



# The Go-Back Club

Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: #26, December 2015

*These are OUR stories: [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)*

Our members live in 20 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces, Korea and Nigeria.



Photos by William Woodcock

Mark Long and Stacy Long hand out literature about Home Rule. Judy Wanchism (Stacy's mother and GBC member) is behind the sign and Mona Saucier is in the red shirt. All are members of the Government Study Commission (GSC). Seven people were elected in May 2015 to study the Grant Township government, make recommendations and then write a Home Rule Charter if they found deficiencies in the government. They wrote the Charter, submitted it in August and the citizens passed it on Election Day in November.

## GBC Member Helps Make History

### Industry Sues Grant Township — Claims Corporate “Right” to Dump Frack Waste

Submitted by Judy Wanchism  
East Run, Pennsylvania

CELDF Press Release: November 3, 2015

Have you heard this one? A Corporation, the Government and a Federal Court walk into a community... With the State, Industry and Court Telling Grant Township, PA, They Can't Say “No” to Frack Waste — the People Again Say “Yes” to Ban and Local Bill of Rights

GRANT TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania — The people of Grant Township adopted the country's first municipal charter establishing a local bill of rights. The Grant Bill of Rights codifies environmental and democratic rights and bans frack wastewater injection wells as a violation of those rights.

Grant joins growing numbers of communities across Pennsylvania and the U.S. that are coming together in a Community Rights Movement, to stand up to a system of law that forces frack waste wells and other practices into communities and protects corporations over people, communities and Nature.

The passage of the Grant charter comes fourteen months after the Township was sued by Pennsylvania General Energy Company (PGE) and the Pennsylvania Indepen-

dent Oil and Gas Association (PIOGA).

PGE proposed a frack wastewater injection well for the community, against the wishes of Township residents. Injection wells have polluted drinking water and triggered earthquakes in several states.

In June 2014, the elected officials of Grant Township adopted a Community Bill of Rights Ordinance, which prohibited the injection well as a violation of the community's rights to clean air and water and local self-government.

In its lawsuit, PGE claimed that it had a “right” to inject wastewater into the Township. PIOGA has also declared that there is “no constitutional right to local self-government” or to be free from the harms associated with oil and gas production.

**Home Rule** continued on page 3

## Home Rule *continued from page 1*

Although a recent ruling in mid-October invalidated a portion of the Ordinance, the people of Grant Township have now reinstated the ban that the judge overturned. Transformation of the community into a Home Rule Township now invalidates most of that court ruling.

Stacy Wanchism Long, local resident and a member of the commission that drafted the charter, stated, "Today's vote reaffirms what our residents have been saying for the past year: We are standing up to protect our rights and we reject the proposed injection well. All of this is possible because of the support and involvement from so many Grant Township residents over the past year who have been unwavering in their commitment to ensure the people of Grant have more of a say over what happens in our community."

Chad Nicholson of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), served as a consultant to the commission that drafted the charter. CELDF has assisted close to 200 communities across the U.S. to advance community rights. "Tonight, the people of Grant Township spoke loud and clear: They have rights and they will protect those rights. We at CELDF congratulate the people of the Township on becoming the first municipality in the nation to draft and adopt a local, rights-based constitution," Nicholson said.

Nicholson added, "This isn't David versus Goliath. This isn't just one community standing up to say 'No.' Grant Township is joining with communities across the country



who are standing up collectively and saying to government and corporations, 'We're no longer willing to be fracked, poisoned and polluted.' They are mobilizing against a system of law that empowers corporations over communities and empowers government to preempt communities from protecting their air and water. Communities are saying this is not acceptable, it's not sustainable, it's not democratic and it's going to change."

The Grant Township charter recognizes rights to clean air and water, the right to be taxed fairly and the right to local community self-government. It protects those rights by banning frack wastewater injection wells.

While other communities have amended existing charters with rights-based provi-

sions, Grant Township's charter is the first that is written entirely on the basis of asserting and protecting rights.

**About CELDF — The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund is a non-profit, public interest law firm providing free and affordable legal services to communities facing threats to their local environment, local agriculture, the local economy and quality of life. Its mission is to build sustainable communities by assisting people to assert their right to local self-government and the rights of Nature. Contact Chad Nicholson, Pennsylvania Community Organizer 207.541.3649; chad@celdf.org.**

## 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.**



Fair Use Logo

**Founder/Editor:** Iona Conner

**Contributors:** Dave Blair, Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Alanna Hartzok, Allen Hengst, Judy Wanchism

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### What is The Go-Back Club 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 im-

pacts 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](http://www.gobackclub.org) to see what we do.

### 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 (climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), to John and Iona Conner about climate 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 us your stories and photos. We rely on our members' contributions.**



# Kyestone Rejected!!! GBC Worked Hard on This

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, D.C.

By Nicholas Bergin, *excerpt*   
JournalStar.com: November 06, 2015

Susan and Bill Dunavan spent Friday morning listening to the sound of chain-saws ripping through wood.

When she went inside their York County home for a break, the phone was ringing.

A reporter wanted to know if she'd comment on President Barack Obama's pending rejection of the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

"I said that until he actually does, I'm not making any statements," said the landowner who has fought against the project for seven years. "You hear rumors all the time; we didn't realize the president was actually going to follow through with a decision."

After months of speculation, Obama announced that he is denying the permit Trans-Canada needed to build the \$8 billion pipeline across the border between the United States and Canada.

Citing the urgency of climate change, Obama appeared with Secretary of State John Kerry and Vice President Joe Biden to say the pipeline would have neither been the economic silver bullet proponents said in terms of job creation and lower gas prices nor the environmental disaster opponents claimed.

For the farmers and ranchers who fought to keep the pipeline out of the ground and put Nebraska at the epicenter of the national debate over climate change, the news came as a shock.

"We feel kind of numb because we've been working on this so many years," said Susan Dunavan, who testified at state and federal public hearings, attended countless rallies, wrote letters to politicians and newspapers and has been a plaintiff in two lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of state law.

Still, she's not ready to say it's a wrap.

"We know that it's not over. TransCanada could reapply at any moment."

TransCanada has easement agreements with 91 percent of landowners along the proposed route of the Keystone XL and the easements remain in place even though the cross-border permit has been denied.

The company could wait until after the November 2016 presidential election and start over or it could try to build a pipeline from just south of the U.S.-Canadian border.

The company spent the past seven years and \$2.4 billion dollars trying to push



Photo by Nati Harnik, AP

*Landowner Susan Dunavan laughs as she stands with her husband, Bill, on their land in York County, Nebraska. The Keystone XL pipeline would have crossed the farm in Nebraska but they fought it for seven years.*

through the 1,179-mile Keystone XL, which would have stretched from Hardisty, Alberta to Steele City in Nebraska near the Kansas border, where it would have connected with existing pipelines. It would have carried up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil a day to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries. Most of the oil would be bitumen made from Canada's oil sands, although as many as 100,000 barrels of space would have been saved for oil produced from Bakken shale that lies beneath North Dakota and Montana.

Bold Nebraska Director Jane Kleeb called the president's decision and the campaign against the Keystone XL a game changer for environmentalists.

For years, she said, she heard political allies and public relations specialists call the fight a lost cause. But in the end, Kleeb said, Nebraskans did the seemingly impossible.

"Instead of siding with Big Oil, the President chose to stand with farmers, ranchers, tribes and Pipeline Fighters everywhere working to protect our land, water and climate for our grandchildren," she said. "VICTORY!!"

The project had support from Nebraska Republicans and labor groups. Last year, 34 state senators, more than two-thirds of the state Legislature, signed a letter urging Obama to approve the project.

"Keystone XL would have brought good-paying jobs and much-needed tax revenue to Nebraska's counties," Governor Pete Ricketts said in a statement on Friday. "President

Obama's politically-motivated decision to reject this project puts the jobs and this tax revenue at risk."

Polls showed most of the state's residents supported building the pipeline.

Bob Hilger, a 70-year-old alfalfa farmer from David City, supported the effort for the jobs it would create, the taxes it would bring to local governments and schools and the fact it would supply oil from a friendly trade partner.

TransCanada's original Keystone pipeline, which began pumping oil in 2010, runs under Hilger's land.

"It just baffles me," he said of Obama's decision. "The bottom line is, it's all political."

A determined group of Nebraskans fought the project, miring the process in legal battles that caused numerous delays.

Earlier this week, as it looked more and more likely Obama would reject the pipeline, TransCanada tried its own delay tactic, asking for the federal review process to be paused because of ongoing efforts to get the route in Nebraska approved by the state Public Service Commission. The U.S. State Department rejected the request Wednesday.

TransCanada filed an application with the PSC on October 5<sup>th</sup> in an effort to end two lawsuits brought by landowners challenging the constitutionality of a law that let the company bypass the PSC and get approval of its route and use of eminent domain powers from the governor. ...

# Go-Back Club Members in Action



Photo by Dave Blair

*As a retired high-school drafting teacher and having a little building and remodeling experience, Dave Blair decided to build a super energy-efficient home. He was concerned about climate change and wanted to do his part. He dreamed about this project for years. This beautiful home is what resulted.*

## Long-Held Dream Comes True: Net Zero Home

By Dave Blair: Monaca, Pennsylvania

I see our civilization as in a place where we have to go back, move forward, or both at the same time, but to stay where we are will mean major trouble for future generations. I see what is going on in the world and wonder what can I do to help? As a retired high school drafting teacher and with having a little building and remodeling experience, I decided to build a very energy efficient home.

I tried to follow these guidelines:

1. Build it within 10% of the high end of what was considered “normal.” The high side of what seemed to be “normal” I decided to be about \$125 per square foot. Add to that 10% and I got a self-imposed ceiling price of \$137.50 per square foot.

2. Not actually build it myself because, if I did, other people would say something like,

“Of course it was not way more expensive than a normal new house — you built it yourself.”

3. I wanted to find a contractor(s) that could repeat what we did on other houses.

4. I wanted an unfinished but nice basement for my workshop

5. The house was to be as close to net zero as possible. The term “net zero” means that the house might use conventional energy part of the time, other times produce more energy than it uses, for a net effect of zero energy (ideally).

5. Have the house tested by an outside source to verify its energy efficiency. I decided to use the Home Energy Rating System, or HERS rating to establish an energy-efficiency rating.

6 I wanted to be able to offer information to anyone wanting to Do It Yourself, right up to someone who wants a completely-built house, ready to walk into and live in.

7. Share information with anyone interested. For the sake of keeping this article relatively short, I will not go into nearly as much detail as I could but feel free to contact me at: [daveblair54@gmail.com](mailto:daveblair54@gmail.com).

### Energy Losses and Gains

The main energy losses in any house are through the walls, windows, ceiling etc. This is how we dealt with losses.

### Foundation

After the hole was dug for the basement, 12 inches of gravel was spread where the

**Net Zero** *continued on next page*



Net Zero *continued from page 4*

basement walls were to be. There is no separate footer. The basement walls were pre-fabricated by a small company near Pittsburgh called Specialty Precast. These walls were brought in on a truck in 6- to 10-foot sections and set in place with a crane. Not counting the time it took to dig and prepare the hole in the ground, it took about five hours for them to set all the basement and garage walls. I decided these walls were the best available anywhere at any price for two reasons: First, their R value is one of the highest (R-30 in the main sections, R-8 where thermal bridging occurs). Their main competitor for this type of precast wall is a company called Superior and is a much larger, national-sized company. I chose Specialty Precast because it had a higher R value.

There is another design which works well called insulated concrete forms or ICF. Think of these like a giant sandwich with foam on the inside, concrete in between, foam on the outside. From an insulating and thermal-bridging standpoint these work very well but in the end we chose not to use them because the foam on the outside in the past has been known to get termites in it.

### How a House Loses and Gains Heat

Houses lose heat in three main ways (besides your kids forgetting and leaving the door open!). They are:

**Conduction/Resistance:** This is the movement of heat through a material. Think of holding the outside of a cool ceramic coffee cup and pouring hot coffee into it. The cup heats up almost immediately because the cup is a good conductor of heat and cold. The opposite of this is resistance to heat flow which is usually referred to in houses as R value. To put it into perspective, wood has an approximate R value of about 1 per every inch of thickness. This is only a ballpark estimate because the actual R value varies from species to species and with moisture content but still is in the ballpark of about 1. Most insulating materials have an R value of 3 to 4 per inch. The typical 2x6 wall insulated with fiberglass insulation has an R value of 19. Most people make the mistake of only considering R value in a wall and do not consider the other two ways houses lose heat.

**Infiltration:** This is when air moves around a material (air leaks). Infiltration occurs inside walls and everywhere in a house but most people think of it as drafts, particularly around doors and windows. You know you have plenty of infiltration in



Photo by Dave Blair

*Everything that was done here as a modular home could have been done by skilled individuals or an independent contractor; however, Dave found several advantages to going the modular route.*

your house if the curtains move when the wind blows outside.

**Thermal Bridging:** This is the loss of heat through the parts of the house that provide the most strength. It makes sense if you think of it this way: Styrofoam has a high insulating value but has very little strength. Steel on the other hand has a very low insulating value but lots of strength. Most building materials have either high insulating value or high strength but not both.

### First Try: What Might Have Worked but Didn't Work for Me

**Foundation:** To build an extremely energy efficient house, the basement needs to be insulated much better than one would first think necessary. If you don't insulate the basement well, you will get what is sometimes called a "chimney effect" where the cold air from the basement tries to move upward as it slowly warms, moving up and through the house and wasting energy.

**Above-Ground Walls:** The top and bottom plates of the walls are 2x8s with 2x4s placed every 24" on center along the exterior. On the interior, 2x4s are also used — 24" on center but offset 12" from the exterior 2x4s so they are "staggered." This

not only provides more space in which to insulate, it eliminates up to about 80% of thermal bridging. It must be noted though that every time you add a door or window thermal bridging increases somewhat. On the exterior of the walls, 1-1/2 inches of rigid foam is added. From an insulation standpoint, more rigid foam on the outside is better than less but if you put more than 1-1/2 inch of foam on the outside, it becomes hard to get the siding to stay in place.

The wall cavities are filled with dense-pack cellulose. Cellulose is about 80% recycled paper and is fire resistant. My main reason for choosing cellulose over fiberglass is that it fills all the little spaces better, therefore less infiltration. The term "dense pack" is in reference to the fact that the cellulose is actually put in under some pressure to reduce the amount of settling that occurs after installation. We were actually able to check for settling last winter with an infrared camera and found that, although not perfect, not much settling occurred.

We ended up with walls that have an R value of 36, far less thermal bridging and less infiltration than a typical wall. The attic has about 21 inches of loose blown in cellulose.

Net Zero *continued on next page*

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**Windows and Doors:** The windows and doors are made by Klear Wall. They are triple glazed with an R value close to 10. I like the windows very much but the doors don't seal as well as I had hoped.

**The Easy Part (for me) Building It:** Remember that two of the goals for this house were repeatability and low cost. Despite the fact that the house was totally custom in every way, it was built as a modular home at the Champion modular factory. I worked with a small company in the Pittsburgh area called Ecocraft to design it and get it built. I provided the preliminary designs; they took the design beyond what I was capable of, particularly the heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC).

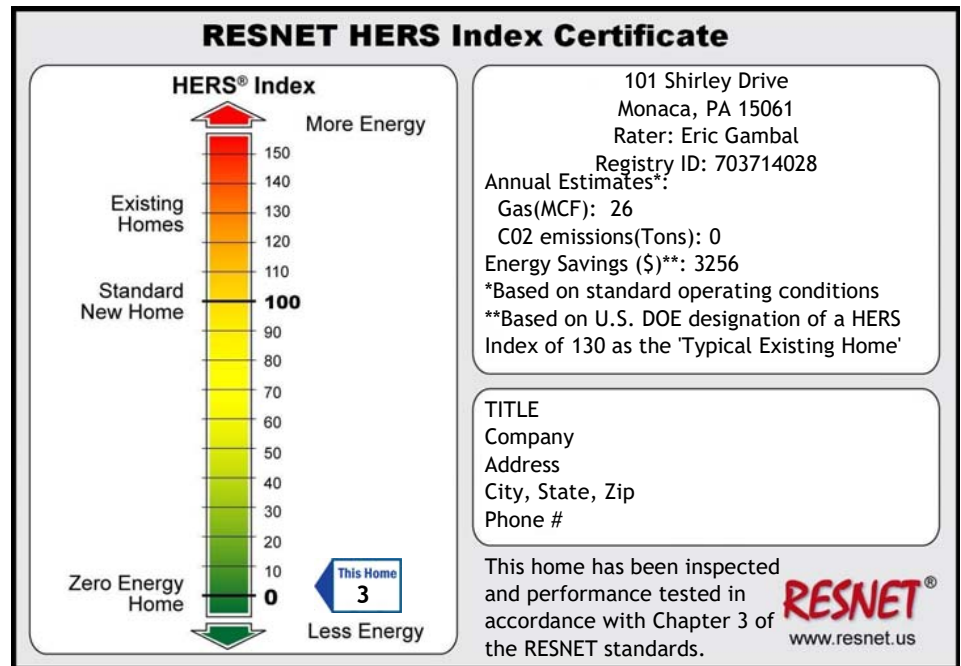
Many people associate Modular homes with Mobile homes. I assure you that this is not the case. Modular homes can be built every bit as well as stick-built regular homes and, in this case, better.

**Modular vs. Stick-Built Homes:** Everything that was done here as a modular home could have been done by skilled individuals or an independent contractor — however, I found several advantages to going the modular route. Material costs are lower because there is less waste in a factory. Labor costs are lower because of the added time efficiency of an assembly line. Designing for energy efficiency is better because through Ecocraft I had access to an architect and HVAC specialists.

Perhaps the biggest potential here is that if you take climate change and the lack of time to do something about it as seriously as I do, thousands of homes of this type could be built in a relatively short period of time at a cost competitive with regular houses.

Our biggest problem was finding contractors who were willing to build in ways they were not used to. We had several contractors fail to call us back after they found out what we were trying to do.

**Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning:** When building a house that is very well insulated and as air tight as possible, two problems arise. First, you have to bring in fresh outside air so the occupants have enough fresh air to breathe. The obvious but energy-wasting ways to do this are to either open a window a little bit, or not seal the house so well in the first place. If you do either of these things you would get the ventilation but with a 100% heat loss. The best way to ventilate the house is to bring in outside air through what is called an energy recovery ventilator or ERV. The ERV is a heat exchanger which brings in outside air at about a 10% heat loss. The fresh air is brought to every room



Graphic from [www.resnet.us](http://www.resnet.us)

*Dave and Melody had the house evaluated from an outside source, using the Home Energy Rating System or HERS. The HERS system works like this: A house built to current building code (2013) should get a HERS rating of 100. After blower-door testing, their house had a HERS rating of 3.*

in the house through the heating system ductwork. While needing to add one more mechanical device we are not used to (the ERV), we were able to eliminate another mechanical device that we are used to, the furnace.

Passive solar heat from the sunroom is our main heat but, on cold and cloudy days, backup heat is needed, which leads to the second problem we encountered — it was hard to find a furnace small enough to meet our needs. If you put in a furnace that is too large, it will cycle on and off too often, which causes the furnace to waste heat.

We ended up taking care of the backup heat and backup hot water at the same time with a natural-gas-powered, tankless hot water heater. Ideally we would not use any gas at all but we still have to use a little. The main hot water heat is solar.

**Electric** The house is mainly solar electric, producing up to 8,000 watts or over 50 KWH on a clear day. We are grid connected which means that on a sunny day we are putting electricity into the grid, then at night taking power from the grid.

**Performance and Cost:** We had the house evaluated from an outside source, using the Home Energy Rating System or HERS. The HERS system works like this: A house built to current building code (2013) should get a HERS rating of 100. Think of it like percent, so an older house with many leaks might get a rating of 300 or more (300 percent of normal energy usage

compared to a new house built to code.) If you get a number lower than 100 it means the house should use less than a normal house built to code; the lower the number the better.

After blower-door testing, the house has a HERS rating of 3. The current cost after rebates was \$134.50 per square foot not counting the garage which is well within the self-imposed limit of no more than \$137.50 or 10% above the high end of “normal.”

**Closing Thoughts:** Even with a HERS rating of 3, I am sure we will use some backup energy. If we were to do it over again we would probably change two things: First, instead of getting a whole house A.C. we would have gotten a heat pump (for AC and heat) and used that for backup heat and not natural gas. Although Melody prefers a gas stove to electric! There are currently two of us in the house with two children part-time. We probably built it too large. Had we known how warm and dry the basement is we might have put the spare bedrooms down there rather than having a partial second floor.

The most enjoyable room in the entire house is the sunroom. We used it as a greenhouse this winter and we are currently experimenting with growing tomatoes year round.

On cold wintry nights we can sit out there and enjoy the outdoors and howl at the moon occasionally!



# Our First Ad!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Note from the Editor:** Greenline is a great company. I've been ordering products from them for years and have always been happy with them. Please support them and tell your friends they, too, can help minimize their eco footprints.



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# News Briefs Submitted by Our Members

## New York Investigating Exxon over Misleading Public about Climate Change

All Articles Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, D.C.

By Chris Mooney, *excerpt*   
*Washington Post*: November 5, 2015

The state of New York is investigating whether Exxon Mobil misled the public and investors about the risks of climate change, a move sought by environmentalists that could signal a broader reckoning with the conduct of big energy companies. A spokesman for Exxon Mobil confirmed Thursday that the company had received a subpoena from the office of the attorney general of New York, Eric Schneiderman, related to the subject of climate change and was “assessing” its response.

The investigation focuses on whether Exxon Mobil intentionally clouded public debate about science and hid from investors the risks that climate change could pose to its business according to a person familiar with the matter ...

The inquiry seeks a variety of documents and records from the company, according to the person familiar with the probe ...

The New York Attorney General is also conducting a similar investigation regarding Peabody Energy, a leading coal company. The person familiar with the matter suggested that other energy companies could also face scrutiny. Environmental advocates hailed the probes as a major victory. For well over a decade, such organizations have been probing alleged links between Exxon, the world's largest publicly-traded energy company, and the raising of public doubt about climate change ... *The Los Angeles Times* and the online publication Inside Climate News both published articles charging that Exxon researchers were concerned about climate change from fossil fuel emissions decades ago and yet, for long periods, the company publicly raised doubts about the science ...


Naomi Oreskes, a professor of the history of science at Harvard University who has been a critic of the company, likened the investigation to past investigations of the tobacco industry in a statement ...

“We could have begun to shift the incentives and encourage alternatives if we had implemented a carbon tax ... at any point over the past 20 years,” Oreskes said. “There are many reasons we did not do that but a significant one, in my view, is the role

of Exxon Mobil and others in fomenting disinformation, undermining public support for such initiatives and lobbying against policies that would have begun to decrease our fossil fuel dependency” ...

In 1997 Exxon CEO Lee Raymond stated in Beijing, “Many people, politicians and the public alike, believe global warming is a rock-solid certainty. But it’s not,” according to a contemporary media report. ... .

## National Wildlife Federation Sues DOT over Failure to Prevent Pipeline Spills

By Amy Joi O’Donoghue, *excerpt*   
*Deseret News*: October 8, 2015


SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The National Wildlife Federation announced Thursday it is suing the federal government over its failure to ensure adequate regulatory oversight of the nation's oil pipelines ... The lawsuit asserts the agency with regulatory authority, the U.S. Department of Transportation, is not doing enough to ensure the oil pipeline industry has protective spill response plans in place to counter threats to fish, wildlife and their habitat should an offshore rupture occur. According to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, there have been 10,844 pipeline incidents causing 371 fatalities, 1,395 injuries and more than \$6.3 billion in property damage between 1995 and 2014.

The lawsuit demands the federal government enact offshore regulations requiring spill response plans for those pipelines directly under navigable waterways. There are regulations in play for pipelines adjacent to urban streams and other inland waterways but the adequacy of oversight for those pipelines, too, has been called into question given spills in Utah and elsewhere in the nation ...

The pipeline safety administration has identified 20 accidents occurring at inland water crossings between 1991 and October 2012, not including the rupture of an oil pipeline under the Yellowstone River in 2015. That 2015 incident, together with a 2011 spill elsewhere in the Yellowstone River, spilled more than 100,000 gallons of oil into a river that supports endangered and threatened species, as well as fishing and rafting.

Source: <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865638595/Wildlife-federation-files-suit-over-pipeline-spills.html>

## Canada’s New Environment Minister Catherine McKenna Has Big Green Agenda

By Mychaylo Prystupa, *excerpt*   
*National Observer*: November 4, 2015

Canada’s new minister of environment and climate change is Ottawa MP and lawyer Catherine McKenna. She was confirmed at an historic swearing-in ceremony at Rideau Hall on Wednesday that saw several Trudeau cabinet ministers declared. Minister McKenna has a large number of climate, clean tech and environmental protection promises to fulfill that were made during the election. They include a price on carbon, a pledge to reverse Canada’s international reputation as a climate laggard and a \$2-billion “Low Carbon Economy Trust” to help kickstart a clean tech boom ...

Sierra Club Canada Foundation’s interim executive director Diane Beckett from Ottawa said, “She’s not only the minister of the environment, she’s the minister of climate change. Climate change is her most urgent priority, because it is the defining issue of our generation.

Whether or not we get it right will determine the survival of the human species. It is also urgent because the negotiations are happening in Paris in just a few weeks and Canada has been a laggard for almost 20 years” ...

Likewise, Clean Energy Canada executive director Merran Smith said McKenna’s law background will be invaluable at UN climate treaty talks. She’s also hopeful McKenna’s appointment is a sign of good things to come in sustainable energy.

Clean energy jobs in the country already outpace oil sands jobs, she’s often noted. “Canada has vast, untapped clean energy potential and developing these resources is both a key climate solution and important economic opportunity,” said Smith in a statement.

McKenna is expected to go to Paris, France next week for minister-level international talks about climate change, ahead of the global leaders’ summit in Paris, known as COP21 at the end of the month. Expectations are high the process will produce the first comprehensive global climate-change treaty in history.

She recently led Canadian Lawyers Abroad and taught a course on Global Civil Society to graduate students at the Munk School of Global Affairs. She’s also been a board member of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. The mother of



## News Briefs Submitted by Our Members

three has also worked internationally as a legal adviser for the UN in East Timor and on trade issues in Indonesia, according to her web site. ...

### Government Denies Requests to Extend Arctic Ocean Leases

Oceana.org Press Release: October 16, 2015

JUNEAU, Alaska — Today, the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) announced that it denied requests made by Shell and Statoil for five-year extensions

of Arctic Ocean leases and that it will not hold two scheduled sales in the region. In 2014, Shell and Statoil submitted requests for “suspensions of operations” for their Arctic Ocean leases. The requests would have extended the expiration of those leases by five years.


DOI previously denied a similar request made by ConocoPhillips. Most of the leases held in the Beaufort Sea will expire in 2017 and leases held in the Chukchi Sea will expire in 2020. A map of leases currently held in the U.S. Arctic Ocean is available at [http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/732/alaska\\_beaufort\\_chukchi\\_leases\\_byowner\\_2\\_9.jpg](http://usa.oceana.org/sites/default/files/732/alaska_beaufort_chukchi_leases_byowner_2_9.jpg)

Chukchi Sea Lease Sale 237 was scheduled to be held in 2016 and Beaufort Sea Lease Sale 242 was scheduled to be held in 2017. Those sales will not be held and the government is currently considering whether to hold additional sales in the future.

The government’s decision comes after Shell announced last month that it would stop its Arctic Ocean operations for the foreseeable future. The company’s Arctic exploration program has cost billions of dollars and led to controversy and a series of mishaps culminating in the grounding of the drill rig Kulluk. Shell is currently taking the last of its vessels out of Alaskan waters.

## GBC Member Watches and Analyzes News for Us

### The Plot to Destroy the Arctic: George W. Bush, Big Oil and the “Sixth Extinction”

By Subhankar Banerjee, *excerpt*   
*Salon*: March 8, 2015

The leases the Bush administration sold in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas (Lease Sale 193 among them) generated substantial controversy and met with legal challenges ... The Department of Interior finally went back to the drawing board and, on October 31, 2014, released a new draft supplemental environmental impact statement that acknowledged some of the ecological realities of drilling in Arctic seas. It suggested that there would be a 75% chance of one or more large oil spills (more than 1,000 barrels) if serious drilling began there and that any such spill could have catastrophic ecological consequences. The public comment period on the draft ended on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nonetheless, this February, the Obama administration issued the final impact statement for Lease Sale 193 and sent the process forward.

Source: [http://www.salon.com/2015/03/08/the\\_plot\\_to\\_destroy\\_the\\_arctic\\_george\\_w\\_bush\\_big\\_oil\\_and\\_the\\_sixth\\_extinction\\_partner/](http://www.salon.com/2015/03/08/the_plot_to_destroy_the_arctic_george_w_bush_big_oil_and_the_sixth_extinction_partner/)

Hi Iona,

On Wednesday, January 2, 2008, the Bush administration’s Interior Department announced its intent to open 30 million acres of the Chukchi Sea in the Arctic Ocean to oil and gas exploration (Lease Sale 193).

In his weekly radio address on July 12, 2008, Bush claimed that drilling offshore “could produce enough oil to match



Photo: Shutterstock

America’s current production for almost 10 years.” On Monday, July 14, Bush promptly lifted an executive order banning offshore oil drilling and urged Congress to follow suit. One month before the presidential election, a bipartisan agreement was reached in Congress to lift the decades-long ban on new oil and gas leasing in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Four days before vacating the Oval Office, Bush’s Interior Department issued a Draft Proposed OCS oil and gas leasing program, including 31 OCS lease sales in all or some portion of 12 of the 26 planning areas — four areas off Alaska, two areas off the Pacific coast, three areas in the Gulf of Mexico and three areas off the Atlantic coast.

Six months ago at the end of March, Obama’s Interior Department announced

that it was reaffirming Bush’s January 2008 Arctic oil leases. I know it’s a tortured and confusing story but no more so than the ongoing saga of the Keystone XL pipeline. IMHO, when he’s faced with “unpopular” political decisions, Obama often chooses to stall, rather than give an outright “No.”

On the other hand, attorneys may have advised him that refusing to honor those 2008 leases would have led to a court fight that the oil companies may have ultimately won. They’ll still probably sue after Obama’s decision to deny Shell and Statoil’s request for five-year extensions of their leases but that case won’t be adjudicated until after he’s gone. In the mean time, of course, no drilling is allowed.

In solidarity,  
Allen



Photo from Amnesty International

**Note from Editor:** GBC member, Ekwe Chivundu Charles, volunteered in this wasteland polluted by Shell Oil after his college graduation. His heart was touched deeply by the impoverished, starving and malnourished children he saw. A few years later, he started a non-governmental organization called the Milk Basket. Earlier this year, Chivundu invited the Go-Back Club to be his partner and I accepted this honor. The Niger Delta is the region we will be working in when the project is underway. Chivundu says the Milk Basket will be “set up to provide nutritional tips, safe food processing practices and distribute milk packs to malnourished children.” His dream includes delivering clean drinking water and starting community libraries for the underprivileged. Read more at <https://www.fundraise.com/ekwe-charles/milk-basket> or <http://angel.co/milk-basket>. You may also make donations for the children at these sites.

## New Report Slams Shell Oil Spill Clean-Up Claims on 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ken Saro-Wiwa Execution

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, D.C.

Amnesty International: November 3, 2015

### Visible Oil Found at Spill from 45 Years Ago

Claims by oil giant Shell that it has cleaned up heavily-polluted areas of the Niger Delta in Nigeria are blatantly false, Amnesty International and the Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) said in a new report published today.

The Niger Delta is the biggest oil-producing region in Africa and the 38-page report, *Clean It Up: Shell's False Claims About Oil Spills in the Niger Delta*, reveals that there is still contamination at four oil spill sites that

Shell said it had cleaned up years ago.

At one of the locations, Shell's Bomu Well 11, researchers found blackened soil and layers of oil on the water 45 years after an oil spill took place — even though Shell claims to have cleaned it up twice, in 1975 and 2012. At other sites, certified as cleaned by the Nigerian regulator, researchers found soil and water contaminated by oil close to where people lived and farmed.

Amnesty's report also documents the failure of the Nigerian government to regulate the oil industry. Its watchdog, the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), is under-resourced and has been certifying as clean areas that are visibly polluted with crude oil.

The report is being published to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the execution, on November 10, of the environmental activist and

writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa, who campaigned tirelessly against the pollution caused by the oil industry in the Niger Delta.

Mark Dummett, Business and Human Rights Researcher at Amnesty International, said: “Anyone who visits these spill sites can see and smell for themselves how the pollution has spread across the land. Shell says theft is to blame for oil spills but, even if that were true, it would not excuse the company's consistent failure to clean up oil pollution. Shell's blame-game can no longer deflect attention from its broken promises and neglected infrastructure. ... As long as oil companies fail to live up to their commitments, the Niger Delta will remain a cautionary tale of communities promised prosperity but left with blighted, devastated lands.”

**Niger Delta** continued on next page



# A Glimpse of Live in the Niger Delta: A Student Corps Member Who Has Four Dogs



By Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Nigeria

I love pets, especially dogs. When I was in Bayelsa serving, there was this man who was a farmer, palm wine tapper, hunter and fisherman. He had five

dogs. Most times he stayed in the farm for three weeks, farming and catching fishes. So I took up the responsibility of feeding his dogs because there was a kind of law banning dogs from straying from their owner's home.

Initially dogs were allowed to roam free but something happened. A fisherman was drying his special fishes under the sun when another man's dog ate some of his fishes and he shot the dog. A fight ensued. People were wounded (cutlass wounds, broken legs and arms). It's as if two kin-

dreds that hate themselves for reasons best known to them had that clash.

After this fight, the king of the community banned dogs from roaming free looking for food and decreed that any dog that strays will be shot on sight and used for pepper soup. Most of these dogs were hunting dogs anyways.

One time the farmer stayed across the river for a month, probably because he wanted to cover up because the rains were coming and he needed to harvest his crops before the river comes up and covers bush paths they take to their farms.

One of our dogs strayed and was shot and eaten. We did not see her again.

I now took it upon myself to feed the remaining four. I personally went to the market to gather bones from the butchers' stands and also paid small restaurants to gather leftovers for me which were poured into a bucket I gave to them to use to keep them instead of throwing them away into the river while washing.

I successfully saved the four dogs from

being killed and used for meat, after which they followed me around as if I owned them. Anytime I was going to school they followed me to the road, sometimes I had to chase them back with a stick so they won't stray away from following me.

Some people get scared when I'm passing and to fetch water at the well with four dogs following behind. Some even leave their buckets and run away because they were afraid.

I always used to tell them not to be scared; if you love an animal and pose no threat to it, believe me, it won't harm you unless you eat them too. Dogs have a good sense of spirituals smell. They always chase people who kill and eat other dogs. I don't know how they did it but, if a man is passing and ate dog meat previously or enjoys eating dogs, the dogs always chase them.

Sometimes the villagers referred to me as "that corps member that has four dogs" in their funny dialect.

I got to find out later.

Well that's my dog story.

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**Niger Delta** *continued from previous page*

## Ken Saro-Wiwa

Ken Saro-Wiwa was a member of the Ogoni people, an ethnic minority in Nigeria whose homeland, Ogoniland in the Niger Delta, was the scene of crude oil extraction by Shell. Saro-Wiwa led a nonviolent campaign against Shell as well as being critical of the Nigerian government. At the peak of his campaigning, he was accused of orchestrating the murders of four Ogoni chiefs, was tried by a military court and sentenced to death. He was hanged on November 10, 1995 and his execution provoked international outrage.

## Visible Pollution at Sites Allegedly Cleaned, Failure to Act on UN Criticism

The Niger Delta is the biggest oil-producing region in Africa. The largest international oil company there is Shell. It operates around 50 oil fields and 5,000 kilometers (3,105 miles) of pipelines, much of them ageing and poorly-maintained. The oil giant's own figures admit to 1,693 oil spills since 2007, though the real number is probably higher.

In 2011 the UN Environmental Programme (UNEP) exposed massive levels

of pollution caused by oil spills from Shell pipelines in the Ogoniland region of the Niger Delta. UNEP also exposed how the damage done to the environment and people was exacerbated by the company's failure to clean up the spills properly. In response, Shell promised to clean up sites identified by UNEP and improve its response to future spills.

Yet in field investigations at four of the spill sites, UNEP identified as highly polluted in 2011, Amnesty and CEHRD found all four remain visibly contaminated. The investigation demonstrates this is due to inadequate clean-up and not new oil spills.

The investigation shows Shell has not addressed problems over its entire approach to cleaning up oil pollution in Nigeria, including how it trains and oversees the local contractors that actually conduct the work.

One contractor who had been hired by Shell told Amnesty how superficial clean-up efforts fail to prevent lasting environmental damage: "This is just a cover up. If you just dig down a few meters you find oil. We just excavated, then shifted the soil away, then covered it all up again."

## Shell 'Disagrees' with Report

Shell told Amnesty it disagreed with the two organizations' findings, without

providing any details. The company directed Amnesty researchers to its web site, where little information about clean-ups was available.

Shell also repeated its claim that most oil spills and pollution are caused by illegal activity, such as people stealing oil from pipes rather than poor maintenance.

In previous reports, Amnesty and CEHRD have exposed as false, statements made by Shell about illegal activity and the extent of oil spills due to corroded pipes.

In any event, Nigerian law says companies who own pipelines are responsible for cleaning up, regardless of the cause of the spill.

## Amnesty Hijacks Shell Recruitment Video

The report is part of Amnesty's Clean It Up campaign, which calls on Shell to finally deal with the devastating impact of oil spills in Niger Delta.

The campaign features a new spoof video based on Shell's own "Make the Future" recruitment film, targeting engineering students, which is hijacked by Amnesty.

The spoof video asks: "What if we didn't have to wait? What if Shell cleaned up over 50 years of oil spills?"

# One Poem that Saved a Forest

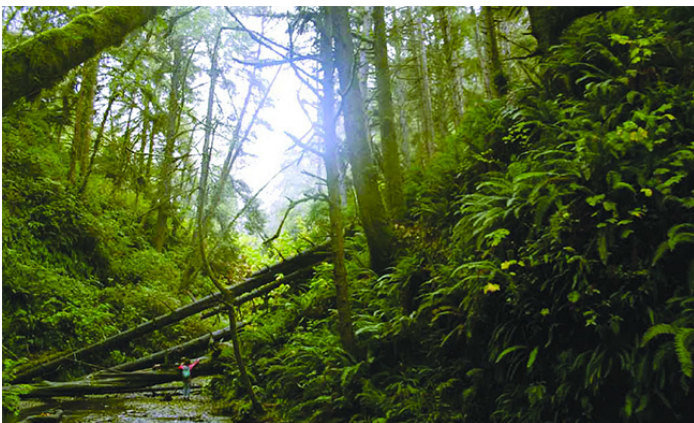
**How the friendship between a poet and a timber baron kept a grove of California redwoods from clear-cutting.**

By Jacqueline Suskin  
*YES! Magazine*: July 21, 2015

1.  
What can a single poem inspire?  
What can one verse induce?  
One poem can offer an outlet for healing.  
A distinct lyric can allow connection to occur.  
One poem can lead to the most unlikely friendship.  
A single stanza can change the fate of a forest.



2.  
I'm Jacqueline Suskin.  
The past four years I've performed Poem Store: a public project that consists of exchanging on-demand poetry about any subject, composed on a manual typewriter, in trade for any donation. I've done most of my work in Arcata at the Saturday Farmers Market.  
I've lived in and around this northern California coastal town for three years. The community embraced me and treated me as their unofficial town poet.  
I think of this place as the throne of the Earth.  
Where I go to wander through ancient forests, stroll the edge of the continent and kneel along the lip of clear cold rivers.



3.  
Here I learned the language of landscape.  
Here I became acquainted with a history of harvest. Everywhere I looked the trees

were owned, considered a crop, nurtured and prepared for our consumption. Folks would camp high up in the old growth redwoods trying their hand as saviors, but nothing can stop the might of human need. I wanted to know more about this system. I wanted to look the whole of it in the eye and ask it to transform. No matter how much I read, no matter how many tree-sitters I talked to, I still felt a huge section of the equation missing. I still felt there was something I could do that wasn't being done.



4.  
This is Neal Ewald.  
Neal is the Senior Vice President of Green Diamond Resource Company. Green Diamond is a five-generation, family-owned and highly controversial timber harvesting company that possesses 400,000 acres of land in California. Green Diamond has a reputation for its clear cut logging practices, use of toxic herbicides and issues with mass privatization of land. Lesser known and hardly celebrated are the recent sizeable adjustments the company has made, including receiving a Forest Stewardship Council certification for improved and responsible forestry

5.  
In 2010 at the Arcata Farmers Market  
I wrote Neal this poem per his request on the subject of

## Being Underwater

Of all the things to do in life,  
all landscapes to believe in,  
all ways of proving anything is possible,  
with the weight of water around us  
we pay tribute to the finest possibility.  
When below the surface  
we take moments to look up and know  
that be it waking life or not,  
all the force of the world lies deep  
and well in such an unknown place

**Poem** continued on next page



Poem *continued from page 12*

6.  
This poem inspired Neal to solicit another,  
this time through the mail.  
He sent me a package. Inside was a book.  
He explained that he had lost his wife to cancer  
and this was a collection of her correspondence  
with friends and family for the five months  
before she passed away.  
He wanted me to study the book and then compose  
a poem for him and his children to read as they  
finally spread her ashes in the ocean.  
He hadn't been able to do this because he hadn't  
found anything that he felt was good enough for  
such a moment. He didn't want to choose a song  
or a poem from an anthology. He wanted something  
unique, something just for Wendy. When he met me,  
he felt he'd been led to me for a reason.  
I was to write this poem for his wife.



### 7. – Everything's A Gift –

Here, we pay tribute to the teachers of wisdom.  
All who choose to recreate the standard way of leaving,  
who carefully furl away grief in the name of celebrating  
the greater weave, who allow experience to shine as it should,  
the beauty of all things held high and seen well,  
even in the darkest of times.  
It is these guides who recognize the fickle ways of the body,  
knowing that all life is not had in the mind, who discover  
the sturdy ground is in the kith and kin, in the loves  
we nurture with the simple give and take that can only be had  
through such constant connection.  
It is these who settle on patience in the face of mystery  
and misfortune, knowing that we are but provided with words  
as explanations and everything's a gift. And so beyond  
trying to figure answers and find ends, we should instead  
honor the circle we've been offered, allow for its turns  
and delivery to come with grace and acceptance so that we  
might leave it all behind knowing how perfect it was  
in all directions.

- For Wendy, Neal, Zach and Annie and all who continue to be  
touched by Wendy's love and wisdoms. Written July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
by Jacqueline Suskin with honor and thanks.

8.  
It wasn't until I composed and delivered  
Wendy's poem that I even realized who Neal was.  
He holds the key to the forest  
and there isn't much that I care about more  
than the forest. Neal presented a way for me  
to be directly in service to the Earth.  
I was overwhelmed with the feeling  
that we could collaborate and create change.



### 9. The Most Unlikely Pair: The Poet & The Timber Baron.

Our friendship grew based upon the inherent trust  
that comes from sharing such an intimate  
experience. Our poetic exchange about Wendy  
allowed for a comfortable and familial alliance.  
We began having dinners, we started a book club,  
I was invited to the Green Diamond walks in the woods,  
and always every encounter was full of discussion.  
We mused about the future of the company, what  
revisions could occur, what the public needed  
to know, what problems needed solving.  
Neal expressed great interest in my ideas.  
He listened enthusiastically and his intrinsic  
desire to explore the unknown was very clear.  
He never once seemed unavailable, never like  
a fat-cat businessman, but a true seeker,  
an open-hearted wonderer.

10.  
We created a shared language.  
We developed themes to talk about each time  
we saw one another: Grief, Activism, Poetry,  
Women, Love, Corporate Accountability, Polarity,  
Native Americans, Environmentalism, Dehumanization.  
We shared inspirations and lessons:  
I read stories about his father.  
He taught me how to shoot guns and use a chainsaw.  
We made plans:  
I would help him create a permaculture homestead  
design for his personal land. We would swim  
in the ocean on anniversaries and honor Wendy  
together, spreading lilies in the water,  
and I would recite her poem.

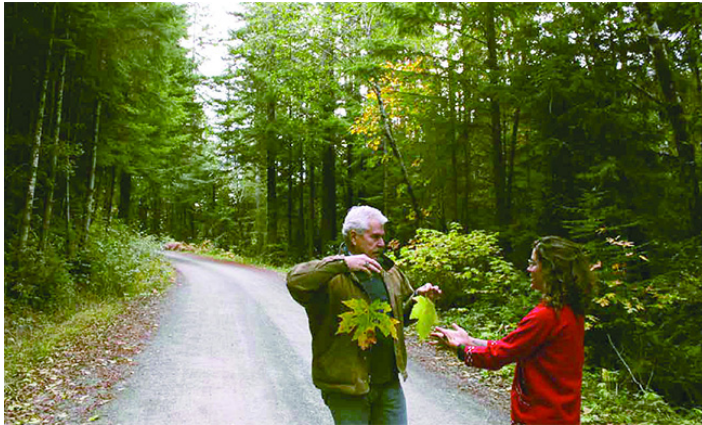
11.

Above all we focused on one word: yes  
Neal is dedicated to the discovery of how to say  
yes. He wants to disrupt the concept that there  
needs to be opposition. Throughout his career  
in forestry he has strived to find a way to  
dismantle dichotomy and meet his adversaries  
in the middle.

This is extremely difficult when your opponent  
chooses not to view you as a human being,  
but simply as greedy and power hungry.

Green Diamond is a business  
and Neal's job is to run this business.

If only objectors could form requests that he  
could say yes to instead of far fetched  
demands that fail to leave room for his connection  
to his career. Neal is passionate about living



12.

Perhaps my experience with Neal could have ended up with the deep  
exchange we had over the poems I created for him. If that were  
the only outcome of this connection I'd be completely satisfied.  
To see how those poems brought him healing was enough.  
But because of our trusting relationship, something else occurred.  
The history of the McKay Tract, a piece of land that contains  
a grove of old growth redwood in Cutten, California, is much too  
complex  
for me to tell here. Folks have dedicated years of their lives  
trying to preserve this forest. A young man named Farmer was the  
voice of this particular protest. He had been covertly living in  
the trees for a long time. He hated Green Diamond. Yet, with  
Farmer I saw a possibility in his passion. After various promptings  
and considerable conversation, with my support Farmer took the  
initiative and reached out to Neal.  
After a few in-depth meetings an arrangement developed.  
Green Diamond was already working on plans for the McKay  
Tract

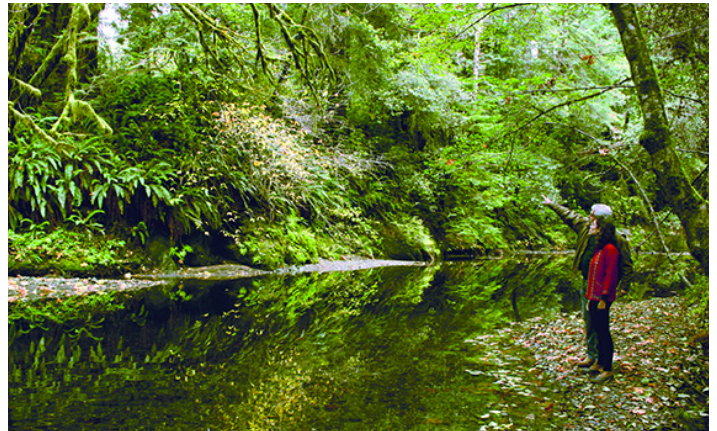
and Neal saw this common thread of interest as a way to connect  
with his adversaries. These two rivals figured out how to meet  
and discuss the forest while avoiding dehumanization. It didn't  
matter that they disagree about so many things. They chose to hear  
one another, to consider each other's perspective and not simply  
make demands. They worked within one another's Yes Zone.  
The McKay Tract will not be cut.

The nonprofit Trust for Public Land is working on turning  
a great deal of it into a community forest. This agreement  
caused a new communion, no matter how subtle. Forest protesters  
were able to see Neal's willingness. They can now credit his  
character and his obvious wish to say yes.

In each conversation I have with Neal he likes to remind me  
that this change occurred because of us and our discussions.  
I follow it all the way back to the fact  
that a single poem created a spark.

13.

With this story, a reminder bursts brilliantly  
before us all. This is that age-old concept  
that one person can truly make a difference.  
May we remember that everyone holding a place  
of power is still simply human. They may be  
grieving, they may be in need, they may be sitting  
with an ache that only we can help ease. They may  
be nothing like the picture that society paints  
of them and they may want to do something  
extraordinary.



*Jacqueline Suskin wrote this article for "Make It Right," the Summer 2015 issue of YES! Magazine. Jacqueline is a writer, performance poet and artist based in Los Angeles. She is the author of two books, the latest titled Go Ahead & Like It, available from Ten Speed Press of Penguin Random House. Known for her ongoing work with Poem Store, Suskin composes on-demand poetry for customers who choose both a topic and a price in exchange for a unique verse. Poem Store has been her main occupation since 2009 and has taken her around the country with her typewriter in tow.*



# Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out  
Make it do or do without.





Photo by Ben Motu

*The Greenpeace protest vessel Rainbow Warrior lying partly submerged at Marsden Wharf in Auckland, New Zealand after an explosion ripped through the hull.*

## Rainbow Warrior Bomber Apologizes after 30 Years

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, D.C.

NZHerald.co.nz: September 6, 2015 

The French secret service frogman who attached the mines which sank the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior in New Zealand 30 years ago apologized for his actions in an interview today with investigative web site Mediapart.

Jean-Luc Kister, whose face was not covered in the hour-long video interview, said he believed it was now the right time to say sorry to the family of Portuguese photographer Fernando Pereira, who was killed in the explosion, to Greenpeace and to the people of New Zealand.

“Thirty years after the event, now that emotions have subsided and also with the distance I now have from my professional life, I thought it was the right time for me to express both my deepest regret and my apologies,” Kister said.

On July 10, 1985, the Rainbow Warrior was docked in Auckland on its way to protest against French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll, about 1,200 kilometres (747 miles) southeast of Tahiti.

Kister was working for France’s spy agency, the DGSE, which carried out an unprecedented mission to stop Greenpeace by bombing a peaceful protest ship without warning in the waters of a friendly nation.

He was part of the so-called “third team,” whose mission was to attach two large

limpet mines to the hull of the converted trawler, working with fellow frogman Jean Camas.

A third member of the team, Gerard Royal, a brother of France’s current environment minister and former presidential candidate Segolene Royal, picked up the two men in a dinghy after the covert operation.

“I have the blood of an innocent man on my conscience and that weighs on me,” a visibly emotional Kister said in the interview. “We are not cold-blooded killers. My conscience led me to apologize and explain myself.”

He said the mission that the 12-strong unit were ordered to carry out by then French defense minister Charles Hernu was “disproportionate” and he claimed that other less drastic ways of damaging the ship, such as breaking the propeller shaft to prevent it from taking to sea, were rejected by the government.

“There was a willingness at a high level to say, ‘This has to end once and for all; we need to take radical measures.’ We were told we had to sink it. Well, it’s simple to sink a boat, you have to put a hole in it.”

Kister’s name was leaked to the media soon after the bombing, albeit with a spelling mistake as Kyster. He said he considered his unmasking to be an act of “high treason.”

“I’m not angry at the journalists, it’s the political powers I blame. If it had been in the United States, other heads would have rolled.”

Two days after the bombing, two of the agents who took part — Alain Mafart and Dominique Prieur, who had posed as a couple of Swiss tourists — were arrested by New Zealand police and their identities revealed.

Hernu, the defense minister, was forced to resign two months later.

Mafart and Prieur were charged with murder, eventually pleading guilty to manslaughter and receiving 10-year jail terms but they were freed within months under a deal that sparked almost as much anger in New Zealand as the bombing, involving France threatening to block trade access to European markets unless Wellington handed over the agents.

France has since made an official apology for the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior and paid damages. In 1996 it halted the nuclear testing that had prompted the Greenpeace protest. The interview was carried out by French journalist and Mediapart founder, Edwy Plenel, who in September 1985 revealed in a *Le Monde* newspaper report the involvement of the DGSE frogman in planting the explosives.

Plenel says one aspect of the infamous bombing remains unexplained to this day — how much then president Francois Mitterrand knew about the operation.

Although Mitterrand was aware that it was going to take place, “At which point did he know the operation was going to be so violent?” Plenel asked.

# World Wide Fund for Nature: Nearly Half World's Marine Animals Wiped Out in Single Generation

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, D.C.

By Kucy Cormack   
*The Sydney Morning Herald*: September 17, 2015

Humanity's mismanagement of the ocean has led to the loss of almost half the world's marine mammals, birds, reptiles and fish in a single generation, a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) report says.

The emergency edition of WWF's Living Blue Planet Report revealed a 49 per cent decline in marine vertebrate populations between 1970 and 2012. For some fish this figure was almost 75 per cent.

"Often that word 'emergency' gets bandied about but in this situation it really is an emergency," said Richard Leck, marine program leader for WWF Australia. "I work on these issues day-to-day but, to see the findings of this report in the space of a generation, it is truly stunning that we can have that level of impact in such a short period of time."

Director General of WWF International Marco Lambertini described the situation as nothing short of a "crisis," in his foreword to the report by WWF and the Royal Zoological Society of London.

"When I wrote the foreword to the 2014 edition of WWF's Living Planet Report, I said it was not for the faint-hearted. This edition, a deep dive into the health of marine species and the habitats on which they depend, is equally if not more sobering."

Tracking 5,829 populations of 1,234 species, the report gave a much broader overview of ocean health than previous studies.

It highlighted the impact of commercial fish stocks and the role the private sector must play in slowing rates of overfishing, suggesting that species essential to commercial fishing and the global food



Graphic: World Wildlife Fund

*A scale of the decline in marine life from 1970 to 2010.*

supply were suffering the greatest declines. For example, *scrombidae*, the family which includes tunas, mackerels and bonitos, suffered a 74 per cent decline between 1970 and 2010.

"Overfishing, destruction of marine habitats and climate change have dire consequences for the entire human population, with the poorest communities that rely on the sea getting hit fastest and hardest," said Dermot O'Gorman, CEO of WWF Australia.

He said the private sector had to carry the responsibility of ensuring sustainable practices and operations, noting Australian salmon company Tassal and retailer Coles for their commitment towards sustainability.

The supermarket giant's 2015 sustainable sourcing policy for home-brand, canned tuna states it will "not source yellowfin, southern bluefin or bigeye tuna, all of which are overfished, or are in danger of being overfished;" however, in late August the retailer was caught breaching the policy.

Mr. Leck said responsibility lies not only

with the commercial fishing industry but with governments across the globe.

"Globally I think oceans haven't received the same level of conservation focus as other ecosystems," he said, citing the Solomons, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Indonesia, where large populations depend on the oceans for their livelihoods.

"We've always thought of protected areas as an environmental measure and not a livelihood measure. But protecting these resources goes far beyond being an environmental issue, it's a human welfare issue."

Mr. Leck said there was definitely optimism in the sector upon hearing the news of Malcolm Turnbull being sworn in as Prime Minister, as, "One of his previous roles was as environment minister. He has a very keen understanding of the serious environmental issues we face in Australia...I think we should definitely be hopeful and optimistic his government will again lead on environmental issues."

*Green turtles swimming in the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland.*  
**Photo:**  
Troy Mayne



## Drones Deployed to Monitor Turtle Eggs

Mexican authorities have deployed drones and Marines to Mexico's southwestern beaches to protect turtle eggs from poaching.

Watch a short YouTube at <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/world-wide-fund-for-nature-says-nearly-half-the-worlds-marine-animals-wiped-out-in-single-generation-20150915-gjn8o5>.



# Vegetarian Holidays



Dust off your decorations, grab your wrapping paper and ribbon, and then switch on those sparkling lights — the Vegetarian Society has 'Christmas all wrapped up' at [www.vegsoc.org/christmas](http://www.vegsoc.org/christmas).

Whether you're a veggie or catering for one, we've got your festive feasting under control. The collection features some of the Vegetarian Society's best recipe ideas including party food, Christmas main courses to share, ways to use leftovers and delightful desserts to finish off a celebration meal. It's not just recipes though — there are ideas to help you through the festive season.

Check out the brand-new, online advent calendar. From the first of December through to the big day, each door will reveal a special veggie giveaway so keep popping back!

Food plays a huge part of any Christmas celebration and everyone needs to put in a little planning. These Christmas recipes will give you all the inspiration you need. A vegetarian does not eat any meat, poultry, game, fish, shellfish or crustacea, or slaughter by-products.

Alex Connell, Principal Tutor of the Vegetarian Society Cookery School, said, "Christmas is a time to celebrate and

we've picked our favorite recipes so you can relax and enjoy the festivities. 'Christmas all wrapped up' is full of warm, seasonal flavors — chestnuts, beetroot, cinnamon, leeks and hazelnuts — all you need to do is remember the roasties. While for the sweet-toothed individuals out there, how about mincemeat muffins or desserts bursting with raspberries, chocolate, orange and ginger?"

Don't forget to visit [www.vegsoc.org/christmas](http://www.vegsoc.org/christmas) to open the advent calendar doors — where each day there'll be a chance to take part in our Christmas give-aways."

The Vegetarian Society is a charity that aims to influence, inspire and support people to embrace and maintain a vegetarian lifestyle. Being a vegetarian is a choice that is kinder to animals, to people and to our living planet. Established in 1847 we are the oldest vegetarian organization in the world visit [www.vegsoc.org](http://www.vegsoc.org) for more information.

For more information about a veggie 'Christmas all wrapped up,' interviews, recipes or high-quality images, contact Su in the UK at [su@vegsoc.org](mailto:su@vegsoc.org) or 0161 925 2012. For international calls, you may need to dial 011 first.

## January 30 Wilson College Factory Farm Forum

### Concerns About Industrial Animal Production in Our Communities

The family farm with animals grazing in sunlit pastures is giving way to food factories where animals spend their short lives in cramped cages tended by workers in bio-hazard garb. Massive amounts of antibiotic-laden manure piles up in pits, threatening our water supplies. Air emissions from high-density livestock facilities may imperil human health.

Come hear about the environmental, health and property-value concerns of local residents faced with nearby confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Learn how you can support another way forward, back to the future of wholesome sustainable agriculture.

**1:30 to 4:30 p.m.**  
**Wilson College Science Center  
Auditorium**

For further information, call Alanna Hartzok at 717-357-7617.

**Here's the link to the EventBrite Invitation where you can register for this free forum:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-factory-farm-forum-concerns-about-industrial-animal-production-in-our-communities-tickets-19410487290>.

# Iona's Memoir: How on Earth Did I Become a Pacifist Activist?

## Heart Leads, I Follow

By Iona (aka Susan Wynne Norris Hnatt Topf Conner)

### First Reviews

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. ECC, Nigeria

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

Mostly I wanted to touch base and say I totally forgot your mom had MS as my mother did and we both had more responsibility at a very early age. I was ironing my own clothes at 9 or 10. I also didn't remember that you were a member of the DAR. My mother was and I'm going to join. I've talked about it long enough and you've put it front and center. So I'm doing it!! It's such an honor, even if it ends with Jackie — if she even wants to join.

Best of luck with your book and I'm sure many will find it as interesting as I do. I finished it and thoroughly enjoyed it. I had no idea all the unique things you did as an activist and your amazing travels. Wow. I loved it and all the pictures. Thank goodness there are people like you in this world!!

BB, New Jersey

Your book arrived today and I started reading it. I love the comments that Matt sent on the salute to the flag. It will be great fun to read the entire story. The photos are wonderful. I have been reading your memoir and enjoying it greatly. Only on about page 70 or so.

I loved the story about your solo novice canoe ride. Also your solo bike ride through the Pine Barrens.

Now I'm reading about your stay on a kibbutz in Israel. I just read a bit every day, kind of a slow reader but enjoy every page.

What a masterpiece — I admire your energy to put this together. TM, Virginia



I started reading your book last night and am enjoying it. Your family history and struggle with weight gain is interesting and keeps me reading. I knew someone in school that gained a lot of weight too after her parents divorced and it became a lifelong challenge. The pictures are great! You and Joanie were so adorable and look very much alike. GDS, Vermont

I've been enjoying your book. So many of your growing up experiences mirror mine! GN, Pennsylvania

Excellent book! Please keep up GBC! Very best, SC, Pennsylvania

Wow Iona, it is wonderful. I started reading it and read for over an hour!

Here is one thing you said about your marriage to Bill — it really hit my heart! "All I wanted was my freedom from the environment which was suffocating me and where I felt no love from my husband."

Wow that surely described my feeling exactly from my marriage! You just got there before me!

Anyway your book is so good I could hardly put it down! And Iona — you are beautiful! The pictures of you in the book — such a beauty in those pictures and you didn't look at all FAT !!!!!!!

I really liked the story of canoeing down the river!!! And the ocean — you had a wonderful out-of-body experience there with being one with the ocean. I can so relate to this all. It is so neat to see pictures and put the people you speak of with faces! Joanie for one. And Cece. I even got up this morning and read a few more pages before work! I am a slow reader.

I am really enjoying your book — I only had a little time for reading last night. I have to say — wow Iona, you have had such an interesting and fun-filled life!!!! I like how you always went on those adventures by yourself — oh my gosh that bike trip through the Pine forest, no Pine Barrens — anyway how interesting and along the way you met many friends. You look so happy at your little apartment making pancakes! The picture of you and John getting married — you look so extremely happy — although I haven't read that part yet. LL, Idaho

I finished the book today: what a Labor of Love! I really enjoyed it.

Now, without any slight whatsoever, because it was a great gift, may I return it so you can share it with someone else — and save the trees we both love?

I did enjoy *How on Earth*. It was a page-turner. I learned a lot about my friend. CB, Pennsylvania

*Spiral-bound, 205 pages, 56 color images. \$25 includes shipping or I will email you the PDF for \$10. I have only a few copies left and will need to gather at least 15 additional orders to get my bulk discount. Please make check payable to: The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks! I'm also looking for a "real" publisher. If you have any ideas on that, please let me know at gobackclub@pa.net. Thank you.*



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See cover, review and ordering information on page 7. Spiral-bound, 205-page book is \$25 or, if you'd like to receive it in pdf format, \$10. Please make check or money order to The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks very much.



Remember your dreams.

## Letters and Emails from our Members



**Hi Iona,**

Have you seen the magazine, “Real Simple?”

I picked up a few copies at the library and I was shocked. There is nothing simple about it! It’s one of the busiest magazines I’ve ever read — splotchy with advertising, ads made to look like stories, lots of graphics clutter, advice on make-up and relationships. Selling, selling, selling. There is little to distinguish it from the “O” magazine. Nothing useful for the Go-Back crowd, I think.

**GBC member from Pennsylvania**

**Dear Iona,**

Thanks Iona for including your wonderful review in last month’s newsletter. I can’t wait to read the rest of the issue — it’s jammed packed!

Warm Regards,  
“G,” Pennsylvania

**Hello, Iona.**

Thanks again. [*for publishing his art work as part of the Dark Mountain article in last month’s newsbooklet*]

Publication looks great. Looking forward to reading the whole thing :)

**Laurence Lord, UK**

**Hi, Iona.**

Ugh, the story about the horses is heart-breaking. I couldn’t even look at the picture of all the pigs cooped up in pens for very long. I just glanced. I know how intelligent pigs are. I cleaned their pens for years. But all animals are intelligent in their own way.

As you know, my heart is with animals and all of non-human nature. I wish our species wasn’t so successful. Anyway, thanks for all the hard work you do and caring so much. I don’t see in the news-booklet a way to donate for the hog farm.

I sent the Horse Federation a donation and sent this email to BLM:

**Dear Benjamin and Jeremie,**

I am deeply disturbed by BLM’s treatment of America’s wild horses, an icon of the American spirit and freedom. I suggest that if overpopulation is truly a concern that more humane alternative methods be

used rather than rounding them up with helicopters. Removals of wild horses from their homes must be avoided — there is no place to put them and already 50,000 wild horses filling holding facilities to capacity. Use of PZP fertility control to control the population of these herd areas should be used instead of removal.

During the roundup, horses should be kept in their family bands and they should definitely be kept within the HMAs that they came from. Horses have a complex social and family structure and should not be treated like livestock. Livestock shouldn’t be treated as “livestock” either but that’s another issue.

It is judicious to give the public at least 14 days notice of start date of the roundups so that interested citizens have adequate time to arrange to observe the roundups.

This is America, isn’t it?

Your attention is much appreciated,  
Gloria DeSousa  
Burlington, Vermont

**Dear Iona,**

Excellent book!

Please keep up GBC!

I’m bad at submissions just now —  
**Sandy Chilcote, Pennsylvania**

**Iona,**

I have read all nine of the *Anastasia* books and am now re-reading them. Astounding!

No I do not recall your mention of them. Friend in Scotland sent me the first book, then I ordered the rest.

Have a splendid time in Korea. We work with groups there on land value tax policy reform.

**Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania**

**Hi, Iona.**

I have been thinking about everything and I want to do something by next month for the Milk Basket. I think I will take milk and treated mosquito nets to one of the interior communities in Bayelsa. Maybe I will start from the place I served.

I need to document the whole thing, take pictures and videos, sign up Instagram and so on for the Milk Basket. I just realized

that it won’t work if I just sit by and expect a miracle. I have to be able to give reference to what we are doing so far before expecting help from people.

**Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Nigeria**

**Hello Iona,**

Great article on the CAFO situation by the way.

**Judy Weglarski, Pennsylvania**

**Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,**

It is said, “Go Wave, Go.” We have to be new missionaries for veggie meals for promoting health and saving the Earth. We must be good fighters. Of course the industries will die hard lobbying for their profits but we will not surrender. We are good fighters for the good war against the greedy ones. Let us get united. We have nothing to lose. Animals are also on our side. Bravo.

The WHO (World Health Organization) announced that red meat and processed meats are carcinogens. Dr. Byun and I already talked about the facts but not many people believed the facts. On Tuesday I had a chance to talk to parents of students about the risk of taking animal proteins such as meat, eggs, fish and milk products.

As I told you already I am a missionary of veggie foods for the health of the people. I just came back home late yesterday after my public talk. Have a beautiful day.

**Pyong Roh, brother in the Universe, Korea**

**Iona,**

Thank you for another fabulous Go-Back Club publication. I just read it all with great interest. Of course the Wild Horses photo really pulled me in to start with. And I look forward to reading your book one day.

Most relevant for our region is your article on Industrial Agriculture. Thus, I hereby invite you to be a co-sponsor of our forthcoming CAFO Forum that will be held January 30 at Wilson College. (See page 17.) Co-sponsorship means: promote the forum to your associates and friends; be listed as a co-sponsor on the program; and third, you are welcome to put literature out on the tables.

**Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania**