

With Power for All: Energy & Social Change in Massachusetts
2009 Mass History Conference

Co-sponsored by
Mass Humanities, The University of Massachusetts Amherst Program in Public History,
and the Massachusetts Historical Society

Monday, June 8, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Hogan Campus Center, College of the Holy Cross
Worcester, MA

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 – 4:00 **Massachusetts Common**
A place to exchange ideas and conversation; to showcase your organization, projects, and products.
- 9:30 – 9:40 Welcome
- 9:40 – 10:00 **Bay State Legacy Award**
Henry Hicks
Henry Hicks has served the history field for over a half century, connecting classrooms and resources throughout Massachusetts through his many professional activities. He was a history teacher and Director of Social Studies in the Needham Public Schools for well over 30 years. He has been a leader in the New England History Teachers Association and the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies. After retiring, Henry became even more active in museum work, as President and Curator of the Needham Historical Society, President and longtime Board member of the Bay State Historical League, and on other boards ranging from Old Sturbridge Village to the Battleship Massachusetts and the State Archives Advisory Committee.
- 10:00 – 10:45 **Keynote Address**
Cathy Stanton, Tufts University
Driven to the Past: History in a Changing Climate
Cathy Stanton is a cultural anthropologist. She received her PhD from the Interdisciplinary Doctorate Program at Tufts University and studies heritage tourism, museums, and historians at work. She has recently embarked on an ethnographic study of the cross-fertilization between oil, automobility and the heritage field. She has also written about historical reenactment and about postindustrial culture-led redevelopment, most notably in her 2006 book *The Lowell Experiment: Public History in a Postindustrial City* (University of Massachusetts Press) which won the 2007 National Council on Public History Book Award. She currently teaches in the Anthropology Department at Tufts and at Union Institute & University.

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:15 Concurrent Sessions A

- 1) **Green Museums: We are Here ☺...Why We Need to Be Way Over There →!**
Historic sites and history museums have come a long way in the green revolution, even with a late start. We've discovered the inherent "greenness" of our sites and begun interpreting that more obviously. Some are riding the wave of the economic downturn as an opportunity to teach sustainable practice. But if sites and museums are going to sustain ourselves, we need to ramp up the green work on many levels. We're past Green 101; it's time to innovate, learn, and lead simply to help save ourselves.
Sarah Brophy, bMuse: Sustainable Museums
- 2) **Wind and Light as Energy Sources – Then and Now**
Lisa Dady, Director of Education and Public Programs, Newport Restoration Foundation
- 3) **Tide Mills in Massachusetts**

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch (vegetarian option available)

1:00 – 4:00 **Workshop: The Public Humanities Toolbox: Engaging Communities Online**

Registration limited to 20 participants

The **Public Humanities Toolbox** presents a set of tools for small cultural heritage organizations to use in order to build an engaging web presence and online community. We discuss blogs, Flickr and photo sharing, Google Maps, sharing audio, video, and documents, wikis, Facebook and social networking, and more! The tools we present are free or inexpensive, require little technical expertise, and are highly customizable. We also share examples of scholars and institutions--large and small--using these tools.

Albert Lees, Brown University

Leah Nahmias, Brown University

Jennifer O'Neill, Director, Westport Historical Society

1:00 – 2:15 Concurrent Sessions B

- 1) **Learning from the Past: Living a Sustainable Life with Renewable Energy**
Learn how your organization can draw upon lessons from the past to present today's visitors with options for a sustainable lifestyle. Hancock Shaker Village's Education director will present a case study of HSV's new mission, vision, interpretive themes, and programming, which

emphasize historic to modern discussions & demonstrations of renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, historic preservation, and social justice topics.

Todd Burdick, Director of Education, Hancock Shaker Village

2) **Rivers and Rails**

Craig Della Penna, Coordinator, Mass Central Rail Trail

Kenneth Williamson, South Hadley Canal Commission

3) **Reuse, Recycle => Reduce: Putting the Past to Work**

Dennis Rice, Executive Director, Alternatives Unlimited, Inc.

John Grossman, Manager, ReStore

2:15 – 2:30 Break / Refreshments

2:30 – 3:45 Concurrent Sessions c

1) **Exhibiting Energy: Creating Energy-Related Exhibits**

Join us for a roll up your sleeves brainstorming session creating energy-related exhibits with the help of your inventories. Send or bring a list of what is in your attic, your historic house, your barn, your beautifully inventoried climate-controlled storage facility. Go home with an idea to bring to your Board. Learn how the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum developed their exhibit of people-powered machines that were commonly used in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Pleun Bouricius, Program Officer, Mass Humanities

George Shelton, Director, Attleboro Area Industrial Museum

2) **From Dams to Destruction to Renewal: Teaching About Water Power and Social Change**

The power of flowing water has been tapped for centuries but is now being rediscovered as one of the world's most important sources of clean, renewable energy. Find out how the Tsongas Industrial History Center engages both students and teachers in exploring water power as an essential resource and as a source of social change—from its role in New England's 19th-century factory cities and the resulting social and economic consequences, to its exciting future, as new and innovative technologies capture even more of its potential.

Martha Barrett-Smith, Museum Teacher and Curriculum Designer,
Tsongas Industrial History Center

Sheila Kirschbaum, School Liaison/Professional Development
Coordinator, Tsongas Industrial History Center

3) **Current News: Reaction to New Power Systems**

Two revolutionary power generation systems were introduced into New England a century apart. Learn how residents reacted to these developments, and how their reactions shaped history, using case studies of the AC vs. DC electricity distribution systems in Great Barrington in 1886 and the Clamshell Alliance, a 1970s organization comprised of decentralized local groups that engaged in resisting nuclear power.

.. Bernard Drew, Great Barrington Historian

Sharon Tracy, Executive Director, Quabbin Mediation

3:45 – 4:00 Capstone Discussion

Martha Barrett-Smith a Museum Educator and Curriculum Designer at the Tsongas Industrial History Center since 1995, has participated in the development and teaching of numerous programs and activities at the Center, many of them related to water power, environmental science, and engineering design. She has also done many workshops for teachers, helping them to enhance their technical content knowledge. Her latest creation is “The River of Death!”, a program for middle school about the Lowell Typhoid Epidemic of 1890-1891.

Pleun Bouricius is the "Mass History" Program Officer at Mass Humanities, where she manages Mass Moments. She is also the Project Director of *Hidden Walls, Hidden Mills*, a project that develops history/ecology adventures in Plainfield, MA. Before that she was a carpenter; drove a Freightliner Classic around the country; managed the *Women, Enterprise, and Society* project at Baker Library at Harvard Business School; and taught history and literature at Harvard University. She holds a PhD in the History of American Civilization from Harvard University, where she taught American history and American literature.

Sarah Brophy is co-author, with Elizabeth Wylie, of *The Green Museum, a Primer on Environmental Practice*. Sarah is an independent professional who works with museums on greening them, raising grant money, and building their public currency. In her green work she is a LEED-AP: a LEED-accredited professional through the U.S. Green Building Council and co-treasurer of the American Association of Museums' new Professional Interest Committee: PIC Green. She teaches The Green Museum in the GW Museums Studies program. Her current research is on green collections care and on green materials for historic interpretation. After 19 years in Massachusetts, she and her family moved to the warmer weather of Easton, Maryland, 3 years ago.

Todd Burdick has a BA in History from Vassar College, and an MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany. He has worked at Hancock Shaker Village in the interpretation and education program since 1984, and as Director of Education since 1996. He has lectured and presented workshops on Shaker history and related topics, including historic site museum education, interpretation, and administration. He has appeared in numerous documentaries and other media productions on Shaker history and culture, including those produced for PBS, NPR, A&E, The History Channel, The Food Network, The Travel Channel, the Discovery Channel, and other broadcast, print, and electronic media.

Lisa Dady

Craig Della Penna is the author of three books on the historical aspects of rail trails and numerous op-ed pieces/guest editorials on the value of smart growth development, rail-trails and residential real estate. In their 10th anniversary issue, THE RIDE MAGAZINE named him as the most effective advocate for bike and rail-to-trail issues on the eastern seaboard. A former lobbyist for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy—and one of the most in-demand public speakers on this subject in the U.S., he has given almost 1,000 lectures on these subjects in 18 states and Canadian provinces.

Bernard Drew is a journalist, newspaper associate editor, reference book author (*The 100 Most Popular Thriller and Suspense Authors* is due out this summer) and local historian with more than 30 titles to his credit (*Gibson's Grove & Turner's Landing: Lake Buel's Century as a Summer Resort* is due out this summer). He is a longtime member of the Society for Industrial Archaeology and is a board member and past president of the Great Barrington Historical Society. He is also a past president of the Berkshire Historical Society. He is active with Friends of the W.E.B. Du Bois Homesite in Great Barrington.

John Grossman has been Manager at the ReStore Home Improvement Center in Springfield, MA for 4 years. The ReStore is a non-profit, used and surplus building materials store with an environmental mission to keep building materials out of the landfill.

Sheila Kirschbaum has worked for UMass Lowell's Graduate School of Education at the Tsongas Industrial History Center since 1992. She started as a museum teacher, moved into curriculum development, and is now School Liaison and Professional Development Coordinator. A former classroom teacher, Sheila now enjoys organizing activities and resources that help teachers and students discover the rich story of Lowell and the American Industrial Revolution.

Albert Lees

Leah Nahmias graduated from Indiana University with a B.A. in history, a certificate in Jewish Studies, and a minor in East Asian Languages and Cultures. After teaching high school US History for three years in Charlotte, North Carolina, she moved to Providence, Rhode Island in 2007 to enroll in Brown University's masters of public humanities program. While her interests have often diverged, the core of her academic study has been how to craft enriching educational programs and experiences that deliver humanities, especially history, scholarship and make it relevant for diverse audiences.

Jennifer O'Neill

Dennis Rice

George Shelton has been the director of the Attleboro Area Industrial Museum for five years. He taught Industrial Education in the Norwood school system for 35 years, and holds a bachelor and Masters degree in Industrial Education.

Sharon Tracy was a staffer for the New England-wide Clamshell Alliance, a 1970s organization comprised of de-centralized local groups. The Clamshell Alliance engaged in public education, put pressure on potential funders such as banks and our own Massachusetts Wholesale Electric Company, and organized large and small non-violent direct actions to resist nuclear power. The initial focus was opposition to the Seabrook, NH nuclear power plant. The Clamshell sparked national resistance to

nuclear power and the formation of similarly organized alliances around the US. To date, no new nuclear power plant has been built in the US.

Ken Williamson