

Green Reads Is Back!

After taking a break for the summer, QEN's Green Reads bookclub is back in session!

Our first book for the fall will be "Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder" by Richard Louv. This book delves into the fairly recent growing **disconnect between children and nature**. It won the 2008 Audubon Medal and was hailed as "an absolute must-read" by the Boston Globe. It's sure to be a lively and exciting discussion night, so please join us on Tuesday, October 20th at 7:00pm at the Thomas Crane Public Library's Quincy Center branch, in the 3rd floor Quincy Room. Copies are on reserve at the circulation desk at the library.

November's Green Reads book will be "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change" by Elizabeth Kolbert which we'll discuss on Tuesday, November 17th.

Green Reads Book List Recap

- Silent Spring by Rachel Carson
- A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson
- Animal, Vegetable, Miracle by Barbara Kingsolver
- Not Just a Pretty Face: The Ugly Side of the Beauty Industry by Stacy Malkan
- Garbage Land by Elizabeth Royte
- Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv
- Field Notes from a Catastrophe by Elizabeth Kolbert

Green Halloween Tips

Use reusable cloth or canvas bags or pillowcases for trick-or-treating, instead of plastic bags or plastic pumpkins.

Instead of buying packaged costumes, make your own from old clothes and other items already around the house.

Give out eco-friendly treats, such as organic lollipops or chocolate that use as little packaging as necessary.

Trick-or-treat around your house instead of driving to other neighborhoods to reduce fuel consumption and air pollution.

Toss post-Halloween jack-o-lanterns into your compost bin, along with fallen leaves and food scraps.

Take an extra bag when trick-or-treating to pick up trash & wrappers around your neighborhood.

Head of the Environmental Class

Part 3: QHS's New QUE₂ST

Quincy High School's newest student organization, Quincy Energy and Environment Solutions Team (QUE₂ST), is focusing on **energy and environmental efforts**. QUE₂ST is a community-based student leadership program.

The Team's first objective is to **revamp the schools recycling effort** and make every student and faculty member a stakeholder in the high school's environment. QUE₂ST student leaders will experience energy and environmental learning through the school curriculum, and will tap the valuable educational resources available in Quincy and around the community. These learning experiences will foster key leadership skills and **advance the students ability to voice informed questions and provide reasoned answers** to the critical issues facing Quincy, the Commonwealth, and the Nation.

QUE₂ST will partner with Coastsweep in a shoreline cleanup this fall, and will fuse their efforts with the national energy/environment education program, **The Great American Energy Debate (TGAED)**, out of Reston, Virginia. Allied with TGAED, Quincy students will be hosting an energy/environment education workshop for regional middle and high schools in the spring.

Also, working within the QPS system, QUE₂ST will build a growing cadre of knowledgeable students through **peer-to-peer teaching**. The QUE₂ST leadership team will motivate fellow students to gain greater understanding of the energy and environmental issues we face today, and to bring to the "great American energy debate" the reasoned decisions necessary to forestall a dimmed tomorrow.

Intro to Green Building

We've all heard the term "green building," but what exactly does it mean? What makes a building green? What issues are addressed by building green? Do green buildings look different from regular buildings? Is it more expensive to build green? What does LEED mean? Find out the answers to these and other questions on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 pm as the QEN's Climate Action subcommittee hosts an introductory **presentation on green building** by Patricia Burke, Quincy resident and Green Building Consultant at The Green Roundtable (www.greenroundtable.org).

The presentation will be held in Adams Lecture Hall inside Quincy's newest green building - QHS's Science and Technology Wing. Easiest access to this venue is from Russell Park. This program, co-sponsored by Quincy 2000, is free and open to the public.



QEN

Quincy Environmental Network

NETWORK NEWS

Official newsletter of the Quincy Environmental Network

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Feedback From Our Candidates

In our ongoing effort to keep our local elected officials accountable, we are again hosting our **Candidates' Nights on the Environment**. As in years past, we have two of them this year. The first took place on Tuesday, October 6th and featured the candidates for Ward Councilor. Our second event will take place on Wednesday, October 14th and will feature our three candidates for Councilor-At-Large and the two candidates for Mayor.

Both of these events are filmed and will run on Quincy Access TV leading up to the election. We'll post dates and times of the airing on our website and our email list-serve. We also asked each of the candidates to answer a **written questionnaire** and we are working to get their responses posted to our website too.

These Candidates' Nights have become an integral part of our organization. We believe they are **critically important to the future of the environmental effort**. There are many layered reasons as to why these events are so important. The most obvious is that they give voters who are concerned about the environment a chance to see where the candidates stand on the issues. Also, when the candidates see a roomful of people supporting the environment, they take notice.

But the benefits of these nights are more than just this. The question and answer period allows QEN members to ask questions on a variety of issues falling under the envelope of the "environment." It allows the candidates to take the temperature of QEN members and **see what issues are important** to them by the types of questions that are asked.

On an even deeper level, each candidate gets to hear the other candidates' answers. This gives a multitude of perspectives on issues we feel are important. During the course of hearing these varied opinions, we hope that the candidates themselves educate each other and thereby **expand their understanding of the issues**.

Finally, and possibly the most important point, is how **everyone in the room gets educated by the discussion**. We vary the order that each question gets answered so that everyone has a chance to answer a question first and last. It usually works out that the first person to answer the question states the most obvious answer. Then the subsequent two or three candidates say "I agree with her/him but there's more to think about too, such as...". And by the last couple of candidates they are really diving deeply into a subject. It's really quite interesting to see unfold. I found it very exciting that these issues that are important have been so well thought out.

So, we ask you to **please come out on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm in the new Adams Hall**. See the new "green building" that is our new Quincy High School. Be part of the dialog to rate our candidates and learn a bit yourself.

**** Please take a moment to read the enclosed letter asking for your support ****

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Steve Perdios and Maura O'Gara (spokespersons), Peter Fifield, Courtney Perdios, Cherie Dewar, Marina Kelly, Jean Mackey, and Maureen Mazrimas

To learn more about the topics in this newsletter, visit our website: www.QENet.org

JOIN OUR LIST-SERVE!

A great way to keep up with local environmental news and events.

Easy to sign up... just send a blank email to: QEN-subscribe@topica.com

MISSION STATEMENT:

The QEN strives to coordinate and encourage the efforts of those who are concerned about, or have a responsibility to the environment, in order to advocate for its protection and restoration.

The QEN is a public volunteer organization that encourages open participation by all.

Get Involved Calendar

Wed. 10/14, 7 ~ 9:30 pm:

QEN's Environmental Candidates' Night
Candidates for Councilor-at-Large and Mayor.
Quincy HS, Adams Hall (enter via Russell Park)

Fri. 10/16, 11:30 ~ 5:30 (weekly thru 11/20):

Quincy Farmers' Market
John Hancock parking lot, across from courthouse.

Tues. 10/20, 7 pm:

QEN Green Reads Bookclub
Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv.
Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy Ctr branch.

Wed. 10/28, 7 pm (also 11/25):

QEN Climate Action Subcommittee Meeting
Open to all. City Hall 2nd floor conf room.

Sat. 10/31, 10:30 am (raindate 11/1, 2 pm):

Environmental Treasures Program - Gravestone Art
Hancock Cemetery next to City Hall, 617-472-0799

Mon. 11/9, 6:45 ~ 8 pm (Mondays, thru 12/14):

Kripalu Yoga with certified instructor Christine Way-Cotter
\$12 drop in/\$60 session. Bring mat, pillow, blanket.
New location: Union Cong. Church, 136 Rawson Rd.
Call 617-472-7550 for more info.

Tues. 11/17, 7 pm:

QEN Green Reads Bookclub
Field Notes from a Catastrophe by Elizabeth Kolbert
Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy Ctr branch.

Tues. 12/8, 7 ~ 8:30pm:

QEN Presents Introduction to Green Building
Quincy HS, Adams Hall (enter via Russell Park)

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We Asked, They Answered

Earlier this month, we sent out a questionnaire to each of the local candidates running for elected office. Below are the questions we asked the Mayoral candidates. To read their full replies, **please come to our next Candidates' Night on the Environment - Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00pm in the new Adams Hall in Quincy High School** - where Mayor Koch and Former Mayor Phelan will be present to discuss their positions on a range of environmental topics. Although running unopposed, the three candidates for Councilor-at-Large - Councilor Finn, Councilor Keenan, and Councilor McFarland - will also be appearing to share their environmental views as well. Following that event, we will be posting all the candidates' replies on our website (www.QENet.org).

QEN ASKED:

1. What do you see as the **three most pressing environmental issues** facing the city of Quincy and what are you/would you do to improve these conditions?
2. Would you support the installation of a **wind turbine** somewhere in the city of Quincy, with construction to begin within the next twelve months?
3. How will you ensure that past **hazardous waste contamination** is being monitored?
4. What incentives does Quincy currently offer to support the creation of "**green collar jobs**" (jobs that reduce waste and pollution and benefit the environment)? What additional incentives would be appropriate or effective to promote growth of environmental employment opportunities in Quincy?
5. Do you support the Governor's statewide goal of reducing **greenhouse gas emissions** by 10-25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050? If so, how will you act in your role as an elected official to support this?
6. What will you do to promote **environmental awareness** in the city?
7. We have found that many schools and city offices are inconsistent from one building to the next with regards to **recycling**. Some classrooms and offices have bins to recycle while others do not. The effort is not consistent or mandatory. Program Manager, John Sullivan, has been working diligently on this, but more needs to be done to promote recycling in all of our city schools, offices, public buildings, etc. What steps would you take to promote greater participation and compliance to recycle in all city buildings?
8. Would you introduce/support building ordinances that would provide standards for **sustainable/eco-friendly building standards** (i.e., LEED certification) within Quincy within the first year of your term? Would you introduce/support sustainable/eco-friendly building standards with regard to the new downtown redevelopment project?

Upgrading the CPA...

The great effort put forth by the QEN to preserve open space in Quincy by championing the Community Preservation Act (CPA) is now three years behind us, and memory of this monumental undertaking has almost faded. Since then, its success is unquestionable with **over 18 acres of land protected**, many historic sites renovated, and affordable housing created.

Now a bill is winding its way through the state house to expand the CPA, and the potential benefit to Quincy is greater than for any other community in Massachusetts. **The bill, SB90, calls for adding funds to the state's CPA trust fund.** It is from this fund that all CPA communities receive their match. Two years ago Quincy received a 100% match to the \$1.1M raised locally. In each of the following two years that match has dropped to 65% and 29% respectively. It's expected to remain at about 30% from here on out.

The money for the state trust fund comes from a \$20 fee attached to every mortgage filed at the registry of deeds. In the early years of the CPA there were few communities that had adopted the CPA and the housing market was going through the roof. This caused the trust to have a surplus of money. Over the years, as more communities adopted the CPA and the housing market "cooled", the funds in the trust depleted. It is expected that fewer new communities will adopt the CPA and the housing market will come back, giving the CPA communities an anticipated 30% match each year.

However, SB90 changes the equation. It **ups the match to a guaranteed 75%** from the state every year. It increases the funds in the trust by **increasing the fees charged at the registry of deeds.** Instead of the fees being fixed, they will be recalculated each year to assure that enough funding is present in the trust to dole out a 75% match to each community.

As if getting this fixed match each year wasn't great enough, there is another added benefit. SB90 will also adjust the CPA law so that (provided a community has adopted the CPA with at least a 1% property tax surcharge) any other funds that a community puts towards the same goals of the CPA (open space, historic restoration, and the creation of affordable housing) can be credited for the state matching funds. For Quincy, we are earmarking over \$500,000 per year from our Hotel/Motel tax towards open space preservation and park improvements. If SB90 passes the legislature and gets signed by the governor, **Quincy would get an additional 75% match on that \$500,000.**

Lastly, SB90 changes the requirements for spending money on recreational facilities. Currently, capital improvements can only be made to recreational facilities that were purchased or created using CPA funds or the capital improvement must be a substantial expansion of the facility, bringing more users to it. Under SB90 those restrictions are removed and **CPA funds can go towards any capital improvement to an existing recreational facility.**

Please join the QEN in urging our state delegation to **support this great amendment to the CPA.**

... And the Bottle Bill

The Bottle Bill is the state's **most successful recycling and litter prevention program.** Since the Bottle Bill's inception in 1983, over 30 billion containers have been redeemed - which constitutes a whopping 80% of all containers purchased in Massachusetts. This has contributed to a healthier environment, cleaner and safer communities, and a stronger economy. But to keep up with the times and consumer tastes, the Bottle Bill must be updated.

The currently proposed updated Bottle Bill (H3515) would **expand our container deposit system to include "new age" drinks** such as non-carbonated beverages, water, iced tea, juice, and sports drinks. It would add approximately \$20 million to state revenue via projected unclaimed deposits, decrease litter, and increase recycling. An estimated 20 billion of these "new age" beverages are consumed annually in the US, and this number is only expected to increase. As consumers purchase more of these beverages, an increasing number of containers are finding their way to landfills - an estimated 69,000 tons nationwide.

This week, members of the **QEN's Executive Committee met with Senator Morrissey**, who is the chairman of the committee considering the bill, to discuss the issue. He has not yet taken a definite stance and is waiting to receive input from all constituents - whether they support the bill or not. Representative Bruce Ayers is also on the committee.

We feel this is a positive expansion to an already very successful program. Please join the QEN in urging our state delegation to also **support the updated Bottle Bill, H3515.**