

green news

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN DECADE COALITION / NEWTON



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JULY/AUGUST 2006

"Greening the Garden City" 15th Anniversary Fundraiser

The "Greening the Garden City" 15th Anniversary Fundraiser held on April 29th was a memorable event. Long-time and new members connected with people who were hearing about Green Decade for the first time. Over 100 people packed the wonderfully decorated New Art Center, with tables in the center of the room displaying an amazing assortment of auction items.

The high point of the evening was an award presentation by Mayor Cohen to Beverly Droz, our outstanding president for the last five years. He not only proclaimed the 29th as Beverly Droz Day, but also extended it through Sunday so she could enjoy a full Day. Sustained applause broke out from everyone there. I was so proud to see Bev receive this award; she is a great role model.

Former Board of Aldermen President Brooke Lipsitt made the night fun and exciting with a live auction of a CD of the Car Guys radio show, which the "Tappet Brothers" had donated. Ald. Johnson and Ald. Baker began bidding against each other with Pres. Baker finally winning at \$85! The total gross from the auction, the host committee and the sponsors almost reached our goal of \$15,000!

Dan Ruben, Green Decade President, was a great Master of Ceremonies; I explained the auction process; and Eric Olson talked about clean energy shares. Barbara Herson did a fabulous job seeing to the food preparations and directing and supporting the young women who served the food. They came all the way from Brown University and volunteered to help us out - Becca Berwick, Lauren Dennis, Lucia Donatelli, and Lily Szajnberg!

We thank our sponsors with a grateful heart: UNICCO, Sam Adams, Highlands Wine and Spirits, Skipjack's, Furniture and Trader Joe's. We also thank our generous Host Committee and the many businesses and individuals who donated goods and services to be auctioned.

The music was really wonderful, the food was terrific, and the participants were enthusiastic! I felt that we were there because we want to build a world community that is sustainable. That kind of energy was felt in the spirit and in the financial commitment everyone gave to the event.

The dedicated people on our committee, Karen Albert, Ann Berwick, Louise Bruyn, Marcia Cooper, Margaret Ford, Barbara Herson, Lois Levin, Rina Okawa, Amelia Ravin, Peter Smith, and Heather Tausig made it easy to stay energized. Planning this kind of event can be somewhat stressful for the organizers. Nevertheless, when one has the fortune to work with loving people, every meeting is filled with energy, laughter, cookies and tea. We all worked

together to make this a very special night. We had a great time! *by Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon, Fundraiser Chair*

Welcome to Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon, our new President for 2006-7. She did such an excellent job chairing fundraiser, we know she will be successful in this new leadership role! See articles on a special page regarding additional board leadership changes.

Teaching energy in Newton



EnergyTeachers.org (ETO) is a resource for teachers who are interested in teaching about energy production and use. To meet its goal of helping teachers provide accurate, up-to-date information, the organization maintains a library of books and curriculum guides; provides links to local and national organizations; keeps a calendar of local events; and offers a long list of ideas for field trips, lab supplies, and research papers.

The ETO office is in West Newton, but the organization provides resources throughout Massachusetts and teachers and its materials are useful throughout the Northeast. Among local activities, the environmental club (advisor Sally Rosen) at Newton South HS is concerned about the status of the school's solar power system. Students in Zach Snow's Environmental Science class at Newton North HS participate in action research, not only learning about energy issues in their school system, but attempting to change practices based on their research.

In the fall, ETO will distribute a free book on energy-related field trips to every school in MA next fall. The book will feature sites such as Newton South's solar array, Fessenden School's geothermal heat exchanger, and many more interesting and educational sites in the area.

Also of interest is a set of annotated resources available online, from discussions among teachers to books about energy, and carefully sorted links on any topic related to energy.

For more information, visit ETO's web site: <http://EnergyTeachers.org>. There you can find shared ideas ("Teachers' Goals"), links to useful sites and books, a calendar of events, and a new forum (Oct '05) for educators' voices.

by Shawn Reeves (Note: Shawn is the president of Energy Teachers.org. He can be reached at shawn@energyteachers.org)

Speaker Series: Pets & Pesticides: How to keep your pets healthy and your grass green

Did you know that the EPA recently announced that a major manufacturer of flea and tick treatments pulled off the market several products associated with a range of adverse reactions, including hair loss, salivation, tremors, and numerous deaths, in cats and kittens?

On March 27 at GreenCAP's annual alternatives-to-pesticides lecture--co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library and the Green Decade Coalition/Newton as well as SPIN (Stray Pets In Need); Buddy Dog Humane Society, Inc.; Petfinder.com.; Charles River Feline Rescue; and Save a Dog--a very enthusiastic crowd learned how to keep their pets healthy and their grass green.

Early arrivals caught a compelling sneak preview of part of the video, "The Truth about Cats, Dogs, and Lawn Pesticides" produced by Sanford Lewis and Jody Shapiro.

In an affirmation of the message in the Video, Regina Downey, D.V.M., pointed out how pets are often doubly exposed to pesticides in the pet owner's attempt to rid them of pests and to keep lawns free of so-called weeds. Cats and dogs roll in the "poisoned" grass, lick their fur, and track residue onto floors and carpets. (To say nothing of the effect upon children who roll around with the "contaminated" creatures.) Then the dogs' or cats' masters often spray more synthetic chemicals onto their beloved companions in an attempt to control fleas or some other ailments.

How do you avoid subjecting the animals to synthetic chemicals? Dr. Downey, reflecting upon her twenty years of experience, stressed her use of the wellness approach as contrasted with a crisis-management tactic. At length the Doctor emphasized how proper nutrition and exercise help create a sound immune system that thwarts disease and infection. She spoke to the consequences of how, in the absence of good (preferably homemade) food and lots of running to fetch sticks or clambering up scratching posts, animals may needlessly develop, for example, autoimmune-related diseases. They may even die unnecessarily early.

To cope with external threats the Doctor suggested methods that also don't involve synthetic chemicals. For example, to prevent Lyme Disease caused by deer ticks, obviously a difficult task, she recommends spraying their animals with an essential-oils mist, then combing them. The ticks don't like the oils and will "hang out" on the fur outside.

Hearing the Doctor was very much like listening to a caring and competent pediatrician. Proper nutrition and exercise--these [and sound sleep] provide the basics for sound immune systems that help fend off disease and infection in children. And of course no parent would

knowingly "poison" a kid.

Next Chip Osborne and Pat Beckett, Co-Founders of the Marblehead Pesticide Awareness Committee and the "Living Lawn," Marblehead's Organic Lawn and Garden Demonstration Project, presented a compelling slide show. The Project is an eight-year-old example of "seeing is believing" for organic turf management.

Their message also affirmed that of the previous speaker and the Video. They elaborated upon the why and the how-to approach for organic methods for both turf management and for yard care--stressing again the health implications for pets and for children. And pointing out that the organic approach isn't "rocket science" and that growing grass isn't like trying to raise orchids.

For example one slide graphically showed a comparison between the root systems of grass treated by synthetic fertilizer--very short--and by organic fertilizer--very long. (Grass needs long roots to thrive.)

Chip told a very moving "dog story." Stating that years ago when "conventional" agricultural practices were the norm (for which he had to acquire a pesticide applicator's license), he was in the greenhouse business. He brought his two dogs to the site every day. They settled down in the soil underneath the benches. Time passed; he slowly became acquainted with the organic methods he now follows. But it was too late for the dogs: they died premature deaths from cancer--probably acquired from the exposure to the toxins that dripped down onto the earth from the plant materials in the benches.

In conclusion Pat showed slides of the demonstration lawn that, despite the best of intentions, did at one time wither and how the site was restored without synthetic chemicals. The person caring for the plot, in the absence of the managers who had taken time off, followed instructions literally--including mowing high. But dampness from a prolonged hot, rainy spell combined with the tall grass caused a fungus to develop. Upon their return the owners raked the debris, put down organic compost, and reseeded the surface. Within a few months the lawn regained its former glory.

by L. Maeve Ward

Our Mission

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton is conducting a campaign to make a significant improvement in resource use by businesses, institutions, and residences in Newton. We establish goals and seek to achieve measurable results in energy and water use, waste disposal practices, and pollution prevention through research, education, and action. Our goal is to make Newton a model of ecological and environmental integrity in a sustainable world community.

Thanks for donations go to:



KYOTO SPONSOR: (Anonymous)
BENEFACTOR: Charles River Neighborhood Foundation
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FRIEND: Philip Bevins, Bonnie Carter, Wendy & Barry Cotton, Ann & William Hartner, Katherine Kraft, Katherine Read, Robert & Phyllis Yawitt

Winter moth blues

The winter moth has struck again, harder this year than last. The damage caused by this cold-tolerant insect begins to accumulate on leaves when the leaves are just emerging from their buds. As a result, if you don't know what to look for (and if you don't have a car parked beneath a tree suffering attack) you might assume a heavily infested tree is simply slow to put out its leaves. By now though, most everyone has probably noticed the heavily damaged trees. The big sugar maple by my driveway has been completely stripped.

What to do? There is a lot to say on this score, more than we have space for here, but let's agree on one thing NOT to do: do not spray this late in the year. You can agree or not with the view that pesticide sprays are rarely justified, but surely we can all agree that they should only be used, if at all, when they have a good chance of having a major impact. By about the 20th of May though, nearly all winter moth larvae in Newton were snug underground or under leaves on the ground, preparing to make their pupae. At this point no pesticide can reach them. So please, whether you think spraying is a good idea or not, if you spray this late in a defoliation event, you'll just be wasting your money. For more info on winter moth and its control see the websites http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/defoliators/wm_id_man.html and http://www.umassgreeninfo.org/fact_sheets/defoliatorswm_bio_project_05.pdf

by Eric Olson

A healthy reminder: GreenCAP's safe lawn door hanger campaign

Pass on a friendly reminder of safer alternatives to pesticides to your neighbors who have little yellow danger flags popping up in their lawns. GreenCAP has ordered Safe Lawn Door Hangers from Beyond Pesticides. The Door Hangers are an easy, non-confrontational way to approach neighbors you think are using pesticides. It reminds them in a gentle, friendly way about the dangers of lawn pesticides and the increasing availability of alternatives. The Door Hanger lists GreenCAP's website www.greendecade.org which presents more information and a list of NOFA organically certified lawn care services in Newton. To view a sample Door Hanger, list of Tips for Talking with Neighbors and Press Release go to www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticidefreelawns/actions/. For a handful of door hangers to spread around your neighborhood, contact GreenCAP co-chair Karen Albert through info@greendecade.org or 617-965-1995.

Getting your E-bulletins?

Once a month Green Decade sends out an E-bulletin to announce upcoming events and activities with key information about each one, including web links. E-bulletins are scheduled for the first week and sent to all GDC members and friends who have given us their e-mail addresses. If you haven't been receiving it, please make sure we have your correct e-mail address by sending your information to contact@greendecade.org and tell us that you want to subscribe to the E-bulletin. It's FREE and a quick way to find out what's happening! As always, our mailing lists are confidential. You can also request receiving our newsletter via email instead of by postal service.

by Margaret Ford

JOIN THE GREEN DECADE

Enclosed is: New member Renewal

(\$20.00 suggested annual individual donation) (additional donation) TOTAL

NAME: _____ (For address labels)

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ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____ (Please print clearly !)

Yes! I am joining/renewing for calendar 2006!

Most of our budget comes from memberships. Membership and contributor lists are not given out. You get the bi-monthly GREEN NEWS, discounts at selected local businesses, and more!

Amount	Person/Family	Business	Please circle your category
\$ 20	Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a	
50	Friend	Basic	
100	Donor	Friend	
250	Patron	Donor	
500	Benefactor	Patron	
1000	Really Green	Benefactor	

Thank you! Please send your tax deductible check payable to: GDC/N, P.O. Box 590242, Newton, MA 02459 July/Aug 2006

Protect drinking water—stop herbicide spraying

Like many environmental problems, this one won't go away. In 1999 Toxics Action Center and Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition joined forces and succeeded in stopping state highway herbicide spraying for the duration of Mass Highway's 1998-2003 5-year Vegetation Management Plan(VMP). For this effort they received an award from the New England Regional E.P.A. for "demonstrated commitment and significant contribution to the environment." But in 2005 under the current VMP and with questionable legal notification, Mass Highway sprayed state highways 1, 3, 24 and 146, all in eastern Massachusetts. The agency has said it intends to spray those roadways again this season as well as several others.

"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. ... To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny."

— The Earth Charter (2000) (Quoted in YES! a journal of positive futures, Summer 2006.)

Several factors make herbicides sprayed along roadsides a public health-hazard of potentially catastrophic proportions. Rain runs off roads every time it rains; beneath most guardrails are waterways which drain into wetlands, drainage systems, and ultimately into aquifers that supply drinking water to Commonwealth citizens; and private wells and public water supplies are often contaminated by roadsalt.

In the case of herbicide-spray along roadsides, exposure may occur not only from runoff into aquifers, but also from inhalation and skin-absorption. This is because Mass Highway's sub-contracted applicators use a highly-toxic mix of 3 herbicides and fail to leave proper signage to warn passers-by, cyclists, and people working and playing in their yards. To protest this hazardous practice, contact Mass Highway's Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky (email: feedback@mhd.state.ma.us), Secretary of Transportation John Cogliano (e-mail: feedback.eot@eot.state.ma.us), and your state representative and senator.

by Lucia Dolan

Green Decade + MCAN in Fall to have booth at AltWheels

This year AltWheels Energy Freedom Festival is coming to Boston City Hall Plaza! We will be there to share our message of sustainability with our model house. We need volunteers! Call 617 233-6071 in August to sign up. See the latest in sustainable transportation technology, win a new Prius and bring the kids – jugglers, face-painting – all free !

CALENDAR

July 24 start date	Green Decade Table @ Farmers' Market volunteers needed, call for more information, 617 965-1995.
Sept 22-24 Fri - Sun all day	AltWheels Energy Freedom Festival on Boston City Hall Plaza (Fri-Sat) and Larz Anderson Park (Sun) Green Decade table needs volunteers. call: 617 965-1995.

Send environmental events to *GREEN NEWS*. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, July 21, 2006 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

2005-2006 Board of Directors

- Karen Albert, *Green CAP*
- Ann Berwick, *at large*
- Marcia Cooper, *Membership*
- Ed Cunningham, *IPM Liaison*
- Lucia Dolan, *Clerk, Green CAP*
- Kevin Dutt, *HiPerformc Bldgs*
- Paul Eldrenkamp, *Kyoto Proj.*
- Ira Krepchin, *Newsletter*
- Treff LaFleche, *at large*
- Francoise LaMonica, *PR-NewTV*
- Lois Levin, *PR-Coord. TAB*
- Brooke Lipsitt, *HiPerformc Bldgs*
- Jean MacRae, *Treasurer*
- Eric Olson, *Energy*
- Amelia Ravin, *Corporate Relations*
- Dan Ruben, *V. Pres.*
- Rohna Shoul, *at large*
- Peter Smith, *Newsletter*
- Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon, *Pres.*

- Heather Tausig, *at large*
- Maeve Ward, *Green CAP*

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Annual Green Decade environmental leadership awards to an organization, individuals, and a business (continued on other side)

Community Group

The Newton Conservators received the 2006 Environmental leadership Award for their work over a period of years to target Angino Farm as a potential acquisition for the city, getting it placed as a priority on the Open Space Plan. The many steps that they took demonstrating commitment and perseverance to make their vision a reality are as follows:

- built and cultivated relationships with the family in an effort to prepare the way for acquisition
- identified the specific purchase opportunity in early 2004 when the property was listed for sale by the Angino family
- negotiated an initial offer and a purchase and sale agreement with appropriate conditions
- arranged and paid for an independent real estate appraisal to determine property value
- explored a range of uses and ultimately identified community farming as the use creating the greatest value to residents
- created connections

to a variety of experts and others in order to prove the concept and develop a program and funding proposal

- built community support for the concept, including neighbors, particularly the Ledgebrook Condominium Association, as well as many other organizations and a variety of interested individuals
- prepared a comprehensive proposal for Community Preservation Act funding of the acquisition
- managed a lengthy process of amending the proposal, maintaining community support and keeping the family engaged throughout an extensive and prolonged review, leading ultimately to approvals by the Community Preservation Committee and the Board of Aldermen in late 2004
- transitioned the negotiated purchase and sale agreement and family relationships to city lawyers to complete the deal
- created focus for and input to the



The Newton Conservators was the group that was instrumental in lobbying and getting the City and the farm owners to transfer the last remaining farm in Newton to City ownership using Community Preservation Act funds and establishing a City Commission to oversee the farm operation.

range of ancillary issues attending the acquisition (zoning changes, management issues, etc.)

- helped shape the ordinance that enabled the creation of the Newton Farm Commission
- created a fiscal umbrella and funding to Newton Community Farm, Inc. during the period leading to their incorporation
- accepted designation (as a land trust organization) to hold a Conservation Restriction on Angino Farm, now owned by the City since May 2005, providing an additional layer of protection against the possibility of the land ever being used for purposes other than community farming, education and passive recreation.

The Newton Conservators was the group that was instrumental in lobbying and getting the City and the farm owners to make this arrangement. Congratulations !



The Green Decade Coalition/Newton presented the Newton Conservators with our 2006 Environmental Leadership Award for a non-profit organization in recognition of their significant contribution to the process of acquiring the Angino Farm for the use by the City for recreation, education, and historic preservation.

Annual Green Decade environmental leadership awards to an organization, individuals, and a business (continued on other side)

Individuals

Two teachers from Newton North High School were honored by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton with individual Environmental Leadership Awards. for their work with students on environmental projects.

Zachary Snow was selected for his role as a Newton science teacher, as he revealed to students how Advanced Placement

Biology can be used to serve the community and he inspired his students for years. He required his students to do an environmental project for an entire

year. In the first semester they write a research paper on the subject. In the 2nd semester they have to implement a project that will be sustainable. He has inspired his students to really make a difference for the environment.

As just a few examples, three of his students this year studied recycling at Newton North and were responsible for coordinating the work of many teachers and students to achieve excellent levels of recycling throughout the school; two students worked to reduce bus idling at Newton public schools; two students did a phone survey with volunteers to determine Newton residents' level of recycling and two other students educated their fellow Newton North students about vegetarianism.

Ann Dannenberg was presented with the award for all the work she is doing in her role as a science teacher. She gives an opportunity to her students to see how a project in her independent field study program can make a big difference in the community. Her students go out to parks, such as Edmonds Park and other places where they can study trends in species and invasive plants such as Japanese knot weeds that have taken over. Her students were so inspired and persistent that they went out in the freezing cold and snow to gather data so their results would be accurate. They found some really interesting results.

Her work as the advisor to the Newton North Environmental Club which aims "to become educated about and



Two teachers from Newton North High School, Ann Dannenberg and Zachary Snow were honored by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton with individual Environmental Leadership Awards.

Business

The Wainwright Bank received the Green Decade Coalition/Newton 2006 Environmental leadership Award for their newly opened Wainwright Bank Newton Centre office at 1255 Centre Street which was conceived

as a model of environmentally conscious branch design for the banking industry. In fact, Wainwright Bank is perhaps the first financial institution in the country to seek a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Requirements of certification include optimization of energy consumption, reduction of water usage, and the use of materials with less environmental impact. Elements in their new branch include:

- recycled content in flooring, countertops and aluminum window frames
- renewable materials such as bamboo flooring and cornstark fiberboard in counters and cabinets
- low-emitting materials in paints and carpet
- light-dimming sensors, EnergyStar rated appliances and "sun tubes."

In addition, their branch receives more than 50% of its electricity from renewable energy sources.

Wainwright has been named one of the 10 Best "Green" Banking Firms in the U.S. by the Community Investing Campaign and One of the World's Top 20 Sustainable Stocks by SustainableBusiness.com. The bank has also committed over \$400 million in loans to local organizations addressing homelessness, hunger, affordable housing, HIV/AIDS services, gay and lesbian rights, breast cancer research and other social justice issues. *by Peter Smith*



Wainwright Bank Vice Presidents Jeffrey Birkett and Kenneth Jaffe accepted the Environmental Leadership Award from Green Decade Coalition Newton Past President Peter Smith.

Individual award winners (continued)

act on local, national and international environmental issues," brings value to the school. She has taken the role of Faculty Representative on the new high school building committee to insure it will be a high performance building. She has gone beyond what is expected of teachers. She has inspired her students to really make a difference in the community. *by Peter Smith*



Board members & friends of the Green Decade Coalition/Newton braved rainy weather to raise over \$1,000 by selling plants and shrubs on two June days.

Green Decade board of directors leadership changes

Dan Ruben was honored at the Green Decade Annual Meeting for his service to the Green Decade as President last year with skilled leadership. He will continue to serve on the board as Vice President as he has for many years previously.

Rohna Shoul stepped down as Membership Chair after many years in that position having greatly increased the number of members. She will continue to serve on the board. Marcia Cooper remains as chair of the Membership Committee.

We welcome a new board member, Karen Albert, who will Co-Chair GreenCAP. She has worked in business, higher education and in the non-profit arena with an emphasis on cause related activities. During the past year she has devoted her time to environmental causes and served as a committee member on the Green Decade Coalition/Newton fundraising committee and GreenCAP.

by Margaret Ford & Peter Smith

Thanks ! and . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by email to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu by Friday, July 21, 2006.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Co-editors Peter Smith/ Louise Bruyn, and those who wrote articles. Many thanks to our Newsletter Collator Chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, and their team for the last issue: Sarah Barnett, Jacqui Gross, Nancy Lester, Edie Propp, Pat Rand, Carol Rose, and Brian Washburn.

Annual Plant & Garden Sale: Rain or Shine!

Mother Nature could have been kinder to GDC's plant & garden sale event this year, given what we try to do for her! Rescheduled to after rains flooded much of New England on our original May 13 date, we got even more rain on our June 10 date, but thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the sale went on as planned, and extended to Sunday, taking advantage of a long-awaited sunny day! As always, many plants were donated by GDC members, friends and neighbors. This year's offerings were supplemented by plants donated from Newton Pride's May 20 plant sale, with proceeds from those plants to be split between GDC and Newton Pride. At press time, gross sales were over \$1,000 of which approximately \$425 was shared with Newton Pride, and a few late buyers were still contributing once the sun came out. Not bad for a rainy weekend!

This year's sale also changed locations, from the home of Betsy Leavitt (Brown) to the shared driveway of Margaret Ford/Tom Boyd and their neighbors Meg Hawley & Eric Iida. Many thanks to our wonderful plant sale volunteers who potted plants, set up the sale, sold plants and provided gardening and landscape expertise: GDC's Betsy Leavitt, Françoise LaMonica, Diane Dumanoski, Mickey Halliburt, Mary-Ann Greene, Eric Olson, Harriet Mandell, Meg Hawley and Pat Rand, plus Pamela Burton and Cathy Matero of Newton Pride. Thanks also go to Newton Pride for joining us in this event, to the benefit of both our organizations. And thank you to Mother Nature for finally sending us a sunny day!

by Margaret Ford



Board members Rohna Shoul and Maeve Ward worked at the Green Decade Coalition/Newton information table during the Newton highlands Village Day.

Green Decade at Newton Highlands Village Day

The Green Decade participated in Newton Highlands Village Day again this year on June 12. Maeve Ward, Lucia Dolan and Rohna Shoul took advantage of the beautiful weather and welcomed environmentalists to the GDC resource table and even guided a few to the plant sale in West Newton. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers for spreading the word!

by Margaret Ford

Trader Joe's green choices

Trader Joe's donated much of the food for the Green Decade fund-raiser and has been working hard to make good environmental choices for the company and also for the community. The West Newton store under the leadership of Rachel Baxter has been recycling cardboard and paper for some time. They have also found a way to have less trash each day by giving food away to groups that need it. Items that do not get sold provide many groups with this great food resource. Not only do the groups benefit from the food but also the store is producing less trash.

Rachel Baxter and her environmental team have just launched a new program to encourage patrons to bring their own bags for shopping at the market. If people bring their own bag to the market they will be entered into a chance to spin a wheel and maybe win a canvas Trader Joe's bag filled with groceries. The West Newton Trader Joe's also donates flowers to the city each week. A volunteer combines the good bunches of flowers and senior citizens and others enjoy them... Thus recycling the flowers. Rachael Baxter and her team are always looking for new environmental projects. Take advantage of the great programs they are offering. Let them know you appreciate the great work they are doing.

by Barbara Herson

Take a friend to see "An Inconvenient Truth"

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton recommends that you get together with as many friends (non-believers especially welcomed !) to see this dramatic film on global warming with Vice President Al Gore.

To get more information on the film and showing locations see: www.climatecrisis.org

The Environmental Show

The subject of the July Environment Show is the link between mercury, especially from thimerosal in vaccines, to neuropathology. Richard C. Deth, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Northeastern University will provide the technical expertise. Dr. Deth was the first to find the mechanism by which mercury affects the brain. The incidence of autism shot up 40-fold in the last 20 years.

This is a half-hour talk show with host, Beverly Droz. The Green Decade and the Newton Conservators alternate each month the production of this show. This Green Decade produced show will run from July 1 to July 27.

The broadcast schedule is the following:
Mondays: 3:00 p.m.; Tuesdays: 1:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.;
Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m.; Thursdays: 12:00, 4:00, and 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.

The Newton's public access is NewTV Blue channel, number 10 on Comcast and 15 on RCN.

Another Green Decade production is the taped Lecture Series for which NewTV has reserved the viewing time of Tuesdays, 8:30.

by Françoise Lamonica

! We need you at the farmer's markets:

One hour to help staff the Green Decade information table at the Farmers' Markets, Tuesdays starting on July 11, 1:30 to 6pm at Cold Spring Park or Fridays starting July 14 at Post 440 on California Street in Nonantum 10am to 2pm through September. **Help us tell people about Green Decade's work!**

We would like a presence there all that time but failing that even a total time of three hours or so is good public relations. We ask people to work for an hour, unless they want to do more. Please contact **Maeve Ward**: 617 527-5331 or info@greendecade.org