
 - Improve waste disposal practices;
 - Conserve water and other resources.

Our programs are designed to build awareness, provide opportunities for public dialogue, and educate and empower citizens to take personal and civic action.

Getting connected

Green Decade is working with Newton Community Service Center's Child Assault Prevention Program, "Newton Unplugged & Connected," to host four free events during the month of March.

Sunwoo Kahng & daughter Susana shows a plant



"Going Green Storytime" (Children's Room) Thurs., March 18, 3:30pm and "Magic Recycled Box Workshop" Thurs., March 18, 4pm (Druker Auditorium - registration required), will be held at the Newton Free Library.

A "Spring in My Backyard" workshop, Fri., March 12 at 3:30 pm cosponsored with Newton Community Farm and Newton Civic Pride, will take place at the Newton Cultural Center. "Get your bike ready for Spring." A workshop on bicycle tune-ups for kids, cosponsored by Bike Newton, will be held at City Hall, Sun., March 28, 10am-2pm. See www.greendecade.events for more details. Register for the Magic Recycled Box Workshop by calling the library, 617 796-1370.

Lasell College donates cooking oil to Pine Street Inn

This year Lasell College in Newton is giving its used cooking oil and grease to Dedham, MA-based Mass BioFuel, where it will be turned into heating fuel, or "bioheat" for local homeless shelters. Since September, Mass BioFuel has been picking up 140 gallons of oil at Lasell College every twenty days to distribute to shelters, including the Pine Street Inn. According to Mass BioFuel, bioheat has many advantages— it burns cleaner than other fuel oils, reduces particulate emissions (soot), and is biodegradable and renewable. Lasell is one of only a half-dozen local colleges participating in the program. Through this effort, Lasell is reducing its carbon footprint, and helping the community as well.

Thanks for donations go to:

(for contributions received in Nov., Dec. & Jan.)

BENEFACTOR: Anonymous

PATRONS: Ann & Bob Buxbaum, Grace Episcopal Church Social Action Committee, Sarah & Joel Lamstein

DONORS: Anonymous (4), Michael & Winnie Atkin, Sandra & David Baird, Phil Bannatyne, Mary Bell, Beth Brooks, Ted & Bev Chapman, Hope & Charles Dauwalter, Douglas Dick, Shelah T. Feiss, Newell & Kate Flather, Kim & Andy Gluck, Betsy Harper, Christopher Hill, Katherine Howard, Karen & Marty Kafka, Patti King, Betsy & Bill Leitch, Kathy Read, Carol & Burt Schein, Renata & Ed Selig, Jennifer Stone, Hope & Adam Suttin, Gilbert K. Woolley.

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BUSINESS DONOR: Sage Builders LLP

BUSINESS FRIENDS: Mass Energy Consumer Alliance, Needham Garden Center

GIFTS: NE Grassroots Environmental Fund, United Parish of Auburndale

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Thanks ! and . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions by e-mail to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu, by Tues, March 16, 2010. Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Editor Peter Smith, Copy Editor Susan Tornheim and those who wrote articles. Many thanks to our Newsletter Collator chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, and their team for the last issue: Stanley Alves; Marcia Cooper; Grant, Lauren and Nate Berman; Omri Cohen; Ben Miller; Spencer Milliman; Tim Newton; Eric Rosenberg; and George Sangiolo.

CALENDAR

- Mar 12**(Fri.3:30) **"Spring in my backyard,"** see art. p. 3
- Mar 15** (Mon) 6:30pm **Annual Green Decade Meeting Speaking of Winter Moths,** Joe Elkinton
7pm Environmental Speaker Series, see box p.1
Newton Free Library. Tea & Cookies.
Bring your own mug. FREE
- Mar 18**Thu.3:30 **"Going green storytime"** see art. p. 3
- Mar 18**Thu.4pm**Magic recycled box worksh'p** see art. p. 3
- Mar 28** (Sun) **Get your bike ready for Spring** see p. 3
10am-2pm
- Apr 8** (Thurs) **Environ. Art Contest Awards - War Memorial Auditorium, City Hall.** See page2
6:30pm
- Apr 12** (Mon) **Celebrating the earth with the next generation.** Environmental Speaker Series,
7pm Newton Free Library. Tea & Cookies. See box on page one, Bring your own mug.
- Apr 22** (Thur) **Earth Day in Newton,** Celebrate with Mayor Setti Warren. Check web site for details, www.greendecade.org
- Apr 22** (Thur) **Whole Foods "round up day,"** Fund-Raiser for Green Decade. Article this page
- Apr 25** (Sun) **NewtonSERVES, Sign up to help !**

Send environmental events to *GREEN NEWS*. email to Ira Krepchin by Tues. Mar. 16, 2010 irapk@alum.mit.edu We will list as space permits.

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"Faced with a mounting disposal problem for discarded electronics, . . . Maine passed a law making electronics manufacturers responsible for recycling their products. E-waste is the fastest growing component of U.S. municipal waste streams. . . . an estimated 163,000 computers and televisions become obsolete every day in the U.S., amounting to 3,513 tons of waste. Electronics are laden with toxic substances, including brominated fire retardants, cadmium, lead and mercury. The Maine law resembles the European Union policy which requires computer makers to recycle their machines at no cost to the public and phase out toxics." -
"States Tackle E-waste - indicators" by Krista Camenzind, page 7,8, YES, a journal of positive futures.



Printed with soy-based ink on 100% post-consumer waste unbleached recycled paper that is made without a chemical separation process.

Support Green Decade "round-up" at Whole Foods

On Earth Day, April 22, both Whole Foods Markets in Newton will be offering a Round-Up Day when customers will be asked if they would like to round up their sale to the next dollar or higher as a donation to Green Decade. Customers who shop there on April 22 will also be given the chance to be entered to win a Whole Foods "green" gift basket if they make at least a \$2 donation to Green Decade.

Bonus Recycling in Newton

Green Decade is sponsoring an electronics waste collection on NewtonServes Day, April 25th, 2010. Newton residents will be able to bring their "junk" electronic products—an inclusive selection of items such as computers, CDs, plugs, and telephones of all kinds—to a collection point where CRT Recycling of Brockton will pick up the materials and haul them away for recycling. April 25 can be the first of a regular series of collections of this "hard core" waste.

Details, including location for the collection will be available at www.greendecade.org Stay tuned for a final list of what will be accepted for collection.

Please volunteer to help with this exciting project. We will need help with publicity and coordination on the day of the event. Contact project leader Naomi Myrvaagnes, nsm59m@verizon.net or at 617 332-2954.