



The Go-Back Club

Newspaper of the Simple-Living Brigade

These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without.

Issue No. 33: December 2017

Judge's Eloquent Decision Protects Environment (in 1962 anyhow)

By Iona

Alexander B. Brook's inspiring book, *The Hard Way*, published in 1993, is all about newspapers making a difference in communities where they are published. In the chapter called "A Rising Political Force," the salt marshes embracing parts of his hometown in Kennebunk, Maine were threatened by developers, who were encouraged by officials to fill them in to build taxable summer cottages.

Brook went to battle by showing up in person at meetings and writing convincing articles in his newspaper, the *Star*. Finally the citizens won in the Superior Court of York County's seat (Alfred) when Justice Cecil Siddall heard the Drakes Islanders' suit for a permanent injunction against the selectmen and the Town of Wells.

Here is the editorial Brook wrote:

Justice Siddall's decision does not specifically deal with conservation, but undrelying it must be a growing public awareness of its principles as they relate to the salt marshes, those immensely fertile spawning grounds for the species of life that preserve the fertility of our ocean bays. Behind the text is a clear vision for the grandeur of the marshes, and the growing need to preserve natural beauty in a nation seemingly hell-bent on cicatrizing [scarring] its own countenance.

More subtly, perhaps, the Siddall decision seems to recognize a change in the whole concept of private property, a change which must take place, whether we wish it or not, because the population of the Earth is rapidly filling and choking every inhabitable place on it. Inherent in the decision is a new awareness that private property must be viewed, not as man's individual kingdom to spoil or beautify, degrade or sanctify, according to his whim or desire for private gain, but as property held in the public trust. Man can no longer be permitted a dictatorship over his land. He holds it in fee simple to his town, his state, his country, and his countrymen. . . .



2017 PennLive file photo

Piers begin to take shape for the 4,500-foot-long bridge that will carry Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway traffic across the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

Susquehanna Thruway Rerouted

By John Beauge, PennLive

Email received from Faherty Law Firm 
November 14, 2017

Property owners threatened by the Susquehanna Thruway learned the status of their property on November 15, 2017 when the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) revealed the new route at a public meeting. Faherty Law Firm attorneys attended the meeting and were available to answer questions.

PennDOT has announced the new alignment it prefers for a two-mile section on the Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway (CSVT) in Snyder County.

PennDOT was forced to find a new path for part of the U.S. Routes 11/15 bypass of Shamokin Dam and Hummels Wharf after discovering the limited-access highway could not be built over two fly-ash basins.

It studied three alternatives and said it is recommending the route that passes east of the basins. It has the least impact on homes, farm land and noise levels, it says.

It will require taking seven additional residences, said Matt Beck, assistant plans

engineer.

Five other residences already are acquired and will not be needed, he said. Nothing will happen to those properties until the project is completed, he said.

The public had the opportunity on Wednesday to view the new route and discuss it with the design team at Selinsgrove Middle School.

Final design work on the Thruway's southern section between the northern end of the Selinsgrove bypass and the Winfield area has been delayed by the necessity of finding a new route to avoid the ash basins.

The next step will be for PennDOT to obtain environmental approvals, which could take much of 2018, Beck said.

Federal Highway Administration approval will be needed before design work in the area of the ash pits can begin in earnest, he said.

It is anticipated that the eastern alignment will take more traffic off local roads because the state Route 61 connector via the Veterans Memorial Bridge into Sun-

Thruway continued on page 9

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

A Simple-Living Brigade

Our Motto: *Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.*

Founder/Editor: Iona Conner

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What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are

part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to www.gobackclub.org to learn more.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (GBC board member, climate scientist, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), told us a couple of years ago referring to tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

*Please send me your stories and photos. I rely on our members' contributions. I'm not looking for ugly; I'm not looking for dark; I'm not looking for hatred. I'm looking for the opposites to help raise our readers' spirits. There is enough ugly and dark and hateful in the world. This newspaper provides an antidote—
BEAUTY, LIGHT, LOVE.
Thank you for sending me your material for consideration.*

Fair Use Law: <http://copyright.gov/fair-use/>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes: Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, "transformative" uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

(2) Nature of the copyrighted work: This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole: Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work: Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3).




Fair Use Logo

News Briefs Submitted by Our Members

Submitted by John Conner
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

Fuel Emissions Will Reach an All-Time High in 2017, Scientists Say— Dashing Hopes of Progress

By Chris Mooney, *excerpt* 
Washington Post: November 13, 2017

Global carbon dioxide emissions are projected to rise again in 2017, climate scientists reported Monday, a troubling development for the environment and a major disappointment for those who had hoped emissions of the climate-change-causing gas had at last peaked.

The emissions from fossil fuel burning and industrial uses are projected to rise by up to 2 percent in 2017, as well as to rise again in 2018, the scientists told a group of international officials gathered for a United Nations climate conference in Bonn, Germany.

Despite global economic growth, total emissions held level from 2014 to 2016 at about 36 billion tons per year, stoking hope among many climate-change advocates that emissions had reached an all-time high point and would subsequently begin to decline. But that was not to be, the new analysis suggests. . . .

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/11/13/fossil-fuel-emissions-projected-to-reach-an-all-time-high-in-2017-dashing-hopes-of-progress/>

Submitted by John Conner
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

“We Don’t Want to Repress” Police in Honduras Refuse Orders to Stamp Out Pro-Democracy Protests

By John Quelly, Staff Writer, *excerpt*
Common Dreams: December 5, 2017

“We are tired. And our job is to give peace and security to the Honduran people, not repress them. We want all Hondurans to be safe.”

Amid widening violence and ongoing protests, members of the Honduras National Police force—including those within the U.S.-trained units known as Cobras—say they are refusing to obey orders from the right-wing government of the incumbent president, Juan Orlando Hernandez, who has used the security forces to crack down on demonstrators. . . .



Photo: Photo: Michael Nigro/Pacific Press/LightRocket/Getty Images

The private security firm TigerSwan worked to build a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) lawsuit accusing Greenpeace, Earth First, and BankTrack of inciting protests to increase donations.

A Honduras police officer said on the local television network, UNE, that some officers will go on a hunger strike as they are tired of taking orders from corrupt politicians to go after innocent people, adding that they aren’t machines and are tired of seeing people’s blood spill. . . .

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor
Washington, DC

Dakota Access Pipeline Paid Mercenaries To Build Bogus RICO Suit Against Environmentalists

By Alleen Brown, Will Parrish, and Alice Speri 
The Intercept: November 15, 2017, *excerpt*

The private security firm TigerSwan, hired by Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) to protect the controversial Dakota Access pipeline, was paid to gather information for what would become a sprawling conspiracy lawsuit accusing environmentalist groups of inciting the anti-pipeline protests in an effort to increase donations, three former TigerSwan contractors told *The Intercept*.

For months, a conference room wall at TigerSwan’s Apex, North Carolina, headquarters was covered with a web-like map of funding nodes the firm believed it had uncovered—linking billionaire backers to nonprofit organizations to pipeline opponents protesting at Standing Rock. It was a “showpiece” for board members and ETP executives, according to a former TigerSwan contractor—part of a project that had little to do with the pipeline’s physical security.

In August, the law firm founded by Marc Kasowitz, Donald Trump’s personal attorney for more than a decade, filed a 187-page

racketeering complaint against Greenpeace, Earth First, and the divestment group BankTrack in the U.S. District Court of North Dakota, seeking \$300 million in damages on behalf of Energy Transfer Partners.

The NoDAPL movement, the suit claims, was driven by “a network of putative not-for-profits and rogue eco-terrorist groups who employ patterns of criminal activity and campaigns of misinformation to target legitimate companies and industries with fabricated environmental claims. . . .

It was as if the entire campaign came in a box. And of course it did,” the suit alleges. “Its objective was not to protect the environment or Native Americans but to produce as sensational and public a dispute as possible, and to use that publicity and emotion to drive fundraising.”

Among the nonprofit network’s alleged crimes: “perpetrating acts of terrorism under the U.S. Patriot Act, including destruction of an energy facility, destruction of a hazardous-liquid pipeline facility, arson and bombing of government property risking or causing injury or death” ...

The case was filed under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act, passed in 1970 to prosecute organized crime—primarily the mob. Greenpeace says it amounts to a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, or SLAPP, designed to curtail free speech through expensive, time-consuming litigation.

“It grossly distorts the law and facts at Standing Rock,” said Greenpeace general counsel Tom Wetterer. “We’ll win the lawsuit, but it’s not really what this is about for ETP. . . .

Go-Back Club Members in Action

A Get Wells Card to the City of Flint

Purity
Security
\$ CASH (\$90 Mil) Lower
Water Bills

**DRILL WELLS AND SELL WATER
SELL PREMIUM WATER FROM NEW WELLS:**

"FLINT PURE"

"FLINT FRESH ALKALINE WATER"

We jus' gotta' get it!

It's right under our feet! Flint
City Water
So Fresh, So Pure, So Sweet!



To: Mayor of the City of Flint,
Michigan The People and their
Governors

11/13/17

My own journey to this wonderful and dynamic city occurred last November, when I decided to move to Michigan to be near my daughter and her family in Ann Arbor.

A short visit to Flint soon fired my imagination, as I began to puzzle through the issues here. It is clear to me that there is a better way, for you, a local luminary and accomplished healer, and for the citizens of our fair City. Our problem here is that the calcium was inadvertently stripped from the pipes. Your problem is how to speed the recovery of the pipes, and guide the use of the funds allocated in large amounts.

Consider this as a solution: flood the delivery lines with calcium—not, for Heaven's sake, with phosphates—and prevent lime scale with the remarkable processes and inventions of Charlie Sanderson, made in Fort Wayne, Indiana, since 1964. My economic proposal is for Flint to work with myself and Dr. Ingrid Ritchie, to conduct a protocol and validation study, with a money-back guarantee of success, using my old friend's methods and tools for water treatment, in particular for the control of lime scale.

Tearing out the pipes does not heal the house systems. In fact, it will disturb the accumulated poisons, further contaminating the kitchens and bathrooms of our people. Using our methods, the pipes will heal themselves, because a thin coating of calcium will protect the water from the lead and copper erosion.

You won't spend 10 years and inconceivable amounts of cash. You can start right away, by meeting with me, and checking out superwaterconditioners.com. We will need to find a site for the validation study. I suggest a house or public facility which is known to be compromised. It could even be vacant.

I also propose that the City of Flint have the license to sell Superior® equipment to our ratepayers, as a source of revenue to the City of Flint, which will build cash reserves, and provide more money for city services and schools. I am in a position to provide an exclusive territory to the City of Flint, so that it can profit by the implementation of this technology in other Michigan cities and towns. There will be a start up period as the calcium works its magic, but results will be clear in 90 days.


If the equipment does not meet your expectations, after 90 days, the cost of the equipment will be refunded. I know, however, that Superior® water treatment will give you a powerful weapon in your battles.

Again, please know that I admire you and your work here, and hope to assist you in your difficult tasks, and you know, one thing about natural water from these glacial deposits far beneath the surface of the earth, is that it is rich in calcium, and potassium. Strong Teeth and Bones. This is what our synapses yearn for—CALCIUM!

PS: Cooling towers host Legionella other toxins, particularly with the chemical stew of "traditional" treatment with acids. Legionella loves turbidity. Superior® Equipment improves water clarity.

Warmly,
Bob Hendren
Attorney, Investigator, Veteran
U.S. and Foreign Patents
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317-755-7549

In Kids' Climate Lawsuit, Judges Question Government Effort to Get Case Dismissed

By Nicholas Kusnetz, excerpt
Inside Climate News via The Daily Climate 
December 12, 2017

The Trump administration's efforts to block a major climate change lawsuit that was brought on novel grounds by a group of young people appeared to suffer a setback at a hearing before a federal appeals court.

The lawsuit, *Juliana v. United States*, was filed in 2015 on behalf of 21 youths who are accusing the government of violating their constitutional rights by failing to address climate change and continuing to subsidize fossil fuels.

A federal district judge earlier this year set a trial date for February. But in July, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals paused the case after the Justice Department invoked an unusual legal maneuver to try to block the lawsuit.

Two of the three judges on the panel




Photo: Our Children's Trust

seemed dubious of the move. Michael Gerrard, director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, has been following the case and said the

judges' questions and comments suggested they would send the case back to the district court and allow it to proceed. "They said it's too early to be here," Gerrard said. . . .

French President's Climate Talent Search Nabs 18 Foreign Scientists

By Elisabeth Pain, excerpt 
ScienceMag.org via The Daily Climate
December 11, 2017

French President Emmanuel Macron's effort to lure disgruntled foreign climate scientists to France—especially from the United States—has produced its first harvest. France today announced that Macron's Make Our Planet Great Again initiative has recruited its first class of 18 scientists. Of the new recruits, 13, including a few French nationals, now work in the United States, whereas others are based in Canada, India, and elsewhere in Europe.

One recruit is Louis Derry, a U.S. citizen who studies Earth's critical zone—its life-supporting skin—at Cornell University. When he first heard about Macron's move to attract about 50 high-level foreign climate scientists for France, he thought it had to be another swipec at U.S. President Donald Trump by the satirical newspaper *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

But it was real. In June, just a few hours after Trump announced the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris climate accord, Macron cheekily invited disgruntled U.S. scientists to relocate to France. A week later, the French government unveiled a website that soon spelled out the details: It was offering 3- to 5-year grants, worth up to €1.5 million (approximately \$2 million) each. . . .

World Bank to End Financial Support for Oil and Gas Extraction

Bank announces in Paris it 'will no longer finance upstream oil and gas' after 2019 in response to threat posed by climate change.

By Larry Elliott, excerpt 
www.theguardian.com via The Daily Climate
December 12, 2017

The World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas extraction within the next two years in response to the growing threat posed by climate change.


In a statement that delighted campaigners opposed to fossil fuels, the Bank used a conference in Paris to announce that it "will no longer finance upstream oil and gas" after 2019.

The Bank ceased lending for coal-fired power stations in 2010 but has been under pressure from lobby groups also to halt the one-billion dollars a year it has been lending for oil and gas in developing countries.

The Bank said it saw the need to change the way it was operating in a "rapidly changing world," adding that it was on course to have 28% of its lending going to climate action by 2020. At present, 1-2% of the Bank's \$280 billion portfolio is accounted for by oil and gas projects. . . .

New, Major Evidence That Fracking Harms Human Health

A child born very close to a well is likely to be smaller and less healthy than a child born farther away.

By Robinson Meyer, excerpt 
The Atlantic via The Daily Climate
December 13, 2017

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, may pose a significant—but very local—harm to human health, a new study finds. Mothers who live very close to a fracking well are more likely to give birth to a less healthy child with a low birth weight—and low birth weight can lead to poorer health throughout a person's life.

The research, published Wednesday in *Science Advances*, is the largest study ever conducted on fracking's health effects.

"I think this is the most convincing evidence that fracking has a causal effect on local residents," said Janet Currie, an economist at Princeton University and one of the authors of the study.

The researchers took the birth records for every child born in Pennsylvania from 2004 to 2013—more than 1.1 million infants in total—and looked at the mother's proximity to a fracking site, using the state of Pennsylvania's public inventory of fracking-well locations. They used private state records that showed the mother's address, allowing them to pinpoint where every infant spent its nine months in utero. . . .

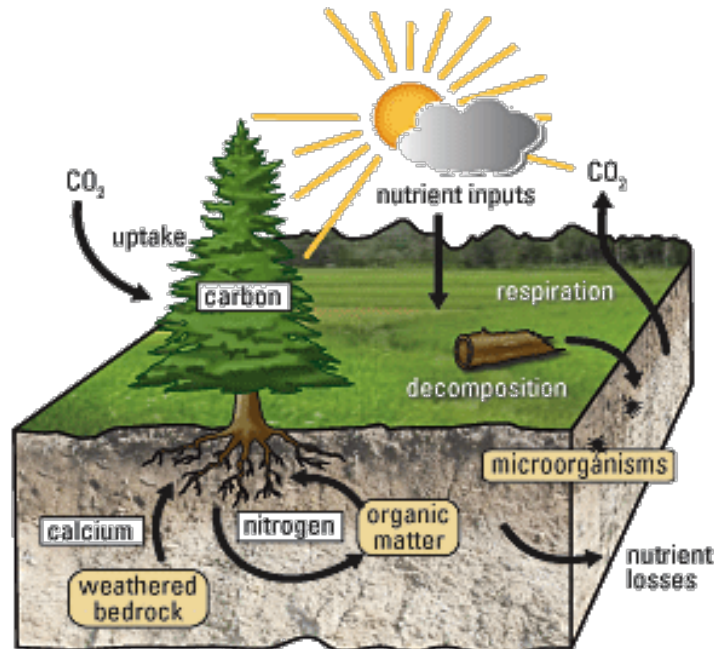
GBC's Milk Basket Partner in Nigeria Studies to Become a Science Teacher

By Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Nigeria
(The following was prepared as a Power Point and presented during a seminar in his Professional Diploma in Education class.)

Nutrient Cycling

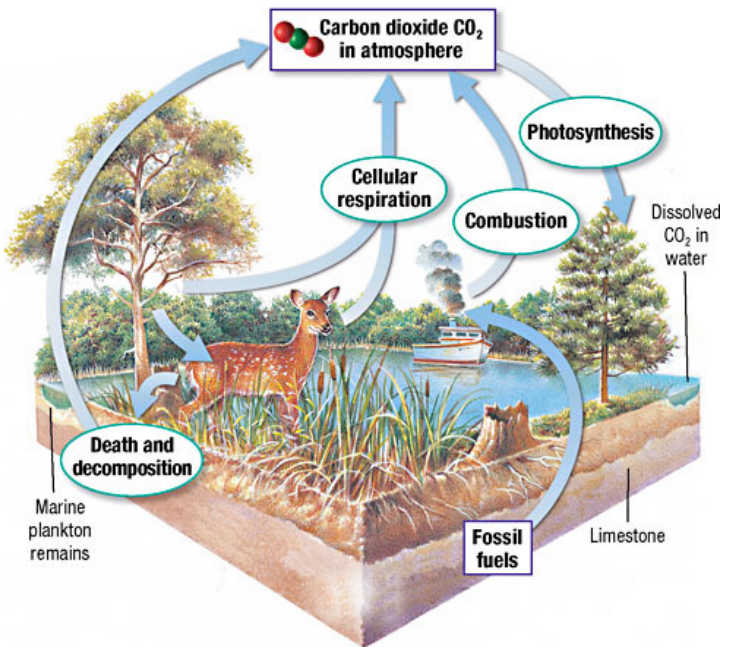
A nutrient cycle (or ecological recycling) is the movement and exchange of organic and inorganic matter back into the production of living matter. The process is regulated by food web pathways that decompose matter into mineral nutrients. Nutrient cycles occur within ecosystems. Ecosystems are interconnected systems where matter and energy flows and is exchanged as organisms feed, digest, and migrate about. Minerals and nutrients accumulate in varied densities and uneven configurations across the planet. Ecosystems recycle locally, converting mineral nutrients into the production of biomass, and on a larger scale they participate in a global system of inputs and outputs where matter is exchanged and transported through a larger system of biogeochemical cycles.

Water, carbon, oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorus are five of the most important substances for life and an ecosystem must be able to cycle these kinds of matter in order to support life.



Carbon Cycle

Carbon and oxygen cycles are critical for life on Earth, and their cycles are tied closely together. The carbon cycle is the continuous movement of carbon from the nonliving environment into living things and back.



The carbon dioxide-oxygen cycle is the process through which carbon dioxide and oxygen move through the natural environment by photosynthesis, respiration, combustion and decomposition. Plants and animals are important to the carbon dioxide-oxygen cycle.

Carbon dioxide moves from the air into the leaves of plants. Oxygen moves from the plant into the air through the leaves. Almost all living things, including plants, get energy from cellular respiration. This process releases energy from the sugar molecules in food.

Cycles continued on next page

State One of 14 Part of Lawsuit Over Smog Rules

By Don Thompson (AP), excerpt ©
Daily News, Huntingdon: December 8, 2017

SACRAMENTO, California—Fourteen states and the District of Columbia announced Thursday that they are suing the Trump administration over what they say is a failure to enforce smog standards.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not designated any areas of the country as having unhealthy air, missing an October 1st deadline, according to the lawsuit. Such areas must take steps to improve their air quality. . . .

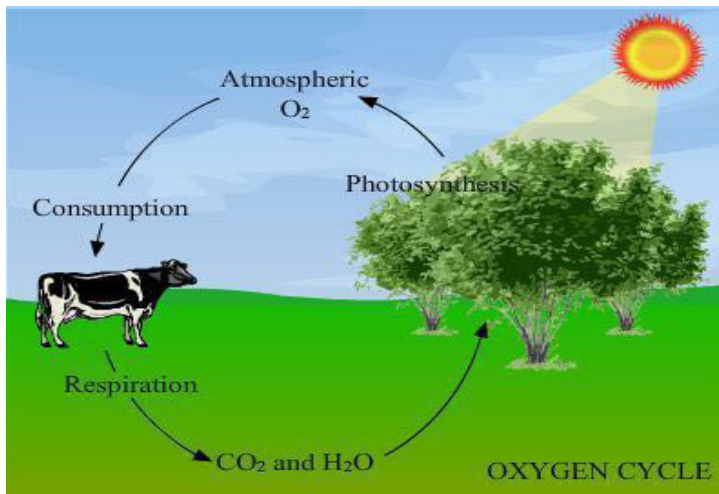
The 14 states are: California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland,

Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington State. Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency also joined the suit. . . .

The EPA tried in June to extend its deadline to October 1, 2018, but then withdrew the proposed extension in the face of lawsuits from states and advocacy groups.

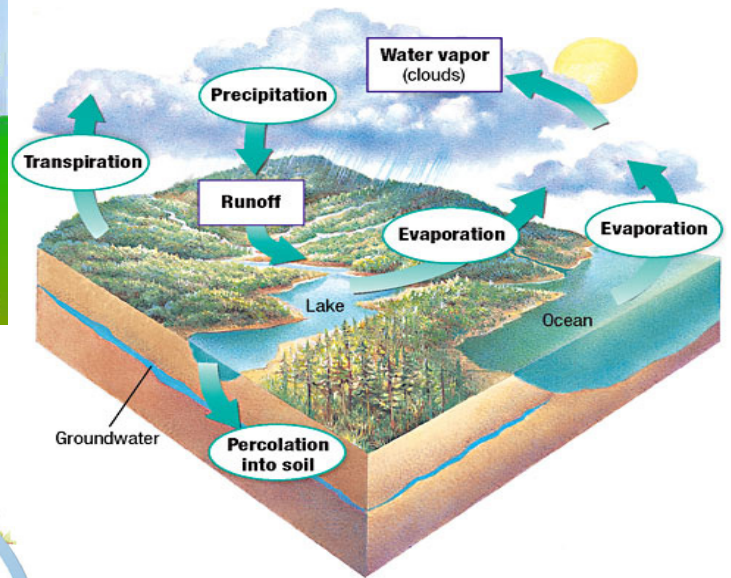
Cycles continued from previous page

Oxygen Cycle



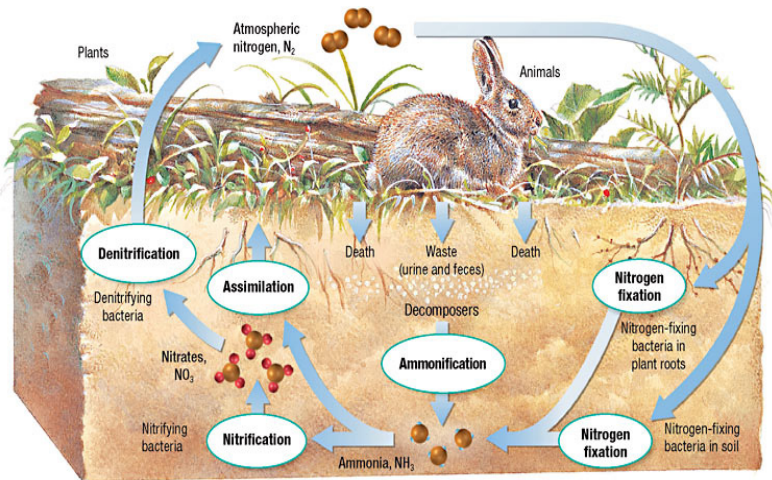
Water Cycle

The Water Cycle (also known as the hydrologic cycle) is the journey water takes as it circulates from the land to the sky and back again. The Sun's heat provides energy to evaporate water from the Earth's surface (oceans, lakes, etc.). Plants also lose water to the air (this is called transpiration).



Nitrogen Cycle

The nitrogen cycle is the process in which nitrogen circulates among air, soil, water and organisms in an ecosystem.



NOTE: Watch for Ekwe's next project in future issues of this newspaper, his thesis examining teachers' perceptions of the impact of oil exploration on the educational development in Oguta, Local Government Area of Imo State.


The main purpose of this study will be to investigate:

1. Teacher's perception of the impact of oil exploration on the development of education.
2. The level of assistance of oil and gas companies to the educational needs of host communities.
3. The input of multinational oil companies in developing education in Oguta L.G.A.

4. How oil companies can help educators keep abreast of technological advancements that support innovations and improvements in instructional design and delivery.

Ekwe's dream is that when this work is published, it will help change his country's policies so greater justice prevails.

Canada's Oil Capital Making Leap Toward Renewable Energy

By Kevin Orland, excerpt 
 Bloomberg.com
 via The Daily Climate: December 14, 2017

Alberta auctions 595 megawatts of wind-generation capacity
 Province seeks 30% of its energy from renewables by 2030

Clean energy is coming to Canada's oil patch. The government of Alberta—home to the world's third-largest oil reserves—on Wednesday auctioned off 595 megawatts of renewable energy capacity to be built in the province. That exceeded the government's target of 400 megawatts. The process marks a major step for Alberta—Canada's

largest consumer of coal and its second-largest producer of the fuel—in its efforts to transition to all renewable and gas-fired generation by 2030. Rather than a change in direction, Alberta's government billed the move toward renewables, part of its Climate Leadership Plan, as a continuation of the province's leading position in energy..

FERC Sued Over Alleged ‘Unconstitutional’ Granting of Pipeline Certificates

Faherty Law Firm: Public Use

Posted by Faherty Law Firm 
via NJ Spotlight
December 7, 2017

The Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution allows for the condemnation of private property “for public use.” State Constitutions and law similarly limit eminent domain power to only be authorized for a valid public use.

If FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) insists on approving pipelines without an adequate public purpose, the law could allow that without eminent domain power, the pipeline companies could then buy property rights from willing sellers. Such is the thrust of the law in the authorizations of hazardous-liquid pipelines, as contrasted with natural gas pipelines.

In another challenge to the expansion of natural-gas pipelines, a conservation group is accusing a federal agency of unlawfully allowing the taking of private land in a complaint filed in the U.S. District Court in Trenton.

The lawsuit filed against FERC by the New Jersey Conservation Foundation is the latest legal entanglement involving the 120-mile PennEast pipeline, a project spanning two states and crossing the Delaware River.

The \$1 billion project, facing strong opposition in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, has been troubled by numerous delays, including the refusal of property owners to allow PennEast Pipeline LLC access to land along the route.

The standoff has prevented the company from submitting all the information it needs to obtain crucial permits from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

To obtain access, the company is seeking to gain final approval for the project from FERC, a decision that would give it the power of eminent domain over those properties.

In the 20-page filing with the federal court, the complaint advances what its plaintiffs argue is a first-of-its-kind legal challenge, alleging the federal agency is unlawfully allowing companies to seize private property through eminent domain for pipeline construction.

The lawsuit, filed by the Eastern Environmental Law Clinic and Columbia Environmental Law Clinic, also argued that the



Photo: Susan Philips/*StateImpact* Pennsylvania

Part of the proposed PennEast pipeline could run through this stretch of land in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

agency failed to demonstrate the project is needed, a point repeatedly made by opponents of the pipeline.

“The Fifth Amendment says that private property can only be taken for public use, and FERC’s pipeline review process doesn’t pass that test,” said Tom Gilbert, campaign director of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation.

“For example, hundreds of homeowners, organizations, and local governments could have their land seized through eminent domain for the unneeded, proposed PennEast pipeline, and would be victims of unconstitutional action by the federal government,” Gilbert said.

The New Jersey Conservation Foundation owns 20,000 acres of undeveloped and preserved land in the state, according to the complaint.

PennEast claims the project will provide gas to a region where demand is outstripping supplies, resulting in cost savings to consumers and creation of thousands of jobs.

“Our aim is to motivate FERC to amend its policies so the agency ceases its unconstitutional practice of granting certificates for pipelines that are not in the public interest. This will end the unjust seizing of public and

private land,” said Susan J. Kraham, senior staff attorney at Columbia Environmental Law Clinic.

The complaint seeks to end FERC’s practice of allowing eminent domain authority to seize land that will not be for public use before a pipeline project has received its other required state and federal approvals that might never be issued.

That scenario could unfold in the next month if FERC decides to grant a certificate to the PennEast project, allowing the company to gain access to land on the proposed route.

This post, Public Use, appeared first on fahertylawfirm.com.

Source: <https://fahertylawfirm.com/public-use>

**Use it Up,
Wear it Out
Make it Do,
Or Do Without!**

- *Go-Back Club Motto* -

Half of U.S. Spending Power Behind Paris Climate Agreement

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor
Washington, DC

By Stephen Leahy
National Geographic: November 15, 2017 

A total of 20 U.S. states, 110 U.S. cities, and more than 1,400 businesses have pledged to cut their fossil-fuel emissions to ensure the U.S. meets its commitment under the Paris Climate Agreement—even if the Trump administration acts on its intention to pull the U.S. out.

“The group of American cities, states, and businesses who remain committed to the Paris Agreement represents a bigger economy than any nation outside the U.S. and China,” former mayor of New York City Michael Bloomberg said in Bonn, Germany, at this week’s UN climate negotiations (known as COP 23) ...

Climate science is quite clear that global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions have to be near zero by 2050 to keep the temperature rise below 2° C. And for industrialized countries like Europe, the U.S., and Canada, this means, **“There is no role for bringing additional fossil-fuel reserves, including gas, into production,”** concluded a new analysis by researchers at the Tyndall Centre for Cli-

mate Change Research in the U.K.

Meanwhile, in London, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released its latest World Energy Outlook on Tuesday. The energy agency agreed coal use will decline but forecast the U.S. will soon be the undisputed world leader in oil and gas production, with dramatic gains by the 2020s.

IEA energy forecasts are widely relied on by governments, industry, and the financial sector. However, the organization frequently underestimates the growth of renewable energy and over-estimates growth in fossil fuels, says Adam Scott of Oil Change International, a research and advocacy organization working to raise awareness of the downsides of fossil fuels ...

America’s “We Are Still In” coalition hasn’t forgotten about Paris and wants the world to know it. They opened an impossible-to-miss, 27,000-square-foot “U.S. Climate Action Pavilion” outside the main COP 23 venue in Bonn. This coalition of states, cities, universities, faith groups, and environmental activists is telling anyone who will listen that they are working to keep the Paris Agreement goals in play, including the official U.S. Paris target of a 26 to 28 percent reduction in CO₂ by 2025.

The America’s Pledge report released in

Bonn estimated that the “We Are Still In” coalition represents more than half the U.S. economy. If it were its own country, the coalition would therefore be the world’s third-largest economy ...

Oregon, California, and Minnesota are part of the bipartisan United States Climate Alliance, which is composed of 15 states and territories, representing 116 million Americans. All have committed to meet or beat the targets of the Paris Agreement. New York State has cut emissions from the power sector nearly 50 percent since 1990 and will stop using coal by 2020 ...

The Trump White House’s recent policies on climate change are not in the interests of the U.S. economy and “they will not last,” said Christiana Figueres, the former executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change. Figueres had a major role in the adoption of the Paris Climate Accord in 2015. In the history of the transition to a low-carbon economy, the Trump administration’s impacts are going to be a “blip,” Figueres said in a press conference in Bonn. “Let us keep our gaze on the big picture of the transition.”

Source: <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/11/were-still-in-paris-climate-agreement-coalition-bonn-cop23/>

Thruway continued from page 1

bury will be shorter, Beck said.

Construction is underway on the CSVT northern section, between the Winfield area and state Route 147 north of Montandon, Northumberland County. That section includes a nearly mile-long bridge over the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The northern section is scheduled for completion in 2021, but PennDOT has not said if it will open it then or wait until the southern section is finished.

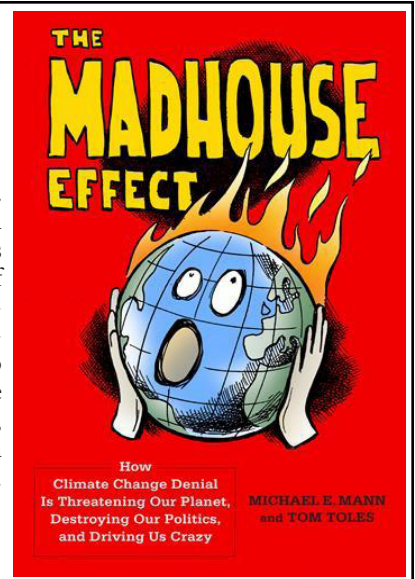
It is too early to know if the ash basin issue will push back the scheduled 2024 completion for the entire \$670 million, 12.4-mile Thruway, Beck said.

The post “Susquehanna Thruway Rerouted” appeared first on fahertylawfirm.com.

GBC Board Member Michael E. Mann Co-Authors New Climate Change Book

The award-winning climate scientist, Michael E. Mann, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist, Tom Toles, have been on the front lines of the fight against climate denialism for most of their careers. They have witnessed the manipulation of the media by business and political interests and the unconscionable play to partisanship on issues that affect the well-being of billions. The lessons they have learned have been invaluable, inspiring this brilliant, colorful escape hatch from the madhouse of the climate wars. See <http://www.michaelmann.net/books/madhouse-effect>.

(Columbia University Press)



Join The Go-Back Club Today
\$10 a year for this up-beat, beautiful newspaper
created to counteract traditional newspapers.

(See page 2 for address.)

Victory for Everyone Working to Stop Keystone

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Andy Rowell, Oil Change International 
November 21, 2017

Nebraska Public Service Commission Decision

When the historians write the last chapter of the history of the oil age, there will be a special place for the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline. And it will not be included as one of the last fossil fuel pipelines ever to be built. It will be included as the pipeline that never got built.

By the time TransCanada (the company that has for years been trying to build it) finally overcomes all legal and regulatory hurdles, and permits it needs to gain approval, the market will have moved away from oil, especially heavy, dirty tar sands oil. The pipeline will be obsolete (indeed it already is by many accounts).

The fight over KXL, as it is known, has become one of the most significant battles over oil and climate in the U.S. in recent years. The battle was summed up by *The New York Times* yesterday in an article before the decision, which says KXL is, “a project that became a politically potent symbol both of Republican dreams for energy expansion and of opponents’ fears of climate change and environmental degradation.”

Back in 2015, then President Obama denied a permit for the pipeline to cross the border after months of prevaricating over the issue. That decision was overturned by Donald Trump, earlier this year. But it still needed approval for the final section



Photo: Mary Anne Andrei/Bold Nebraska
This sign reads, “No Oil in Our Soil.”

across Nebraska. Yesterday, five members of the Nebraska Public Service Commission voted on whether to allow a 275-mile section of the highly-controversial pipeline to be built through the state. It was seen as the last significant regulatory hurdle for the pipeline. The commissioners on the panel were not unanimous in their opinions. They voted 3 to 2 in favor of allowing the pipeline to be built.

But ... you could actually see it as a defeat. Because crucially the Panel also voted for what is known officially as the Mainline Alternative Route. It is not TransCanada’s preferred option. And herein lies the problem for the company ...

Jane Kleeb, the head of Bold Nebraska said: “They do not get their preferred route, the route that we have been fighting in courts over for eight years” ...

Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org

added, “No one should give up. For seven years now public pressure has kept 800,000 barrels a day of tar sands oil underground, and in the process helped spawn a worldwide fight against fossil fuel infrastructure. We will work with our colleagues in the upper Midwest on the next steps to defend their land and our climate.”

TransCanada has to start all over again. Instead of getting their preferred route, the company now has to go and persuade dozens of new landowners to build on their land. It has to persuade investors that it can do that. And that will take years. And it will go to the courts. And every day the pipeline is delayed, investors will get more and more nervous about investing in an increasingly obsolete pipeline.

They say that fortune favors the brave, but investing in KXL will be only for the foolhardy. Time is not on TransCanada’s side. Instead of an ecstatic response, it is not surprising that TransCanada declined press interviews, and promised to “conduct a careful review” of the new route and “how the decision would impact the cost and schedule of the project” ...

Randy Thompson, a Nebraska rancher told *The Times*: “And this today is another victory for us because the damn pipe is not in the ground, and they said 10 years ago they were going to have it in the ground.” It is now odds on that the pipeline will never be put in the soil in Nebraska. If TransCanada wins regulatory and legal approval, it will be too late.

Source: <http://priceofoil.org/2017/11/21/today-was-a-victory-for-everyone-working-to-stop-keystone-xl/> ... **and that includes our Go-Back Club members!**

Iona’s Memoir Now Available as a PDF File

Becoming a Pacifist Activist: 50 Years in the Environmental Movement— On the Ground, In the Field, Over the Moon

As the Earth gets warmer and climate change produces so many catastrophic events which are now well publicized, it’s easy for ordinary people to get overwhelmed and feel helpless but my life proves that this is not the best way to deal with distressing news. Yes, we must face

the new situations but then we must seriously work to figure out how we as individuals can become involved in the issues that matter most to us.

Here is the response she received from some of her friends after they had read it.

- Your book has many touching stories inside. It’s not only a book, it’s an inspirational body. You are absolutely unique and you have made a lot of sacrifices, and I still wonder why you did them.

- Happily, I got your book today. I started it tonight and can’t put it down. I am enjoying your light-hearted writing style.

- I finished it and thoroughly enjoyed it.

I had no idea all the unique things you did as an activist and your amazing travels.

- Best of luck with your book, and I’m sure many will find it as interesting as I do. Thank goodness there are people like you in this world!!

Now available electronically for \$10. The pdf is 6.33 MB so please make sure you can receive that size; otherwise, we will use SendSpace. Please send check or money order payable to Iona Conner, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

Thank you.



Photo Credits: <https://pennenvironmentcenter.org/programs/pac/stop-fracking-our-future>

PennEnvironment calls for immediate help from Pennsylvania and New Jersey residents to protect the Delaware River from fracking.

Featuring PennEnvironment [sic]

Adam Garber, Deputy Director, PennEnvironment
Email received December 1, 2017

We're one big step closer to banning all fracking activities in the Delaware River Basin. Today Governor Wolf and leaders from other states dependent on the Delaware for safe drinking water announced new draft protections for the watershed—and they go further to safeguard our water than the original proposal last month.

The draft bans any drilling in this critical watershed, and takes significant steps to prevent disposal of toxic fracking wastewater and the withdrawal of millions of gallons per fracking well from the river.

The next step is a public comment period—and with the fracking industry fighting this proposal with everything they've got, **your voice is critical**. To protect our water, we need 50,000 Pennsylvanians calling for a permanent ban, no withdrawing millions of gallons of our water, and no toxic fracking waste near our river.

Will you be one of the first to add your comment now? Please go to https://pennenvironment.webaction.org/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=23791&utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&tag=email_blast:40798&utm_campaign=PAE3-RFRK:DRINKWATFRK-1117&utm_content=EM6:00C:0AH-AAP&uid=936720. This will be followed by a request for a donation.

This proposal is a major step forward—but there's still room for even more improvement to fully protect the Delaware River Watershed from fracking. Unless you act, the final protections could open the door to some dangerous parts of fracking including:

- Fracking wastewater, containing a cocktail of chemicals like mercury, arsenic,

and cancer-causing toluene. It could be dumped or stored near the Delaware River.¹

- Opening the river to withdrawal would let the industry drain up to 9.6 million gallons of our water per well they drill.²

Gas drillers have already started pushing back, convincing their friends in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to pass a resolution opposing any new protections last month. And another bill would try to open the Delaware River to fracking. So we need to make sure the Governor hears from you and thousands more Pennsylvanians supporting these protections to make sure we keep our water safe.³

These additional protections for the drinking water of 15 million people happened because you joined thousands of Pennsylvanians to make it clear to the Governor that NO fracking activities belong near the Delaware. Add your voice now to make sure the final protections go even further.

Together, we can permanently protect the Delaware River from the dangers of fracking.

Sincerely,

Adam Garber

PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center

¹ House Resolution 515, PA General Assembly, Adopted October 17, 2017

² Zahra Hirji, "Fracking's Wastewater, Poorly Understood, Is Analyzed for First Time," *InsideClimateNews*, September 5, 2014

³ Bobby Magill, "Water Use Rises as Fracking Expands," *Scientific American*, July 1, 2015

[Note from Editor: Since New Jersey shares the Delaware River with Pennsylvanians, I included New Jersey, though they didn't.)

KEEP PENNSYLVANIA SAFE FROM FRACKING

We all know of the extensive legacy of pollution that coal mining has left for Pennsylvania's forests, rivers, and streams. Now, fracking is raising the stakes and leaving another long-standing legacy of environmental degradation and destruction in its wake.

Fracking is contaminating drinking water, making nearby families sick with air pollution, and turning forest acres into industrial zones. Yet the oil and gas industry is pushing to expand this dirty drilling—even near critical drinking water supplies for millions of Americans.

Broken Laws and Contaminated Water

The industry is saying "trust us." Yet our research has found that fracking companies are committing violations of our environmental laws with little consequence.

Between 2008 and 2016, fracking companies committed a combined total of 4,351 violations. During that time, only 17 percent of fracking violations resulted in a fine—with a median fine of only \$5,263.

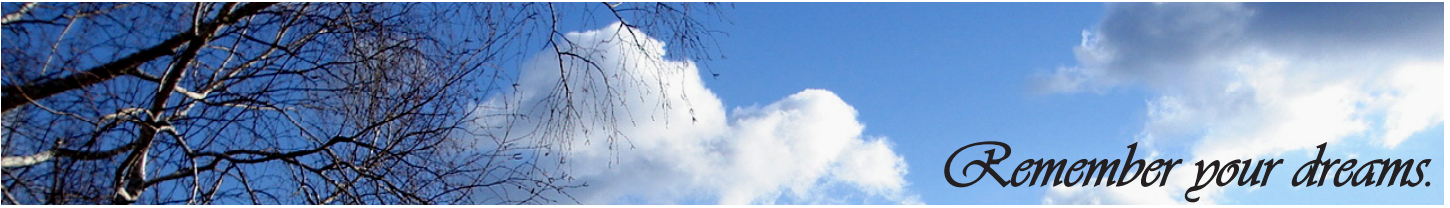
This has to change. Will state officials protect us from fracking?

We must act now to stop the damage of dirty drilling.

Please contact our office today.

PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center
1429 Walnut Street, Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA 19102 ; (215) 732-5897 or
1831 Murray Ave., Ste. 219, Pittsburgh, PA 15217, (412) 521-0943;

Member questions or requests: 1-800-401-6511.



Remember your dreams.

Letters and Emails from our Members



SHOULD WE CHANGE OUR NAME?

Hi Iona,

Before you go to print, you may want to consider renaming the “Go-Back Club.”

It might be construed as supportive of Donald Trump. While you were focused elsewhere, he has waged a campaign to put everything back to where it was when racist, sexist, yadayada bullies who make up his political base were happier. Like other normal words he has bastardized, “Go Back” may be seen as anti-progressive, anti-Obama, etc.

Anonymous, PA

(Iona’s response)

I don’t want to change it but if everyone agrees with you then we can have a follow-up “contest” to choose a new name, maybe even going back to *The Order of the Earth*, as I probably would suggest. That would take a LOT of thought and discussion.

Hi Iona,

I took time to look at your Go-Back website and read one of your newsletters. Very nice. The tone is friendly and the pictures make the newsletter inviting. Good show! *M.R., California*

Dear Iona,

It was so nice receiving your newsletter again! Keep it up. I have been a contributor to the Center for Biological Diversity for a while and I applaud your move to highlight groups doing good work.

Whoops—I goofed. When I read your newspaper, I only skimmed the page on Center of Biological Diversity. The organization I have been following and supporting is actually Biodiversity for a Livable Climate: Restoring Ecosystems to Reverse Global Warming. It is a fabulous organization.

Marney Bruce, Bethesda, MD

Iona’s Column: Saving Trees With Rags and Hankies



It’s a little embarrassing to write about rags and hankies when other people are risking their lives saving trees and ancient forests all over the globe, but at least these are a few

ideas anyone can implement without getting arrested or even killed.

I’ve been practicing these habits for decades and in the past 25 years have only

purchased about two rolls of paper towels and two boxes of Kleenex since I started using rags and hankies in an effort to boycott products made from trees.

Buying recycled paper products is at the other end of this form of activism because without a market for them, virgin trees will continue to be sacrificed for essentially useless products.

Since I like to sew, it’s been easy for me to make hankies, and rags can be made from old T-shirts and other 100% cotton garments. Cotton soaks up spills and snot better than synthetic fibers, which are made from chemicals, so this entire effort also reduces demands for chemicals in our daily lives.

I made the best hankies when I discov-

ered a small piece of pure, Irish linen, which I had saved for years from my grantmother’s supply of fabric. Last Christmas, I made monogrammed handkerchiefs for my husband and sons from it, and two little hankies for myself, with embroidered flowers. When I use those, I have fond memories of Grandma, who taught me how to sew when I was a young girl.

My best friend even had a special hankie embroidered for me so I save that one for special occasions.

I hope you’ll join me in this simple and safe, but useful, boycott to help save trees. You can do the same for paper napkins—make or buy cloth ones. Wash only when they’re dirty and don’t bother to iron them.

Rags

This assortment is made from an old napkin, an old dish cloth, an old washcloth, an old towel, an old T-shirt, an old sheet (which I even hemmed so it wouldn’t ravel), and an old pair of panties (yes, even panties).



Hankies

This fine assortment is made from an old sheet, some organic cotton left-overs, old panties, my mother’s hankie collection, an old napkin, and my Grandmother’s fine linen, which I embroidered and even ironed.

