

# green news

NEWSLETTER OF GREEN DECADE / NEWTON  
Over 20 Years of Environmental Leadership 1990 - 2011



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## Collecting Emails for Herbicide Notification List

For everyone interested in healthy children and healthy communities, Green Decade is collecting e-mail addresses for a herbicide notification list. The MBTA, the Turnpike, the Highway Department, DCR Urban Parks and CSX Railway plan to spray herbicides in Newton this summer.

We believe that residents have a right to know where and when herbicides are sprayed, especially if its near homes, yards, gardens and children's play areas, as well as public parkways, roads, sidewalks, paths and trails.

For more information, visit the following web site: <http://safefrompesticides.blogspot.com/> If you would like Green Decade to put your email on the notification list, send your name and email to [info@greendecde.org](mailto:info@greendecde.org).

*by Ellie Goldberg*

## Volunteer grant writer needed to help us fund new projects!

*Call Marcia Cooper: 617 964-8567*

## Save the date: Green Solutions EXPO 11am-5pm - Sunday, October 16



A Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce Expo with solutions you need to reduce your carbon footprint & over 60 exhibitors under a big tent to be held from 11-5pm in Newton Centre during the Newton Harvest Fair. The fair will feature continuous entertainment, food and games for the kids.

Get tips on how be more environmentally friendly and live a "green" life style. See exhibitors with green products, services and ideas. Come to our expert workshops every hour. Find out how you can convert to solar electricity without paying thousands and reduce your electric bills. Have a green lawn all summer without watering and only cut once a month. These workshops and more will help you save money and the environment at the same time! Look for our schedule of green workshops on [www.nnchamber.org](http://www.nnchamber.org)

*by Peter Smith*

## Bruyn Fund among supporters of Mason-Rice School garden

For more than a decade, the Mason-Rice Elementary School has used its school garden to teach students not only about nature and science, but also writing, art, and social studies. Each grade (K-5) has its own garden bed that the students plant and tend every year.

Students have planted gardens of basil, tomatoes, oregano as well as bok choy and garlic, to enhance their study of American immigrant cultures. Others have planted butterfly gardens to aid in the study of butterfly life cycles, colonial herbs to help in understanding life in colonial times, and the traditional planting of three sisters--corn, beans, and squash--in studying Native American cultures.

Mike Costello, a teacher at Mason-Rice, coordinates garden activities and directs the garden. Every year with the help of other teachers and teacher's aides, Mr. Costello prepares the garden for planting and oversees planting and care of the garden by the students. The Mason-Rice PTO provides funding for annual supplies (including seeds and manure), and Mason-Rice families volunteer to maintain the garden during the summer months.

Unfortunately after so many years, the beloved garden was showing signs of wear: the boards supporting the raised beds had rotted to the point where some of the garden beds were no longer distinguishable, and weeds had made one side of the garden inaccessible. We needed to replace the old boards and fill with new soil. We wanted to widen the pathways for better wheelchair accessibility and build a raised planting bed for wheelchair bound students. We also wanted to incorporate a composting system into the garden and have students contribute waste organic material from their snacks and lunches into the pile.

Thanks to generous support from the Louise Bruyn Fund of Green Decade/Newton, the Newton Conservators, Girl Scout Troop 63053, the Mason-Rice PTO, and numerous volunteers, the Mason-Rice garden underwent a dramatic makeover on May 15. Dozens of volunteers arrived on Newton Serves Day to help replace the rotted boards with new cedar boards, remove weeds, add soil and manure, and prepare the beds for planting.

The level of energy was contagious and everyone left celebrating the strength of our community. Thank you Louise and Severyn, and thank you Green Decade!

*by Sunwoo Kahng*

## Green Decade board members moving to Advisory Board

Francoise LaMonica and Heather Tausig were honored at the Green Decade Annual Awards ceremony May 16 for their years of service. Francoise started on Green Decade Board in 1999. In the early 2000's, she and a group of Board members founded the Newton TAB Environmental Pages.

Francoise contributed to writing many articles. She was co-founder of Green Decade's New TV Environment Show and included Newton Conservators so both groups could manage producing 6 shows per year. She then became the producer of Green Decade's show, serving in that capacity for many years. Later she took over as producer of taping the Environment Speaker Series.

Heather is the associate vp of conservation for the New England Aquarium, so more than most members of the Green Decade, she is able to work on behalf of the earth in her profession. She gave a presentation at one of our Environmental Speaker Series. She also visits Newton Schools and teaches conservation and shows a film that she produced.

Heather has given dozens of these talks and each time the school donates the proceeds to Green Decade. Schools invite this show to start off the now famous NSTAR-supported compact fluorescent light bulb fundraiser. It is safe to say the show has helped motivate sales of bulbs for tens of thousands of dollars over the years. Since the sales product is the bulb, that means a lot of more efficient lights are being used across Newton. We are pleased that she and Francoise are still with us on our Advisory Board.



Green Decade board members gather at the Newton Mayor's prayer breakfast in May

### Board of Directors

Madeline Amorosi, *at large*  
Ann Berwick, *at large*  
Al Calderone, *at large*  
Marcia Cooper, *President*  
Ed Cunningham, *Vice Pres.*  
Michele Davis, *Energy*  
Lucia Dolan, *Transportation*  
Robbie Durschlag, *Faith & Env.*  
Paul Eldrenkamp, *at large*  
Sunwoo Kahng, *at large*  
Ira Krepchin, *Newsletter*  
Lois Levin, *Transp; EnvEditorTAB*  
Brooke Lipsitt, *Clerk, Pub. Affairs*  
Jean MacRae, *at large*  
Eric Olson, *at large*  
Jim Purdy, *Energy*  
Myron Rosenberg, *Development*  
Dan Ruben, *Chairperson*  
Burt Schein, *Treasurer*  
Peter Smith, *Newsletter; Chamber*  
Robert Warren, *Schools Outreach*

### Advisory Board

Karen Albert  
Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon,  
Louise Bruyn, *Past Pres.*  
Sheila Clawson  
David & Elva Del Porto  
Bev Droz, *Past President*  
Dianne Dumanoski  
Kevin Dutt, *Public Affairs*  
Katherine Gekas  
Bonnie Glickman, *EcoTeams*  
Ellie Goldberg  
Fred Gordon, *MCAN Bd.*  
Barbara Herson, *Past Pres.*  
Francoise LaMonica, *NewTV*  
Matt Pawa  
Fran Seasholes  
Annabelle Ship  
Rohna Shoul  
Heather Tausig  
Maev Ward

## Why I volunteer

Eight months ago, I moved to Newton, Massachusetts after transferring to Lasell College as an Environmental Studies major. I was born and raised in the sleepy, lakeside town of Lake Luzerne, nestled in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. Ever since I can remember, I was a creature of the outdoors. From the moment I woke up in the morning until it was too dark out to see, I was outside. As



Photographer Margaret Ford

Lindsey Kenna, Lasell College Environmental Studies major, volunteers as a Green Decade intern. She has worked on the Environmental Art Contest and revamping the Students for a Greener World website

I got older I continued to recreate outside and when I began college, after a year or so of being undecided, it seemed natural to go into a field that I was always passionate about.

One of the main parts of the environmental studies curriculum at Lasell is to participate in two different internships. In my first two years of college I had toyed with the idea of going to school to work with non-profit organizations. It only occurred to me through one of my first semester classes at Lasell that there were plenty of non-profit organizations within the environmental field. I began my search for one and quickly landed on Green Decade.

I started in January and I was immediately immersed in several big projects such as the Environmental Art Contest and revamping the Students for a Greener World website page. One of the best attributes of Green Decade is how involved they are in children and student activities. I think one of the most important things for my generation and those who are younger is to be aware of global issues, mainly the environment and what the human species is doing to it. Educating children when they are young about environmental issues allows them to be aware and take action. Green Decade plays a big role in educating and getting involved both children and adults in Newton through various events, such as the Environmental Art Contest, the Farmer's Market, and their monthly Environmental Speaker series. Getting people involved and volunteering is key in the environmental field. The more people who are involved, the more of an impact we can make towards preserving the environment and making a more sustainable planet.

by Lindsey Kenna

### Thanks ! and next newsletter deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions by e-mail to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu, by Mon, July 25, 2011.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Editor Peter Smith, Copy Editor Susan Tornheim, Photographer Ken Mallory and article authors. Many thanks to our newsletter mailing chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, and their team for the last issue: Fran Bourne Johnson, Polly Kalman and Frank & Edie Propp.

# Annual Green Decade environmental leadership awards to an individual and to a business

## Individual

Deb Crossley, alderman and architect, has been an activist and leader in Newton for more than 20 years. During that time, with a particular interest on sustainability, she has served as president of the Newton League of Women Voters and on many city committees and advocacy groups including Newton's Comprehensive Plan and Energy Action Plan. She has served as vice-chair of the Energy Commission and Co-Chair of Newton High Performance Building Coalition.



Alderman Deborah Crossley

Photographer Ken Mallory

Deb's leadership has brought real results to Newton. She was a stalwart in persuading the city to use life cycle cost analysis and high performance building techniques at Newton North High School. She then led the effort for Newton to become the first community in Massachusetts to adopt the higher efficiency "stretch" building energy code in 2009.

That proved to be the first step in Deb's mission to have Newton be one of the first state-designated Green Communities. Deb has provided oversight in the implementation of the Energy Service Company (ESCO) currently underway.

More recently, working closely with Rep. Kay Kahn and the Public Buildings Dept., Deb has guided the renovation of the Lower Falls Community Center to serve as the City's first deep energy retrofit of a public building. Her efforts to conceptualize the project, capitalize on opportunities presented by needed repairs and secure financing will enable this building to reduce its energy needs by more than 50%. Of course these are only highlights of Deb's influence in moving us all to a more sustainable future. Her efforts will save thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions.



Photograph Marcia Cooper

## Make your own rain barrel!

Thank you to Whole Foods at Walnut St. for hosting rain barrel workshops on Earth Day and June 15th with donations of \$20 per barrel to Green Decade. To find out about other summer/fall workshops, contact [info@greendecade.org](mailto:info@greendecade.org).

## Business

General Compression is a Newton Corner-based cutting-edge company working to move us forward to a new era of carbon-free technology. This February the U.S. Dept of Energy: Advanced Research Project announced a \$750,000 grant to General Compression, one of only six such grants nation-wide.

General Compression is developing fuel-free compressed air storage technology to enable low-cost grid storage and to help make intermittent renewable power such as solar and wind fully dispatchable during peak load periods. Following the grant, General Compression has received more than \$12 million in additional funding from existing and new investors. In April 2011, General Compression signed an agreement with ConocoPhillips to develop compressed air energy storage projects in Texas.

Unlike conventional compressed air energy storage installations, no fuel is burned in the expansion stage, which dramatically reduces emissions and operating costs. This process could accelerate the integration of renewable electricity, particularly wind, into the grid. We thank General Compression, Inc. for their significant contribution.

## The caterpillar video



Eric Olson & students watch caterpillar song video

Board member Eric Olson is a biology professor at Brandeis University. He brings caterpillars to the Green Decade farmers' market tent for kids. They let them crawl on their hands. They put them on their eyebrows. They watch them eat leaves. They learn about how they turn into butterflies. Sophia Dolan and Margaret Ford wrote the caterpillar song which was performed by Students for a Greener World in the video. At the awards night they projected it on the big screen in the library. They dedicated it to Eric. Was he surprised! See the video at: [www.greendecade.org/sgw-caterpillar-song.html](http://www.greendecade.org/sgw-caterpillar-song.html) by Margaret Ford

Photographer Ken Mallory

Photographer Ken Mallory

# Annual environmental leadership award to an organization



Photographer Ken Mallory

Steve Chinosi and Matt Anderson, Newton North teachers and Brendan Hathaway, Greengineer alumnus and faculty, accepted the 2011 environmental leadership award for a community organization from Green Decade's Peter Smith.

**Greengineers** is a student entrepreneurial effort at Newton North High School. This program is about saving the planet and finding solutions to problems in a manner that is in harmony with nature.

The students in this program lead the country with "Solution-Centered Learning and Student-Centered Solutions." The program combines chemistry, engineering, physics, economics, finance, design and industrial safety. The philosophy of the Greengineers is: "Inside of all of us there is the potential to change the world, and all that it takes is conscious thought followed by action." Students in the think-tank design new solutions for known problems and issues that affect local and global communities.

Greengineers transcend the common standards of a "class." The students in this program will become outstanding and persistent leaders, as they become biodiesel manufacturers who smile at the sight and smell of grease or take on the challenge of turning the endless supply of plastic bags and used billboard fabric into useful products: plastic shopping totes, computer cases, rain ponchos, business card holders and more. They are stepping up to become professionals, looking for solutions that are as good for their company as they are for our planet.

We thank you for your significant contributions.



Photographer Ken Mallory

**"Climate: I still believe"**

by Geneva Boyer,  
advocate for climate  
protection read at the  
Awards presentation:  
Call me naïve,  
Call me out of my mind  
Call me idealist  
Call me stupid, or blind  
Because I believe  
When the world falls apart  
When a victory turns sour  
When we're back at the start

When people betray  
Those they don't even know  
And they haven't the right  
Yet they're given the go

When you want to say yes  
It will all be all right  
But you know you'd be lying  
So you purse your lips tight

When the people around you  
You thought that you knew  
Quote the media at you  
And you scream it's not true  
But it catches inside you  
And won't leave your throat

Geneva Boyer - Green Poet Copyright Geneva Boyer 2010

## Lifetime achievement award Elva & David Del Porto

Since 1972, David Del Porto has been a practitioner and advocate of building integrated water efficiency and pollution prevention. He was a founding director of Green Decade. He and his wife Elva developed their solar-heated home in Newton



Photographer Ken Mallory

Elva & David Delporto receive their award

known as the "Urban Ark," incorporating ecological principles as it provides space heat, food production, air purification and wastewater treatment all within an attached two-story greenhouse of David's design. They have been opening their house for tours and seminars for years, donating much of the proceeds to Green Decade. They are members of the Green Decade Advisory Board.

David was chair of the Sustainable Newton Committee, Co-chair of Newton Renewable Resources Committee, Vice Chair of the Newton Solid Waste Commission, and member of the Newton High-Performance Building Coalition.

His articles and ideas have appeared in numerous publications and he has written a definitive reference book on ecological sanitation and gray water use. He has advised on projects for Ford Motor Company, Greenpeace International, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Interior, the Republics of Fiji and Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, public agencies, institutions, municipalities, private companies and individual property owners. We express our gratitude to them for Elva and David's very generous contributions.

# Annual Green Decade special environmental awards



Photographer Ken Mallory

Upon retirement as energy officer in Newton's Department of Public Buildings, we honor **David Tannozzini** for his service with the **Earth Saver Award**. David already received our environmental leadership award in 2004. This new award recognizes, in particular, the eagerness and pleasure he brought to mastering new knowledge about the environmental challenges we confront.

Those willing to learn can readily see just how critical your profession is and will be in the years to come. Civilization truly depends on finding a new human contract with our use of energy and of this planet's biosphere.

David have been attentive to energy and climate science, and he has actively pursued opportunities for this city to reduce its energy use, and to lead by example.

As adviser to Newton's leaders and activists he has been good humored and patient, realistic but never cynical, and consistently respectful and kind. We thank him for his substantial contribution.

## Thanks for donations:

*(for contributions received in Mar/Apr.)*

**DONORS:** Cabot School Parent Teachers Organization, Carolyn Fine & Jeremiah E. Friedman, Peter & Cheryl Lloyd, Kathryn Maffei, Temple Shalom of Newton, Ward School Parent Teachers Organization, Hugh Wilkinson, The Women of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

**FRIENDS:** Dianne Dumanoski & Carlo Obligato, Marcia Gittes, Kay & Nasser Khan, Matthew Pawa, Jay Walter

**In Memory of Steve Barry:** Sev & Louise Bruyn, Susan Korn & Eliot Bolan, Brooke & Paul Lipsitt



Photographer Ken Mallory

We honor **Maeve Ward** with the **Sentinel Lion Award** for her courage, conscience, caring and commitment to protecting the treasures of our community.

Like Rachel Carson, Maeve Ward knows that our health depends on the quality of our environment. In words and deeds, Maeve is an educator and an advocate dedicated to the health and long-term well-being of people of all ages, and all wildlife in Newton and in our global community.

We thank Maeve for her long-time service on the Green Decade/Newton board and for serving since 1994 as Co-Chair of GreenCAP, our Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides. In addition to her work researching, writing and attending meetings on subjects from horticulture to the Precautionary Principle, she has spent hours at the Green Decade's Farmer's Market table providing inspiration on gardening and landscaping.

Her house and yard are a model of ecological sustainable practices. Maeve was the inspiration and a co-producer with Diana Cartier of two award-winning videos, "Newton Goes Green: Say No to Pesticides" and "Naturally Great Gardens and Landscapes: A Guide to Organic Gardening and Landscaping."



Photographer Ken Mallory

For seven years, **Margaret Ford** served as Green Decade's Program & Outreach Coordinator. In this role, she managed the coordination and community outreach of all Green Decade committees, programs and events. Because of her steadfast commitment, Green Decade ran smoothly and grew. Margaret always volunteered many hours and recently she transitioned from a paid role to a strictly volunteer role. We honor and acknowledge Margaret for her dedicated commitment to stay involved with Green Decade and for taking a large volunteer leadership role for several of our most important programs.

Margaret is serving as Event Committee co-chair, Farmers' Market coordinator, and coordinator of Students for A Greener World – a youth group that Margaret founded. Under Margaret's guidance, the student group has met monthly for several years and planned many activities, annual projects for NewtonSERVES and much more! For five years Margaret coordinated our student art contest and now she does this job as a volunteer.

During the summer and fall seasons at Farmers' Market, Margaret physically sets up and takes down the Green Decade booth twice a week, complete with a carload of equipment, tent and more. With her lively sense of humor, Margaret draws crowds of children to ride our "Magic Energy Bike" and to join her popular Caterpillar Club.



**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.

## Utility rebate offers

Green Decade/Newton has recently announced its initiative to help Newton's residential sector become a model of energy efficiency and conservation through initiatives, such as EcoTeams and Energy Upgrades available through the Mass Save program.

Newton EcoTeams has chosen to partner with energy efficiency leader Next Step Living to provide no-cost energy assessments and to help residents access the generous utility rebates. The goal is to help Newton residents reduce carbon emissions as much as possible while simultaneously saving individuals money on their utility bills.

Next Step Living will conduct a comprehensive home energy assessment for all eligible households at no cost. The program is designed for renters and owners in 1-4 unit buildings.

The assessment is of your home's energy consumption, it takes into account lighting, thermostats, major appliances, air sealing and insulation needs. The no-cost assessment also includes free compact fluorescent light bulbs in high use areas, low-flow shower heads, programmable thermostats, and a detailed report with instant rebates for those with air-sealing and insulation opportunities.

The outreach for the program has just begun, if you want to find out how you can help save money and cut Newton's carbon emissions sign up to join an EcoTeam. Please call Jay Walter at 617-527-8383 or email him at [entasis@rcn.com](mailto:entasis@rcn.com)

To schedule your no-cost energy assessment, call Next Step Living at 866-867-8729. Be sure to tell them you heard through the Newton EcoTeam program so Green Decade will get credit for our grant from NSTAR! *by Lyndsay Schandel*



## Go Green Giveaway!

The Public Works Department invites you to visit their Green Habits Exhibit currently on display at the Farmer's Market on Tuesdays at Cold Springs Park on Beacon Street for the month of July.

Learn about better ways to care for your vehicle; where to take used motor oil; why it's important to avoid fertilizing your lawn before it rains – or better yet, use natural fertilizers like compost; and in general how to Green-up Newton! Find out if you are a "stormwater star" by taking a short self-test!

Everyone who completes the self test will be entered into a drawing to win some great raffle prizes including: a Rain Barrel donated by the New England Rain Barrel Company, a car wash donated by Dr. Detail Car Wash, organic fertilizer donated by Swartz True Value Hardware and more.

*by Maria P. Rose, CFM, Environmental Engineer, City of Newton - Dept of Public Works*



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## Summer internships and other volunteer opportunities

High school and college students are welcome to apply for Green Decade's volunteer summer internships.

Opportunities include helping at our office, computer graphics, and special projects. Also staffing our environmental resource booth (with fun activities for kids) in 2-3 hours shifts at Farmer's Market on Tuesdays, 1:30-6 pm in Cold Spring Park on Beacon St. and/or on Fridays from 1:30-6 at Post 440, California St. in Nonantum. To find out more please contact Margaret at [mford@greendecade.org](mailto:mford@greendecade.org)



**Please renew  
now for 2011!**

*Join online at:*  
[www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org)

Green Decade is proud of its 21 year history and our organization's efforts to help residences, businesses and public facilities become more sustainable. If you have not already done so, please join or renew now for 2011 at [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org). You may also join by sending a \$25 payment for a basic membership to Green Decade/Newton, P.O. Box 590242, Newton, MA 02459