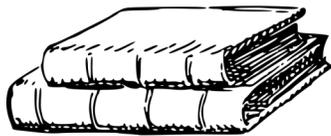


Meet an Environmental Activist

Elisa Campbell lives in Amherst, MA

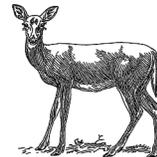


After earning her degree, Elisa worked at the UMass Amherst Office of Information Technology until her retirement. During these years, she

Elisa has always loved nature and participated in the first Earth Day in 1970. Shortly thereafter, she moved to Amherst to pursue a PhD in English and American Literature, but her research centered around the environment and she read stacks of books on subjects such as Darwinism and the American wilderness.

..... became a skilled **environmental writer**

and volunteered extensively for the Sierra Club.



In the mid-1980s, Elisa’s interests turned towards the Quabbin Reservoir. As she listened to the stakeholders in the area and visited its woods, she became familiar with the problem of deer over-browse: the woods had widespread defoliation and slow growth. Although her natural inclination was against hunting and forestry, Elisa realized that when done respectfully, both could benefit the woods. Elisa began to **bridge the communication gap** between other environmentalists and the forestry sector and has become a valuable advocate for sustainable forest management in Massachusetts.

Overpopulation and Development

The greatest threat to the woods is development. Once land is developed, it is rarely reforested. Human populations can reduce their impact by living in dense urban centers and preserving large tracts of uninterrupted land.

Climate Change and Energy Use

Using local resources such as sustainably sourced wood rather than fossil fuels combats climate change and connects us to where our energy comes from.

Forest Pests

Elisa’s twin sister, Faith, is an expert on invasive forest pests and has sparked Elisa’s concern for this issue and how our forests can increase their resiliency.

Recreation and Community...



Beech, Rocks, Snow at Rattlesnake Knob

Elisa serves on the Stewardship Council for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. She also monitors local roads to document turtle crossings and improve turtle safety. Elisa serves on committees for Mt. Holyoke Range State Park and the Quabbin Watershed.

Art

Elisa enjoys hiking and photography. She is also a talented watercolor painter and has had art shows regionally. She often paints en plein air and takes great care to be true to the species that she paints.



Black Birch Leaves In Fog

Politics

Elisa is active politically. She served as a Selectwoman and on the Planning Board for many years. She is currently working to make Amherst politics more representative. She is also on the board of her condo association and advocates for energy efficiency improvements.



Two Cedars

Learning

Elisa maintains her love of reading through frequent seminars. She can be found in coffeeshops throughout town with a good history book and an occasional novel.



Rao's Coffeeshop