

Conservation matters

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IN THIS ISSUE

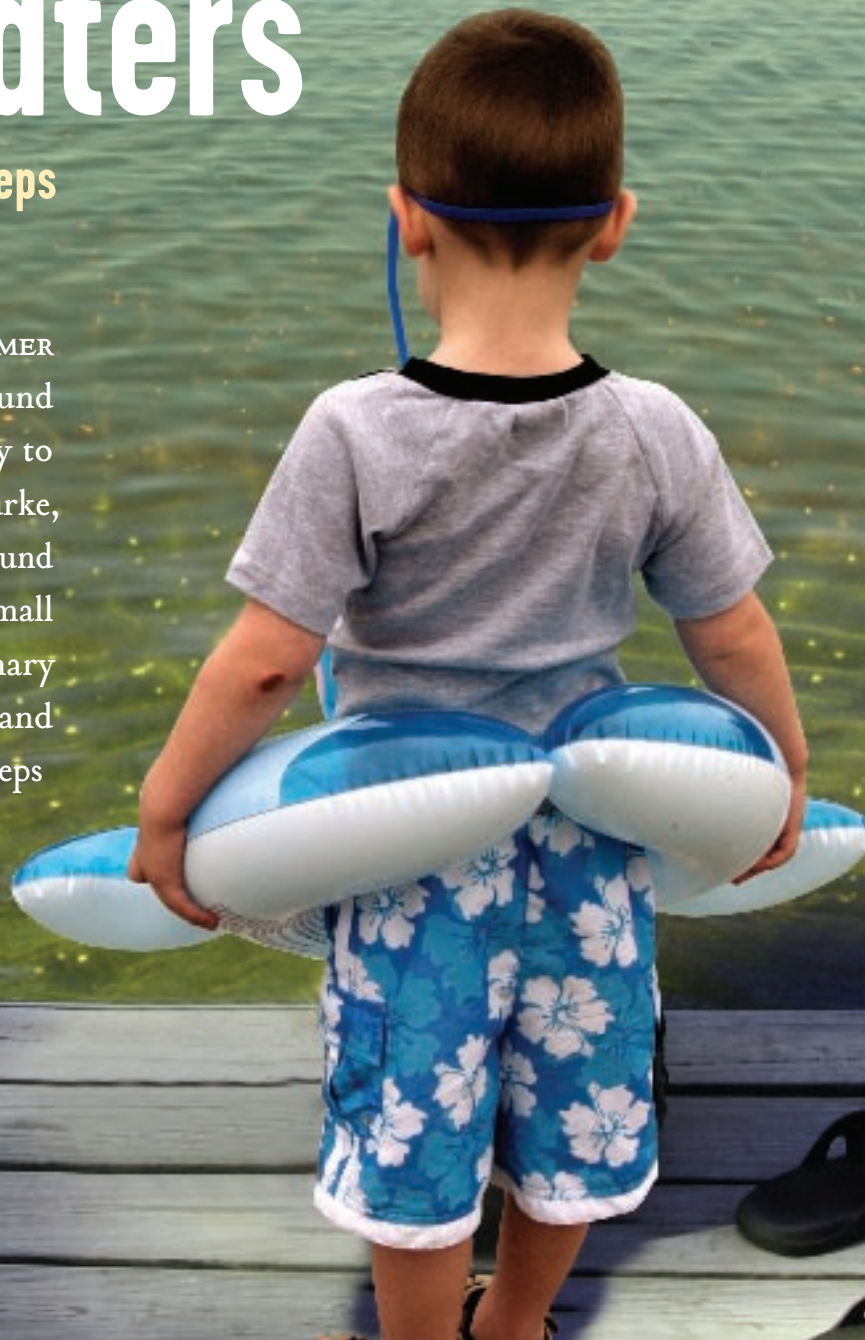
2 FROM THE PRESIDENT
5 INTERVIEW WITH ADAM LEE

4 CLF ADVOCATES SOCIETY
6 AROUND THE STATES

Troubled Waters

CLF's Lake Champlain Lakekeeper Keeps a Close Watch On a Persistent Threat

VISIT LAKE CHAMPLAIN AT THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER and among the many pleasure boaters to be found navigating its scenic waterways, you're likely to discover a presence familiar to the lake. Tim Burke, CLF's Lake Champlain Lakekeeper, can often be found monitoring the waters in the *Lakekeeper* boat, a small outboard dedicated to patrolling this extraordinary natural resource. A veteran environmentalist and member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, Burke keeps a careful watch on pollution threats, takes policymakers and the press on fact finding tours, and helps find innovative solutions to make sure the lake remains a vibrant natural resource and recreational attraction.



Troubled Waters *continued from the cover*

Lake Champlain is one of North America's most historic and cherished water bodies. It provides drinking water to 200,000 people, is home to nearly 600 species of fish, birds and other animals, and is a recreational haven to several hundred thousand tourists who come to swim, boat, fish, camp and vacation on its shores.

On a clear July afternoon, it's hard to believe that every summer water quality problems force beaches to close and trigger water advisories in many portions of the lake. Virulent toxic blue-green algae blooms – thick, pea soup-looking growths that permeate northern regions of the lake – have become routine occurrences during summer months. These toxic blooms are dangerous to humans and have caused the deaths of several pet dogs that have ingested the tainted lake

water. Invasive weeds, including Eurasian milfoil and water chestnuts, and bacterial contamination from polluted stormwater add to the water woes. Individually and collectively these water quality problems render whole regions unfit for swimming and other recreational activities, creating profound problems for the local tourism industry while diminishing the quality of life for year-round residents.

Dennis Hill, a resident of St. Albans Bay and board member of the St. Albans Bay Watershed Association, says exorbitant amounts of money are being spent each year in weed removal and on problems associated with blue-green algae outbreaks. "Right now, there's a full-blown algae bloom right in the bay," says Hill. "It's horrible, we can't swim, can't fish, I can't even let my dog near the water. We have this beautiful body of water right in front of us, and it's unusable."

The algae and weeds are fed by phosphorus pollution from sewage treatment plants, polluted farm runoff, polluted stormwater runoff from rampant development, and runoff from thousands of miles of roads and highways in the lake's watershed.

From the vantage point of the *Lakekeeper* boat, Burke can investigate these pollution culprits. Approaching Burlington, an open storm drain belches a stream of water from a near-

by parking lot. Nearby, Englesby Brook carries polluted stormwater runoff into the near-permanently closed Blanchard Beach. The Burlington Main Sewage Plant outfall releases treated sewage directly into Burlington Bay – just a few miles from the city's drinking water intake pipe.

Irresponsible farming practices play a significant role in degrading the lake's water quality, resulting in tons of phosphorus-laden soil and manure flowing directly into the lake and into tributaries like the Missisquoi and Winooski Rivers, and Otter Creek. Even though the number of farms in Vermont is declining, state policies are encouraging farms to increase in size beyond the traditional Vermont-scale farm, creating more manure per acre and the need



Tim Burke patrols the waters near the City of Burlington in the *Lakekeeper* boat.

for more intensive row-crop farming that causes erosion. Despite pressure from CLF and EPA, Vermont regulators have stubbornly refused to implement the federal Clean Water Act's farm-pollution provisions, relying instead on weaker, largely unenforced state programs.

Agricultural and development-related pollution contains high levels of phosphorus – approximately 800 tons of the nutrient flow into Lake Champlain each year. Elevated quantities create a rich breeding ground for the growth of foul-

smelling, toxic algae and weed infestations. Since there is no way to remove phosphorus once it reaches the lake, the only way to stop blue-

green algae from growing is to reduce the load of phosphorous.

Cleaning up Lake Champlain is a top priority of CLF's Clean Water and Healthy Forests Program agenda. A resident of the Lake Champlain basin for over 25 years and CLF's Lakekeeper since 2005, Tim Burke has experienced a long history of attempts to curb the flow of pollution into the lake. Over the last four decades, polluting industries have been thwarted and citizen watchdog groups have been organized. Lakekeeper Burke and CLF Staff Attorney Anthony Iarrapino have helped CLF win some important victories for the lake, such as ensuring that polluted stormwater runoff is cleaned up in the face of increasing growth and development in

Dear friends of CLF,

THIS PAST JULY, I TRAVELED WITH MY WIFE

and two teenaged daughters to Lake Champlain. Renting bikes in downtown Burlington, we headed north along a short section of the 363-mile Champlain Bikeway. The wooded trail, with its occasional vistas out onto the lake and surrounding mountains, was spectacular.

It would be wonderful if those beautiful vistas were matched by the lake's ecology, but that's far from the case. Given recent rains, my family sadly yielded to warnings against swimming at any of the beaches along the bike trail. Pollution has crippled sections of the lake, with blue-green algae blooms posing a health hazard to people and their pets.

CLF's Lakekeeper team is working hard to rein in Lake Champlain's phosphorous loadings, the primary cause of algae blooms and excessive weed growth. Cracking down on municipal sewage plants, stormwater runoff and farm pollution, Lakekeeper Tim Burke and Vermont Staff Attorney Anthony Iarrapino are getting public agencies, private developers and farmers to curb their polluting ways.

Cleaning up Lake Champlain is part of CLF's regionwide effort to protect New England's waters. From Boston Harbor to the Charles and Blackstone Rivers, from New Hampshire's Great Bay to Maine's Androscoggin River, we are dedicated to restoring the biological health and vitality of our region's water resources.

Thank you for helping us protect these New England treasures!

Phil Waring



CLF Staff Photo

the lake's tributaries. But persistent phosphorous pollution has remained relatively unchecked – and has become even worse in some areas. The summer of 2004 saw the most toxic recorded concentration of blue-green algae; and in 2006, the lake sustained one of the longest bouts of the bloom.

“Unless the state takes aggressive and enforceable measures on reducing phosphorus,” says Burke, “we will continue to see the lake deteriorate.”

Five years ago, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), or pollution budget, was adopted under the federal Clean Water Act to identify the phosphorous pollution reductions necessary to clean up the lake. CLF challenged these proposed reductions as being too lax for water conditions to improve. CLF's Clean Water and Healthy Forests Program Director Christopher Kilian noted, “We've long known that the existing TMDL cleanup plan was designed to fail.” Earlier this year, at a legislative hearing held by

the Vermont Senate's Natural Resources and Energy Committee, experts testified that the phosphorus pollution reductions called for in the TMDL are not adequate to restore the lake's water quality.

The Vermont Legislature took an encouraging step this spring, passing a CLF-backed bill, signed by Gov. Douglas, intended to revamp the lake's clean-up plan. The new law requires an audit of the Clean and Clear Initiative – a loosely defined Douglas administration effort to justify current clean up activities. CLF has raised repeated concerns that the initiative consists largely of political spin rather than a serious effort to correct the lake's woes.

The new law requires state officials to re-open and strengthen the TMDL phosphorus budget to assure that reductions are sufficient to restore water quality. The law also requires that investment of taxpayer dollars will be targeted in “critical source areas” or areas where the pollution problems are the worst.

Lastly, the existing TMDL budget for Lake Champlain actually allows sewage plants to increase phosphorus pollution into the lake from 25 tons to 55 tons per year. In the debate over the new law, CLF successfully advocated for a cap on sewage treatment plant discharges at 2006 levels in order to assure that cleanup progress continues.

Burke sees passage of the new law as a positive step in halting blue-green algae blooms, restoring the lake's ecosystem, and reinvigorating the area as a recreational haven. “The provisions in the new law will hold the Clean and Clear program accountable and target the most persistent pollution problems threatening one of the region's

greatest natural treasures,” he says.

CLF has criticized the State of Vermont's under-enforcement of environmental protections. The state has failed to enforce critical Clean Water Act programs to curb farm pollution, control polluted stormwater runoff, and stop sewage spills. The lack of effective law enforcement sends a message that polluters can gain an economic advantage by violating the law and that the state is not serious about regulatory programs needed to protect the lake. To correct the lack of enforcement, CLF has initiated a series of legal cases to protect the lake and has asked for the federal Environmental Protection Agency to take action to enforce the Clean Water Act in Vermont.

Blue-green algae problems are not isolated to Lake Champlain. Watersheds across New England are continuously threatened by blue-green algae from agricultural and industrial pollution. This summer, advisories were posted in 11 areas in New Hampshire, forcing beach closures at popular vacation spots like Lake Winnepesaukee and Sunset Lake. In Massachusetts, the Charles River is under constant threat of the blooms. CLF advocates will continue working to make sure that the problems occurring in Lake Champlain do not become a regional epidemic.

As Tim Burke completes another summer of work on the lake, he is gratified by the Vermont Legislature's recognition that Lake Champlain is in crisis. He is hopeful that stronger protections will help restore the lake's fisheries and create a healthy, thriving recreational haven for all of the lake's communities. “Thankfully, the Legislature has called for a plan that will restore the lake and allow smart growth in our communities without growing pollution,” he says. But it will take time to reverse the damage. Tim will continue his careful watch over the lake for summers to come; and when you're next visiting Lake Champlain, keep a lookout for Tim and CLF's *Lakekeeper* boat.

Caitlin Inglehart is CLF's Web and Publications Manager



Open storm drains dump excess loads of phosphorous pollution into the lake, creating rich breeding grounds for toxic blue-green algae blooms.

CLF Staff Photo

Take Action!

Visit cleanuplakechamplain.org to find out how you can help protect Lake Champlain!

CLF Advocates SOCIETY

*Ten Years of Engaging, Encouraging and Recognizing
our Most Generous Annual Fund Supporters*

When CLF launched the Advocates Society in the fall of 1997, 14 members, led by the late Richard S. Emmet, joined together to bring energy, imagination and strong volunteer leadership to guide the creation of a new CLF giving society. It was hoped that this special group of donors who had chosen to support CLF with a gift of \$1,000 or more would grow and strengthen into a larger community of givers. By reaching out to other donors, these sponsors guided the program's development and inspired others to join.

Today, the number of Advocates Society donors has grown to nearly 300 members who annually raise over one million dollars for CLF. These invaluable contributions have played a substantial role in helping CLF win legal victories for clean water, healthy forests, ocean conservation, sustainable energy and our overall shared vision of vibrant communities supported by a thriving, healthy environment.

Rhode Island Advisory Board member Peggy Sharpe is one of CLF's greatest Advocates Society champions. Peggy and her husband Hank were on hand for the formation of the giving society and served as sponsors in bringing it to life. Peggy says the annual gatherings of Advocates Society members play an integral part in supporting a community of givers, noting "it's not just an event or a party, but a real in-depth briefing about CLF's work, with interchange on the issues." For Peggy, the Advocates Society represents "leaders in the community who support CLF" and she is proud to be counted among them.

As we look to the year ahead, CLF is pleased to showcase the Advocates Society in new and exciting ways. In addition to special recognition events, Advocates Society members will also enjoy insider e-mail updates and access to current press clippings and semi-annual reports on our emerging advocacy campaigns.

With their gift of \$1,000 or more, Advocates Society members provide the resources necessary for us to pursue our top priorities and to act quickly in defense of New England's environment. In return, we hope to make this special group of friends feel closer to the mission of CLF, and more responsible for the future of our advocacy.

Abbie Daniel is CLF's Individual Giving Manager. Visit www.clf.org/donate to learn more about joining the Advocates Society, or contact Abbie at adaniel@clf.org.

CONVERSATION MATTERS

An Interview With Adam Lee

Adam Lee is president of Lee Auto malls in Maine, a business of 11 auto dealerships his family has owned for three generations. Last spring, Lee surprised many in the auto industry when he testified at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hearing, urging officials to grant California's application to implement regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles. CLF's Web and Publications Manager, Caitlin Inglehart, recently spoke with Adam to learn more about his message:



As you have noted before, this is very much a two-part issue affecting your business – one of global warming and one of cost. Which do you think consumers have been or are more influenced by? Has this changed over the years?

It's an affordability issue that's at the forefront of everyone's mind. While most people want a fuel-efficient car, they don't want to give up their carrying capacity. I think now, more than ever, *everyone* is aware of fuel efficiency. The difference now is that not only do most people recognize the issue of global warming, they see it as a drastic problem. I think most people want to have more fuel-efficient cars; it just comes back to the affordability and accessibility of them.

What kinds of responses have you received from others in the auto industry? What kinds of responses from consumers?

I've received very little from people in the business. I think most dealers think I'm nuts and dismiss it. I've received tons of e-mails and calls from people who are supportive. The one that meant the most to me was from a GM worker. In it he says: "It is high time someone...spoke up about the auto company's stubbornness in implementing higher fuel economy standards and being more concerned about protecting the environment.... Nothing is ever said about new technologies being created and new jobs springing forth from these newly created technologies. Bravo, Mr. Lee!" Here's a guy who works at building GM cars and he's worried about his job, and he's supporting what I have to say.

Given the amount of time it takes to design and develop new car models, and given how much foot-dragging the auto industry is doing to halt any substantial progress on the issue, is it likely domestic manufacturers will ever catch up to foreign manufacturers on fuel efficiency?

I don't think the Detroit 3 will EVER catch up to Toyota. Are they likely to gain ground? I think so. They're good manufacturers, and they're better than they were. But they just haven't been forced to apply themselves the way European or Japanese automakers have. I think it's a mistake to say they aren't capable of making these kinds of cars; they just need to be forced.



Given the industry's history of trying to block implementation of what we now consider to be essential safety features, like seatbelts and airbags, do you think it's going to be harder for the auto industry to make the same arguments regarding proposals to raise the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards, and the States' efforts to limit vehicle greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes. Definitely. They have limited credibility. The reality is that people – legislators, consumers – aren't buying it. We haven't had significant improvements in fuel economy in 20 years because they've done a really good job at arguing. The reason that headway is being made is that people aren't buying. The Alliance—the auto lobbyists—are saying that it will put them out of business. But the way I see it is that they don't need any *help* going out of business. They lost 12 billion dollars last year. It's hard for me to believe this will change when they're already hanging by a thread. There was a time when GM alone controlled the vast majority of the U.S. industry. Forty years ago, fifty percent of cars sold in the U.S were by GM. Today the Detroit 3 has barely 50 percent of sales *combined*.

Are we getting to the point where car makers need to build in a greater degree of consumer input?

In some senses, yes, the auto industry needs to look to the consumers for input – Toyota in particular is very good at that. Do we need to always look to them – no. I think it's time for the manufacturers to look forward and see what's good for the country. There was a time when the country operated on the slogan "What's good for GM is good for the country." I believe, in running my dealership, in making sales based on doing what's right. I believe if the manufacturers did the same thing, we'd be seeing a fleet of environmentally friendly, safe, affordable cars and trucks. For example, Toyota did this – Toyota sacrificed its profit margins on the Prius, and took into account what it thought the consumer wanted, and now it has a lucrative market. The same thing needs to happen with our domestic manufacturers.

What changes in the industry, if any, have you seen in the last couple of months since your testimony?

I've seen some positive changes since I testified, none of them related to my testimony. In that time the House and the Senate have spent a lot of time wrangling over a few versions of a new CAFE standard. The Senate passed it, and now the House has decided to put it off for a while. I don't think my op-ed had any dramatic influence on this – I want to make that clear. I just think this issue has a lot of traction with people like [CLF attorney] Steve Hinchman and others at CLF who have been essential to helping move this along. At the same time, I've seen and heard more ads from the Detroit 3 that are attempting to scare the public into believing that this is a safety issue -- that taking away the "soccer mom van" will put families at risk and the notion that smaller, more efficient cars will be less safe on the road. So they've definitely not stopped the tired and inaccurate scare tactics.

Do you drive a fuel efficient car?

Yes, a Lexus RX 400 Hybrid. The best part is, it fits two dogs in the back, and averages 30 miles-per-gallon!

Around the States

CLF Mourns the Loss of Richard Emmet

ON JULY 27, RICHARD EMMET, A COMMITTED environmentalist and one of CLF's true stalwarts, passed away after a long illness.



"Dick was an extraordinary human being – kind, soft-spoken, but utterly determined in his dedication to protecting New England's environment," said CLF President Phil Warburg. Dick joined CLF in the 1980s as an attorney after a career in private law practice, teaching and school administration. Long-time CLF attorney Steve Burrington called him "the dean of public trust law in Massachusetts" and the embodiment of CLF's motto, "Defending the Law of the Land." During his many years as a CLF attorney, Dick worked tirelessly to ensure public access to, and enjoyment of, our shared natural environment – our coastline as well as our inland open spaces.

Six years after joining CLF's Board of Directors in 1993, Dick became a member of CLF's Board of Trustees when it was established as a smaller executive governing body for the organization. His commitment to New England's environment extended beyond CLF, to his service on the board of the Mass Audubon Council, Maine Audubon, and the Environmental League of Massachusetts. He was also an active member of a local land trust in his hometown of Westford, MA.

Dick remained a deeply loyal supporter of CLF and its mission for well over two decades. He will long be remembered for his passion for protecting New England's natural resources along with his seasoned experience and wisdom.

Massachusetts

Chelsea Peak Energy Plant Thwarted

THIS MAY A STATE RULING DELIVERED A close-to-final blow to the proposed oil-fueled power plant in Chelsea. After intense opposition from CLF and its allies, Massachusetts' top environmental regulator deemed the project "unlikely" to win state approval. The proposed 250 MW plant was planned for the banks of Chelsea Creek next to an elementary school, an area already overburdened with air pollution.

However, concerns still linger for Chelsea residents. Environmentalists explain that even without the plant, the area suffers from high levels of air pollution from diesel-fueled vehicles and airplane traffic from Logan Airport. An EPA study cited during the power plant debate found that diesel exhaust in Chelsea is five times higher than the U.S. average.

CLF has partnered with the Chelsea Collaborative and Alternatives for Community and Environment to tackle Chelsea's pollution problems. This summer, the Chelsea Collaborative honored CLF Staff Attorney Eloise Lawrence with a Special Recognition Award for her legal assistance on the Chelsea power plant case.

Rhode Island

CLF Seeks Ethics Investigation of Coastal Agency

CLF HAS CALLED FOR THE RHODE ISLAND Ethics Commission to investigate members of the state's Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), based on a record of decisions that raises "serious questions about the integrity and impartiality of the coastal council."

CLF's filing in June was prompted by a history and practice at the Council of unsupportable decisions in favor of development requests that were approved over the objections of CRMC's professional staff and were unsupported by science or CRMC's own policies. Nearly all of the

objectionable applications cited in CLF's filing with the Ethics Commission were linked to former Speaker of the House Joseph DeAngelis.

CLF requests that the Ethics Commission conduct an investigation, based on the evidence contained in CLF's submission, which contains "powerful evidence of a lack of impartiality in decision making."

New Hampshire

PUC Moves to Boost Energy Efficiency

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES Commission (PUC) has begun to explore how electric utility ratemaking can be used to eliminate disincentives on the part of electric utilities to invest in programs that reduce energy use by consumers, and to encourage increased investment in energy efficiency. CLF has intervened in the PUC proceeding in the effort to work with the PUC and other stakeholders to create a regulatory structure that encourages effective energy efficiency measures that provide the greatest benefit to the environment and consumers.

"Energy efficiency is the most cost effective, readily available way to reduce the state's electricity demand and mitigate the impacts of global warming," said Melissa Hoffer, director of CLF's New Hampshire Advocacy Center.

Traditionally, a utility's revenues are tied directly to, or coupled with, the amount of electricity it sells to consumers. This traditional ratemaking structure discourages utilities from investing in energy efficiency measures that reduce electricity demand and global warming pollution from power plants. By allowing utilities to build energy conservation into their rate base, CLF is seeking to "decouple" utility rates from the volume of electricity sold, and to thereby reduce demand for the generation of new power. Electricity generation is the second largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in New Hampshire.

Maine

CLF Denounces Proposed Wiscasset Power Plant

CLF IS CHALLENGING A PROPOSED 700 MW coal gasification power plant and 5,000 to 9,000 barrel per day coal-to-diesel refinery in Wiscasset, arguing that the Twin River Energy Center has dramatically understated the carbon footprint of the proposed plant.

Developers have erroneously portrayed the new coal technologies as “ultra clean”, a claim that CLF Staff Attorney Steve Hinchman debunked last August.

“From a global warming perspective, this plant would be a giant step backward,” said Hinchman. “Making diesel fuel from coal produces twice as much carbon dioxide pollution as petro-diesel. And on the electric power side, Twin River’s carbon emissions would be roughly equal to a conventional coal plant.”

Hinchman adds that Maine is already on a better track towards solving its CO₂ pollution problems through recent legislation to double investments in energy efficiency, increase construction of wind and other zero-emission renewable power, and to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Vermont

Circ Highway Environmental Impact Statement Draft Released

A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT Statement for a portion of the Circumferential Highway around Burlington was published this August. The document summarizes how construction of the highway will affect the surrounding environment, and gives other alternatives that reduce traffic without more roadbuilding.

CLF has been a staunch opponent of the ill-conceived construction plan. In 2003, a CLF lawsuit halted construction of the Circ on the grounds that the government violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to analyze adequately the project’s environmental impacts or consider alternatives. CLF has also argued that the proposed highway will eventually spur more development and traffic and increase pollution in nearby Lake Champlain.

“I’m hopeful that the preferred alternative will recognize opportunities other than building the Circ, which remains a very expensive option to meet traffic and congestion concerns,” said CLF Staff Attorney Sandra Levine in an interview with Vermont Public Radio.

A final decision on the plan is expected next year.

CLF Ventures Welcomes Managing Director



CLF Ventures welcomes an outstanding new addition to our consulting team: **Jo Anne Shatkin, PhD.** As Managing Director, Jo Anne will provide strategic and scientific expertise on projects and manage the day to day operations of CLF

Ventures. Dr. Shatkin is a recognized expert in strategic environmental initiatives, human health risk assessment, technical communications and environmental aspects of nanotechnology.

Dr. Shatkin has 19 years of experience in research and application of quantitative human health risk assessment for site redevelopment and remediation; drinking water and air quality, and environmental evaluations of emerging contaminants. Her specialty is the application and communication of innovative science-informed analysis to address complex emerging issues affecting businesses and communities.

She received her Ph.D. in Environmental Science and Policy and her MA in Risk Management and Technology Assessment from Clark University and possesses a BA from Worcester Polytechnic University in Biology and Biotechnology. Her areas of expertise include health and environmental aspects of solid waste sites, brownfields, water quality, metals, bioavailability of soil contaminants, and health-based standards for reuse of contaminated sites.

Jo Anne comes to Ventures after serving as Principal of the Cadmus Group, Inc. In addition to being a research fellow of the George Perkins Marsh Institute at Clark University, Dr. Shatkin has been an active member of the Society for Risk Analysis since 1989, and recently founded the Emerging Nanoscale Materials Specialty Group of the Society for Risk Analysis.

A native New Englander, Jo Anne is an avid bicyclist, photographer and music enthusiast. She is thrilled about joining the Ventures team to implement projects that have demonstrable environmental gain and economic advantage.



Throughout New England, CLF is pressing for climate-friendly alternatives to fossil-fired power plants.

Christian Noval

Stellwagen Bank: still a sanctuary in name only

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MASSACHUSETTS BAY JUST 30 miles east of Boston lies Stellwagen Bank, one of the most productive and diverse marine areas in the North Atlantic. More than 70 species of fish, 30 species of seabirds, and an astonishing variety of marine mammals including harbor seals, dolphins, and humpback, fin, minke, sei and northern right whales inhabit this unique realm. In 1992, in order to protect Stellwagen's fragile ecosystem, Congress designated it a National Marine Sanctuary.

Since then, little has actually been done to protect the ecological balance of this special place; in fact, pressures on marine life in Stellwagen have gotten worse. The area's proximity to the New England coast makes it the target of overuse, including whalewatching, commercial and recreational fishing, and shipping. According to the 2007 Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary Condition Report, marine life is considered to be in only fair or poor condition. Likewise, years of commercial fishing nets dragged over the sea floor have deteriorated the habitat conditions for marine life. Clearly, rather than safeguarding the area from overuse, its "protectors" have allowed Stellwagen to become a commercial and industrial thoroughfare.

"If it's going to be a sanctuary, it needs adequate protections," said CLF's Senior Scientist John Crawford in a recent *Boston Globe* article highlighting the sanctuary's problems. Damage from decades of industrial fishing,



Bret Atkins

he says, has created "large-scale habitat destruction," resulting in, among other degradations, Atlantic cod populations that are a fraction of what scientists consider to be a healthy level. CLF is working to implement comprehensive management plans which would limit extractive and other harmful activities in Stellwagen Bank. Recent efforts by the Sanctuary show some promise for improving conditions on Stellwagen; for example, shipping lanes to Boston were rerouted to reduce the probability of interference with whales.

But there is still much work to be done to protect this national treasure. Federal managers of Stellwagen Sanctuary are expected to release a new sanctuary management plan for public comment this fall. CLF advocates will be working hard in the coming months to ensure that the new management plan is strong and effective and that Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary lives up to its name.

Join CLF Today!

CLF RELIES ON YOUR SUPPORT to protect New England's natural resources and communities. Give your region a healthier future by becoming a member of CLF.

CLF members understand that threats to the environment are complex, requiring sophisticated, innovative solutions. Join the growing number of people whose support makes a critical difference in preserving New England's environment.

As a member of CLF, you will receive *Conservation Matters*, our quarterly journal that explores the region's most pressing environmental issues; CLF's twice-monthly e-mail newsletter that keeps you up to date with CLF's latest news; and invitations to special member events. You also have the opportunity to join CLF's active and engaged online community by participating in Action Alerts and other vital online campaigns.

To join CLF, please use the enclosed envelope or visit us on the Web at www.clf.org/donate. Thank you!

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c o n s e r v a t i o n m a t t e r s

CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION WORKS TO SOLVE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THAT THREATEN NEW ENGLAND. CLF'S ADVOCATES USE LAW, ECONOMICS AND SCIENCE TO CREATE INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES TO CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES, PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND PROMOTE VITAL COMMUNITIES IN OUR REGION. FOUNDED IN 1966, CLF IS A NONPROFIT, MEMBER-SUPPORTED ORGANIZATION.



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