



The Go-Back Club

Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: #30, Summer 2016

These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

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



“this is an urgent situation...these kids can’t wait.”

-Judge Hollis R. Hill, Seattle, Washington (April 29, 2016)

Our Children’s Trust elevates the voice of youth to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate for the benefit of all present and future generations. Through our programs, youth participate in advocacy, public education, and civic engagement to ensure the viability of all natural systems in accordance with science.

Youths Secure Second Win In Washington State Climate Lawsuit

Our Children’s Trust

Press Release: April 29, 2016

**Judge Chastises State, Rules
from Bench Ordering State to
Reduce Carbon Emissions**

**Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire
Editor, and John Conner, Shade Gap,
Pennsylvania**

SEATTLE, Washington—Today, in a surprise ruling from the bench in the critical climate case brought by youths against the State of Washington’s Department of Ecology (“Ecology”), King County Superior Court Judge Hollis Hill ordered Ecology to promulgate an emissions reduction rule by the end of 2016, and make recommendations to the state legislature on science-based greenhouse gas reductions in the 2017 legislative session.

Judge Hill also ordered Ecology to consult

with the youth petitioners in advance of that recommendation. The youths were forced back to court after Ecology unexpectedly withdrew the very rulemaking efforts to reduce carbon emissions the agency told the judge it had underway. This case is one of several similar state, federal, and international cases, all supported by Our Children’s Trust, seeking the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate.

In granting the youth a remedy, Judge

Children *continued on page 10*

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

Wire Editor: Allen Hengst

Contributors: Sandy Chilcote, Mare Cromwell, Alanna Hartzok, Erik Olaf

Established: September 2013

Web site: www.gobackclub.org

Published 10 times a year: Free via email

Contact: The Go-Back Club, c/o Iona Conner, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255; 814-259-3680; gobackclub@pa.net.

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 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.

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 education 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 substi-

tute 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. Thus, using a more creative or imaginative work (such as a novel, movie or song) is less likely to support a claim of a fair use than using a factual work (such as a technical article or news item). In addition, use of an unpublished work is less likely to be considered fair.

(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. That said, some courts have found use of an entire work to be fair under certain circumstances. And in other contexts, using even a small amount of a copyrighted work was determined not to be fair because the selection was an important part—or the "heart"—of the work.

(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.

In addition to the above, other factors may also be considered by a court in weighing a fair use question, depending upon the circumstances. Courts evaluate fair use claims on a case-by-case basis and the outcome of any given case depends on a fact-specific inquiry. This means that there is no formula to ensure that a predetermined percentage or amount of a work—or specific number of words, lines, pages, copies—may be used without permission.

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

Petition to Open Federal Criminal Investigation of EPA & Pennsylvania DEP on Drinking Water Contamination Related to Fracking

Submitted by Judy Wanchism
East Run, Pennsylvania

Public Herald
Nonprofit Investigative News
Email received June 29, 2016



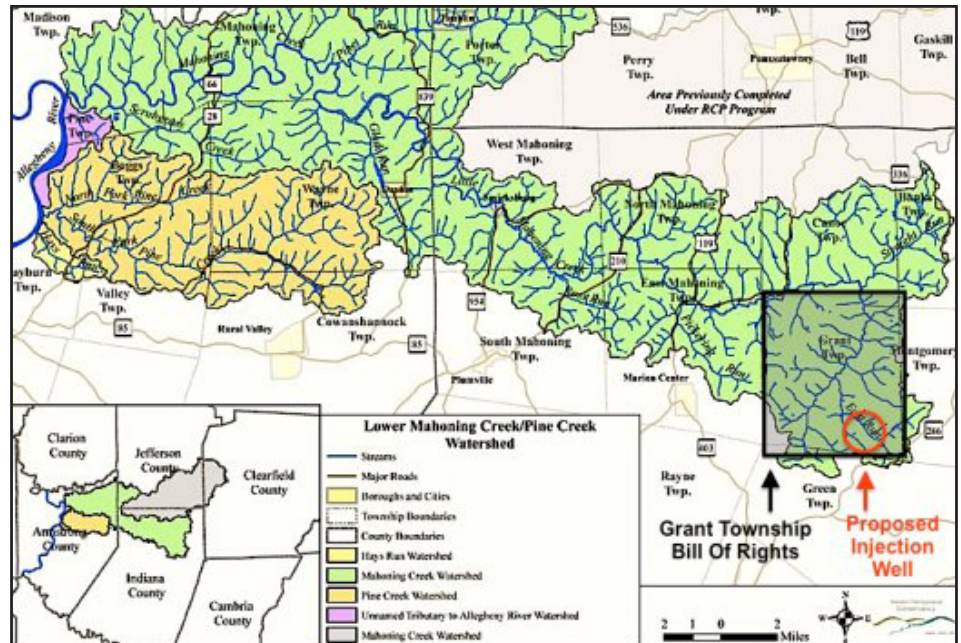
On June 14th, 2016, the investigative news nonprofit Public Herald called for a federal criminal investigation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) during testimony before the USEPA Science Advisory Board regarding water contamination related to hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas, commonly called “fracking.”

We, the undersigned, echo Public Herald’s call for a federal investigation of USEPA and PADEP for failing to act on drinking water contamination related to shale hydrocarbon development, a.k.a. fracking, and thereby placing public health at risk to exposure to toxins. (Add your name to the online petition at end of this article.)

Due to the government’s failure to perform its duties under current laws and the industry-led weakening of public safety regulations, Americans have been and are still being exposed to toxins in their groundwater. The PADEP and USEPA have failed to adequately or properly assess residential complaints, or ensure the full restoration of water supplies as required by Title 58, § 3218 of the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act.

A federal investigation should include a hearing before the United States Congressional House Oversight and Government Reform Committee comparable to that held for lead contamination in Flint, Michigan’s water system. In Flint, residents’ complaints about drinking water problems in 2015 were grossly mishandled by state and federal officials. This failure to act in the public interest by state and federal agencies spurred hearings that led to criminal charges filed against members of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

A federal investigation of PADEP and EPA should encompass all citizen complaints of water contamination and acknowledge the evidence released in a report by Public Herald in September 2015 that revealed nine ways DEP systematically keeps water contamination cases “off the books”. Public Herald’s investigation defines and corroborates other findings



Little Mahoning watershed with proposed injection well site.

by Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, Harvard School of Law, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning Center for Public Integrity.

These reports clearly show that, after a decade of shale hydrocarbon development across Pennsylvania, DEP has allowed the full extent of water contamination related to fracking to remain dangerously obscure.

As reported by Public Herald, in the Pennsylvania counties of Butler, Bradford, Susquehanna, Potter, Tioga, Washington, Beaver, Greene, Westmoreland, Fayette, Lycoming, McKean, and Warren (among others), government officials have tacitly and actively permitted a rapid expansion of drilling and fracking in affected areas while allowing disenfranchised Americans to live on donated bottled water for months or years.

EPA nationwide and PADEP have left thousands of families across shale plays to deal with water contamination on their own, some forced to abandon their homes as “shale gas refugees”.

It is for these reasons that we, the undersigned, call for a federal criminal investigation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) for their mishandling of drinking water contamination complaints related to fracking development in a widespread and systemic cover up and conspiracy against

the public.

- Sincerely,
Melissa Troutman, Executive Director, Public Herald
Joshua Pribanic, Editor-in-Chief, Public Herald
Dr. Jill Stein, Green Party Candidate for President
Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Jenny Lisak, Co-director, Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
Beverly Braverman, Executive Director of Mountain Watershed Association, home of the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper
B. Arrindell, Director, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Frank Potter, President, People for a Healthy Environment, Inc.
John A. Trallo, Executive Vice Chair, Shale Justice Coalition/OUE
Michael Bagdes-Canning, Vice President, Cherry Valley Borough
EcoJustice Working Group, Thomas Merton Center
LAWPA - Local Authority Western PA
Communities for Rights and Environment, 31st Ward Pittsburgh, PA
Fracking Truth Alliance of Lawrence and Mercer Counties
Beyond Extreme Energy
Philly EDGE (Encouraging the Development of a Green Economy)
Upper Burrell CAMP (Citizens Against

Petition continued on page 4

Petition *continued from page 3*

Marcellus Pollution)
Susan Van Dolsen, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion
Mike Stout, Izaak Walton League, Harry Enstrom Chapter
Craig Stevens, Patriots From The Oil & Gas Shales, 6th Generation Landowner, Susquehanna County, Silver Lake Township, PA
The Green Party of Pennsylvania, Chair Kristin Combs
Marcellus Protest
Briget Shields
Robert Brown, M.D., Murrysville, PA
Ron J. Gulla, Frack Action
Andrew Geller, Editor-in-Chief, Woodshop Films
Maura Stephens, Coalition to Protect New York, Frackbusters (NY)
Stephanie Ulmer, Protect Our Parks
Mike Pastorkovich, Vice Chair & Gwen Chute, Exec. Committee, Allegheny Group Sierra Club
Gerri Wiley, Facilitator, RAFT (Residents Allied for the Future of Tioga)
Trellan Smith, Concerned Residents of Oxford
Ellen Gerhart, Juniata Watershed People Before Pipelines
Rebecca Roter, PA Shale Gas Refugee (Impacted Pennsylvania Resident)
Randolph Hurst, Protect Orange County, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Nancy Vann, Safe Energy Rights Group
Laurie Barr, Save Our Streams PA, Potter County, PA
Steve Runfolo, West Virginia
Marcellus Outreach Butler (MOB)
NC PowerForward
Nancy B. Downes, Allegheny County, PA
Karl Zimmerman, Columbia County, PA
Karen Bernard, Allegheny County, PA
Kevin Zeese, J.D.
Margaret Flowers, M.D.
Ann Finneran, NY Water Action Group
William & Angela Smith, Clearville, PA
Leslie Rolfe, Potter County, PA
Mary Anne Heston, Potter County, PA
Dan Taylor, Chenango CDOGG (Chenango, Delaware, Otsego Gas Drilling Opposition Group)
Irene Weiser, Coordinator, Fossil Free Tompkins
Suzy Winkler, Co-founder, Concerned Burlington Neighbors
Rachel Soper, Concerned Citizens of Oneonta
Michael Bucci, Deep Green Resistance New York
Colleen McKinney, Co-founder, People Not Pipelines
Kelly Finan, Susquehanna County, PA
Dwain Wilder, Librarian, Frack Free

Genesee
Judy Wanchisn, Founder, East Run Hellbenders Society, Indiana County, PA
Stacy W. Long, President, East Run Hellbenders Society, Indiana County, PA
Karen Feridun, Founder, Berks Gas Truth Briget and Doug Shields, Pittsburgh, PA
Tara Sumner, Vice President, Advocates for Springfield
Joseph & Arlene Mercurio, New Kensington, PA
Stuart Besnoff, Windsor, Massachusetts
Holly Higinbotham, CaPOW - Compressor and Pipeline Opposition in Windsor, MA
Christine Macpherson, Founder, Complete It Cuomo, Albany, NY
Joan Tubridy, Delaware County, NY
Pennsylvanians Against Fracking
Mary Finneran, Cairo, NY Frackbustersny, Coalition to protect NY, United Against Fossil Fuels
Dennis Higgins, Otego, NY
Mickey Gniadek, Washington County, PA
Robert Buncher, Allegheny County, PA
Sam Bernhardt, Senior Pennsylvania Organizer, Food & Water Watch

Sending To:

Jason Chaffetz, Chairman of United States House Oversight & Government Reform Committee
Elijah Cummings, Ranking Member of United States House Oversight & Government Reform Committee
Matt Cartwright, PA Rep. of United States House Oversight & Government Reform Committee
Gina McCarthy, Secretary of United States Environmental Protection Agency
Shawn M. Garvin, Administrator for EPA's Mid-Atlantic Region (Region 3)
Special Agent Clay M. Brown, USEPA Office of Investigations
Thomas Carpenter, Designated Federal Officer / Sr. Biologist, USEPA Science Advisory Board
Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Pennsylvania Auditor General, Eugene DePasquale
Robert H. Helverson, MS—Region 3 Representative, CDC/ATSDR
EPA Criminal Investigation Unit
Loretta Lynch—US Attorney
Kathleen Kane—Pennsylvania Attorney General

NOTE: An online petition is available at publicherald.org/federal-investigation/. Please right-click to comment if you have suggestions or use the Google editing tool.

Pennsylvania Township Legalizes Civil Disobedience

Ready to Stop Company from Injecting Frack Wastewater into their Community

New Law Shields People from Arrest for Protesting Project

CELDF Press Release: May 3, 2016

GRANT TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania—Tonight, Grant Township Supervisors passed a first-in-the-nation law that legalizes direct action to stop frack wastewater injection wells within the Township. Pennsylvania General Energy Company (PGE) has sued the Township to overturn a local democratically-enacted law that prohibits injection wells.

If a court does not uphold the people's right to stop corporate activities threatening the well-being of the community, the ordinance codifies that, "Any natural person may then enforce the rights and prohibitions of the charter through direct action." Further, the ordinance states that any nonviolent direct action to enforce their Charter is protected, "prohibit[ing] any private or public actor from bringing criminal charges or filing any civil or other criminal action against those participating in nonviolent direct action."

Grant Township Supervisor Stacy Long explained, "We're tired of being told by corporations and our so-called environmental regulatory agencies that we can't stop this injection well! This isn't a game. We're being threatened by a corporation with a history of permit violations, and that corporation wants to dump toxic frack wastewater into our Township."

Long continued, "I live here, and I was also elected to protect the health and safety of this Township. I will do whatever it takes to provide our residents with the tools and protections they need to nonviolently resist aggressions like those being proposed by PGE."

In 2013, residents in Grant Township learned that PGE was applying for permits that would legalize the injection well. Despite hearings, public comments, and permit appeals demonstrating the residents' opposition to the project, the federal Environmental Protection Agency issued a

Civil Disobedience *continued on page 11*

Hope for the Future

When I Dream of the Planet in Recovery

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Wire Editor

By Derrick Jensen

Yes Magazine: Spring 2016

In the time after, the buffalo come home. At first only a few, shaking snow off their shoulders as they pass from mountain to plain. Big bulls sweep away snowpack to the soft grass beneath; big cows attend to and protect their young. The young themselves delight, like the young everywhere, in the newness of everything they see, smell, taste, touch, and feel. Wolves follow the buffalo, as do mallards, gadwalls, blue-winged teal, northern shovelers, northern pintails, redheads, canvasbacks, and tundra swans. Prairie dogs come home, bringing with them the rain, and bringing with them ferrets, foxes, hawks, eagles, snakes, and badgers. With all of these come meadowlarks and red-winged blackbirds. With all of these come the tall and short grasses. With these come the prairies.

In the time after, the salmon come home, swimming over broken dams to forests that have never forgotten the feeling of millions of fish turning their rivers black and roiling, filling the rivers so full that sunlight does not reach the bottom of even shallow streams. In the time after, the forests remember a feeling they've never forgotten, of embracing these fish that are as much a part of these forests as are cedars and spruce and bobcats and bears.

In the time after, the beavers come home, bringing with them caddisflies and dragonflies, bringing with them ponds and pools and wetlands, bringing home frogs, newts, and fish. Beavers build and build, and restore and restore, working hard to unmake the damage that was done, and to remake forests and rivers and streams and marshes into what they once were, into what they need to be, into what they will be again.

In the time after, plants save the world.

In the time after, the oceans are filled with fish, with forests of kelp and communities of coral. In the time after, the air is full with the steamy breath of whales, and the shores are laden with the hard shells and patient, ageless eyes of sea turtles. Seals haul out on sea ice, and polar bears hunt them.

In the time after, buffalo bring back



Photo: U.S. Department of the Interior/flickr

prairies by being buffalo, and prairies bring back buffalo by being prairies. Salmon bring back forests by being salmon, and forests bring back salmon by being forests. Cell by cell, leaf by leaf, limb by limb, prairie and forest and marsh and ocean by prairie and forest and marsh and ocean; they bring the carbon home, burying it in the ground, holding it in their bodies. They do what they have done before and what they will do again.

The time after is a time of magic. Not the magic of parlor tricks, not the magic of smoke and mirrors, distractions that point one's attention away from the real action. No, this magic is the real action. This magic is the embodied intelligence of the world and its members. This magic is the rough skin of sharks without which they would not swim so fast, so powerfully. This magic is the long tongues of butterflies and the flowers that welcome them. This magic is the brilliance of fruits and berries that grow to be eaten by those that then distribute their seeds along with the nutrients necessary for new growth. This magic is the work of fungi that join trees and mammals and bacteria to create a forest. This magic is the billions of beings in a handful of soil. This magic is the billions of beings that live inside you, that make it possible for you to live.

In the time before, the world was resilient, beautiful, and strong. It happened through the magic of blood flowing through capillaries, and the magic of tiny seeds turning into giant redwoods, and the magic of long relationships between rivers

and mountains, and the magic of complex dances between all members of natural communities. It took life and death, and the gifts of the dead, forfeited to the living, to make the world strong.

In the time after, this is understood.

In the time after, there is sorrow for those who did not make it: passenger pigeons, great auks, dodos, striped rocksnails, Charles Island tortoises, Steller's sea cows, Darling Downs hopping mice, Guam flying foxes, Saudi gazelle, sea mink, Caspian tigers, quaggas, laughing owls, St. Helena olives, Cape Verde giant skinks, silver trout, Galapagos amaranths.

But in those humans and nonhumans who survive, there is another feeling, emerging from below and beyond and around and through this sorrow. In the time after, those still alive begin to feel something almost none have felt before, something that everything felt long, long ago. What those who come in the time after feel is a sense of realistic optimism, a sense that things will turn out all right, a sense that life, which so desperately wants to continue, will endure, will thrive.

We, living now, in the time before, have choices. We can remember what it is to be animals on this planet and remember and understand what it is to live and die such that our lives and deaths help make the world stronger. We can live and die such that we make possible a time after where life flourishes, where buffalo can come home, and the same for salmon and prairie dogs and prairies and forests and carbon and rivers and mountains.

Milk Basket NGO/GBC Partnership

Beautiful new website ready: <http://milkbasketng.com/>

Looking for Partners, Sponsors, and Volunteers

Proposal for Peak Milk Company to help supply milk and educational materials to primary school pupils in Odi community, Bayelsa State

Founder: Ekwe Chiwundu Charles (Nigeria); 234-81600-29731; chibyzaps@gmail.com, milkbasketngo@activist.com

Websites: www.facebook.com/milkbasketngo, <https://angel.co/milk-basket>, <https://www.fundraise.com/ekwe-charles/milk-basket>

Partner: Iona Conner, Go-Back Club (United States), 814-515-3809; www.gobackclub.org, ionaconner@pa.net

Introduction: Quality Education provided by trained and supported teachers is the right of every child in the world. Quality Education influences what children learn, how they learn, and what benefits they draw from it, especially for children in militancy-prone communities. Children here end up in a life of crime because there is no encouragement for those who can't afford necessary educational materials to help acquire a meaningful education, which will help these children drift away from the criminal lifestyle. Even though the government has tried to improve the educational situation of such communities, they have failed to touch very crucial areas that help shape a child's thinking towards education.

I can state that 11 out of 20 pupils in a Niger Delta class come to school on bare feet, without school bags; some are so poor they can't afford to buy writing materials for basic activities in the classroom. The militancy in the Niger Delta is a result of shared neglect by the government of the grassroots level of education, which is the Primary and Secondary school.

Goal: Our primary goal is to develop the best outreach and create program practices, which will help fill the gaps in education and food service for millions of children living in the creek communities in the highly-polluted and poverty-stricken Niger Delta.

Peak Milk Partnership: If Peak Milk



partners with us and supplies milk and educational materials, we would like to see the Peak logo on those items which the company supplies. When our program is developed enough to start a library, we will consider naming it Peak Progress Library or a mutually-agreeable name. Materials will include school bags, sandals, pencils, erasers, and exercise books, which will be given out to pupils who do well in our spelling competitions, quizzes, and mathematics competitions to show your support for quality education and to encourage parents to ensure that their children are present at school in the underdeveloped communities of the Niger Delta.

Peak can also help by supplying milk to these children. In addition to being a good source of high-quality protein, milk offers eight other essential nutrients, including calcium, vitamin D, and potassium, which are three of the four nutrients most human beings, including children, are most likely missing in their diets.

It's important for kids to get protein at every meal, especially breakfast. Getting enough protein in the morning can help kids feel fuller, longer, so they can start the day off right. Beyond helping the body build and repair lean muscle, protein also impacts many different functions in growing bodies. For example, protein works together with key bone-building nutrients like calcium and vitamin D to help build healthy bones.

Each 8-ounce serving of milk provides 8 grams of high-quality, natural protein. Milk is a complete protein, which means that every glass contains a full mix of the essential amino acids our bodies need. With nine essential nutrients in each 8-ounce glass, milk is a delicious and simple way to give kids a natural source of high-quality protein plus other nutrients they need.

Partners and Sponsors: We have a few but very helpful partners in the United States (The Go Back Club) and in Nigeria (The Legion of Mary, The Bioresources

Milk Basket *continued on page 10*



Norway committed to zero deforestation, reports UN partner Climate Action. The groundbreaking move means that the nation pledges to ban any product in its supply chain that contributes to the deforestation of rainforests through the government's public procurement policy. Photo : Zoom Artworks

Norway — First Country Committed to Zero Rainforest Deforestation

Blog for Wild Nature and Against Industrial Society via PositiveNewsUS.org: June 8, 2016

Norway is so woke to deforestation, it's the first nation to outlaw it.

On May 24th, Norway committed to zero deforestation, reports UN partner Climate Action. The groundbreaking move means that the nation pledges to ban any product in its supply chain that contributes to the deforestation of rainforests through the government's public procurement policy.

"This is an important victory in the fight to protect the rainforest. Over the last few years, a number of companies have committed to cease the procurement of goods that can be linked to destruction of the rainforest," Nils Hermann Ranum of Rainforest Foundation Norway said in a statement on the organization's site. "Until now, this has not been matched by similar commitments from governments. Thus,

it is highly positive that the Norwegian nation is now following suit and making the same demands when it comes to public procurements."

The foundation has campaigned for years to make this a reality.

At the UN Climate Summit in New York in 2014, Norway, Germany, and the U.K. pledged to "promote national commitments that encourage deforestation-free supply chains," through public procurement policies and to sustainably source products like palm oil, soy, beef, and timber.

According to Climate Action, production of palm oil, soy, beef, and wood products in seven countries with high deforestation rates (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Papua New Guinea) contributed to 40 percent of total tropical deforestation and 44 percent of associated carbon emissions between 2000 and 2011.

This is not Norway's first anti-deforestation rodeo, either.

In 2008, Norway gave Brazil—which is home to 60 percent of the Amazon—\$1 billion to help fight deforestation. And Brazil delivered. By 2015, the South American nation reduced deforestation by a whopping 75 percent, saving more than 33,000 square miles of forest and keeping 3.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere—an amount that's three times bigger than the effect of taking all the cars in the U.S. off the road for a year, according to *National Geographic*.

"Other countries should follow Norway's leadership and adopt similar zero deforestation commitments," Ranum said. "In particular, Germany and the UK must act, following their joint statement at the UN Climate Summit."

A Doctor for People and Planet: Chung Whan Byun



Dr. Chung Whan Byun (left)
and Dr. Pyong Ui Roh, GBC board member (Photo: Iona)

Forthcoming book by Iona Conner

Introduction

This story started 30 years ago when I first met Dr. Pyong Ui Roh (Pyong, my ‘brother’ in the Universe) as we were studying Public Health and Environmental Law at Rutgers University in New Jersey. He was a professor at Daegu Haany University (DHU) in Daegu, South Korea, a veterinarian, and World Health Organization (WHO) consultant.

Our lifelong friendship began when my memory was so poor (at age 40) that I decided to create a gigantic chart to help me memorize various descriptions of communicable diseases in the Centers for Disease Control manual, which was one of our assignments. Pyong watched me closely during our breaks as I sat outside studying the chart.

“I will tell my students about you,” he said with a sparkle in his eyes. And thus it started.

Because Pyong and I have a common bond in caring about the environment, he nominated me to be the sole foreign correspondent in 2014 at the Seventh International Nature Loving Association’s festival in his hometown, Daegu. It was a magnificent and transforming event for me, a lonely environmental crusader in the United States and veteran activist of nearly 50 years. For the first time in my life, I was surrounded by over 1,000 others who also love Earth, but instead of angry protests like I was accustomed to, I was met with joyful singing, dancing, and smiling faces of the members of youth dance teams from all over the world.

Dr. Chung Whan Byun was the founder and president of the university where Pyong taught. The two men are close friends. Pyong told me, “Dr. Byun knows how to add value to this family and to the world and gives value to the community. Good character upholds the values of society. He has fulfilled the criteria of being a great leader and he is a role model for all of us. The success of the graduates of his university is a clear reflection of his leadership.”

Dr. Byun was our powerful, generous, delightful host and always impeccably dressed. Even though I had met him previously in the United States when Pyong and he were here together, and I had

edited his autobiography (*The Long, Hard Road to Korean Medicine*), I was amazed at the vitality and cordiality of our host as well as his determined walk. I was treated like royalty, as were the other guests at DHU, a school he founded 35 years ago after unbelievable setbacks. Editing his autobiography was an honor. There is a 15 year gap between the conclusion of that book and this one.

Last year, Dr. Byun asked me if I’d write a biography (using third-person language instead of first-person). He would pay for me to come back to Korea for a month to interview him and gather current information about him and his achievements. Since I have a part-time job and an aging husband, I told him I wasn’t able to stay away that long.

In April 2016, I traveled to the other side of the Earth for a week of intense work with Dr. Byun to learn more about him and the Tao, the faith which supports him in every endeavor. Months ago, I started thinking about this new project and used my spare time to condense his autobiography and collect supplies for my trip.

Two days before my departure, I started packing. At age 70, I was about to have another exciting, exhausting adventure.

As we flew over the vast Arctic, I could see melting icebergs and water flowing where ice should have been—the first time in my life to see with my own eyes some of the results of global warming (climate change)—a threat to the beloved planet I’d been working to protect for decades through my publications (books, articles, newsletters) and my passionate talks to hundreds of groups.

I had just finished my memoir (*Becoming a Pacifist Activist: 50 Years in the Environmental Movement – On the Ground, In the Field, Over the Moon*) and I’m still publishing a monthly, electronic newsletter called “The Go-Back Club.” I started this club and publication in 2013 realizing that we as a species have gone too far on a deadly path and need to “go back” to simpler, saner ways of living. At least most of us Americans must do that, as we have impoverished and depleted poorer nations of their natural resources and millions still don’t have the basic necessities for life.



After arriving in Korea, I spent most of my time with Dr. Byun, but also interviewed Mrs. Byun to learn more about the Byuns’ family and personal life, which is something he did not dwell on in his previous book. To me, it’s important to deliver a picture of the whole man, not just the awesome professional he became over the years—practicing as a traditional Korean medical doctor, building a hospital and a university, and raising the impact and importance of traditional Korean medicine (using no surgery or harmful

Dr. Byun continued on next page

Dr. Byun continued from previous



Author talking about The Go-Back Club with dancers from Indonesia, wearing a totally-hand-stitched dress using zero fossil fuel energy, just a needle and thread, first trip

pharmaceuticals). The way Dr. Byun practices medicine (as did ancient Asians) relies solely on acupuncture, acupressure, and herbal remedies.

Part I was extracted from recollections of my first trip to report on the festival. Part II is a summary of Dr. Byun's autobiography, and Part III is the story about my recent trip. I took most of the photos in this book, but often others were using my camera while I posed.

Nearly all of the conversations on my second trip were mediated by translators—Pyong, Dr. Kynam Byun (Dr. Byun's daughter), Mr. Jong Kuk Yi, and Mr. Jinseok Eun (these two men are professional translators). I'm extremely grateful to these four people for helping me. Translating is hard work, which I value highly as I only speak one language. I just hope I got everything straight. While most of the words came through translators, the impressions and observations are mine.

I'm also thankful for the wonderful drivers who helped me get to all the places I needed to go, helped me with my bags and camera, and even opened the car door for me—a courtesy I don't experience in America. Mr. Kwang Su Kim (Dr. Byun's assistant of 23 years) magically made everything work during my visit, even buying a new charger for my camera and 11 sets of chopsticks as gifts plus a beautiful 12th pair for me. All of these were paid for by my generous host.

My husband and friends provided lots of help and support throughout this project

and I'm thankful for them, too.

My trip was a crash course in Korean culture as well as an opportunity to learn more about a hard-working, persistent, brilliant man and his life's work. My challenge was to transform myself from a fairly typical American into one capable of doing justice to Dr. Byun's life. My hope is that I can achieve this with the words, sentences, paragraphs, and pictures I choose. Seeing him in action is the best way to get to know him, but we can't all do that, so here is my humble effort to introduce you to Dr. Chung Whan Byun.

It is an honor and a pleasure to bring you Dr. Byun's biography. I hope you enjoy it and are inspired by this great man.



Unplanned selfie at Daegu Haany University, second trip

South Koreans Turn to Greener Household Products in Wake of Tragedy

By Katherine Martinko, *excerpt*
Living/Green Home via Treehugger Daily News
June 21, 2016

It has taken far too many deaths and illnesses to make this germ-phobic nation realize the hidden dangers lurking in household products, but now that awareness has been generated, real change is underway.

For years, South Koreans were told that the humidifier disinfectants they purchased for their homes were safe. The disinfectants were marketed toward families whose children used humidifiers to cope with South Korea's dry climate. But then people started getting sick. As soon as they were linked to lung damage in 2011, the products were pulled from shelves by the Center for Disease Control.

Since then, the severity of the situation has become clearer. There have been 96 deaths in the country linked to toxic chemicals in those disinfectants, including four pregnant women, and 400 additional reports of lung damage and other related illnesses. The manufacturer is Oxy, a local subsidiary of Dutch conglomerate Reckitt Benckiser. It issued a formal apology last month, but, not surprisingly, the apology has done little to soothe the anger of countless South Koreans, many of whom now must live with chronic lung damage.

The tragedy has led to some interesting developments, as South Koreans realize the hidden dangers that exist in household chemicals. Coming from a country that has long been obsessed with eradicating germs and disinfecting every surface, this is a major change in mindset.

The Economist reports, "Chemical sanitization in homes and offices is prized as a sign of the country's rapid progress since its economic take-off in the 1980s lifted millions from squalor and disease. Killing germs, says Lee Duck-hwan, a professor of chemistry and communication at Sogang University in Seoul, became the 'single most important topic of daily discussions' in the 1980s. Since then, everything from baby soap to washing machines has claimed to act as a sterilizer—something Mr. Lee decries as 'phobia marketing'. So it is a particular blow when it turns out that products which should improve cleanliness might do harm... "

Children *continued from page 1*

Hill noted the extraordinary circumstances of the climate crisis, saying, "This is an urgent situation... these kids can't wait." The court discussed the catastrophic impacts of climate destabilization globally, including the impending loss of polar bears and low-lying countries like Bangladesh. The court explained that while it had no jurisdiction outside of Washington State, it did have jurisdiction over Ecology and would order the agency to comply with the law and do its part to address the crisis.

After a landmark November, 2015 decision, in which Judge Hill found that the State has a "mandatory duty" to "preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality for the current and future generations," and found the State's current standards to fail that standard dramatically, Ecology nonetheless unilaterally withdrew its proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions in the State in February, just months after Judge Hill specifically underscored the urgency of the climate crisis.

"It was absurd for Ecology to withdraw its proposed rule to reduce carbon emissions," said petitioner Aji Piper, who is also a plaintiff on the federal constitutional climate lawsuit, supported by Our Children's Trust. "Especially after Judge Hill declared last fall that our 'very survival depends upon the will of [our] elders to act now...to stem the tide of global warming.' I think Ecology should be ashamed by its reversal of a potentially powerful action, and today, Judge Hill issued a significant ruling that should go down in history books. Our government must act to protect our climate for benefit of us and future generations."

"For the first time, a U.S. court not only recognized the extraordinary harms young people are facing due to climate change, but ordered an agency to do something about it," said Andrea Rodgers, the Western Environmental Law Center attorney representing the youths. "Ecology is now court-ordered to issue a rule that fulfills its constitutional and public trust duty to ensure Washington does its part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the planet."

"This case explains why youth

around this country, and in several other countries, are forced to bring their governments to court to secure a healthy atmosphere and stable climate," said Julia Olson, executive director and chief legal counsel at Our Children's Trust. "Despite clear scientific evidence and judicial recognition of the urgency of the climate crisis, Washington and most governments across the U.S. and other countries are failing to take correspondingly urgent, science-based action. That failure unfairly consigns youth to a disproportionately bleak future against which they can only reasonably ask the courts to step in to address this most time sensitive issue of our time."

"This is a massive victory," said petitioner Gabe Mandell. Related cases brought by youth to protect the atmosphere are pending before other U.S. courts in the federal district court in Oregon, and in the state courts of North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Massachusetts, and Oregon.

Our Children's Trust is a nonprofit organization, elevating the voice of youth, those with most to lose, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of present and future generations. www.ourchildrenstrust.org.

The Western Environmental Law Center (WELC) is a public interest nonprofit law firm. WELC combines legal skills with sound conservation biology and environmental science to address major environmental issues throughout the West. www.westernlaw.org.

Plant-for-the-Planet connects children around the world as Ambassadors for Climate Justice. Children inspire children at Academies, free one-day workshops where children ages 8 to 14 find their voice speaking out for their future and taking action to create a better world. <http://www.plant-for-the-planet.org>

Contacts: Andrea Rodgers, WELC, 206-696-2851, rodgers@westernlaw.org; Julia Olson, Our Children's Trust, 415-786-4825, julia@ourchildrenstrust.org. To set up interviews with youth plaintiffs, contact Meg Ward, 503-341-8590, meg@ourchildrenstrust.org.

Milk Basket *continued from page 10*

Development Center Odi, The Millenium Development Goals, The Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology, The Charity and Gender NYSC Community Development Service, The Nigerian Red Cross, and Brodas Across Nigeria), who are all in support of this project and feel the need of encouraging children in those neglected, under-resourced communities. A tin of Peak Milk will help a child stay healthy and in school. We can partner in making a child's life easier by donating sandals because many children walk miles barefoot to get to school.

Iona Conner is a former first-grade teacher and the founder of The Go-Back Club, who wants the children to also have fun and develop eye-hand coordination. Balls and other educational toys are amazing tools to achieve these additional goals when children are young, so that learning to read and write will be easier for them later on. It will also be important to encourage mothers of newborn infants to nurse their babies for the first six months of life.

Our Request: We would like to ask that you consider becoming one of our Corporate Sponsors. As a sponsor, you will receive positive media attention for your association with the Milk Basket NGO. For example, we will be partnering with The Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology, creating healthy food formulas for children in underdeveloped creek communities to enable them stay healthy and in school.

Plan of Action: The Milk Basket will start its first project in Odi, Bayelsa State, where Milk Basket founder, Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, spent a year after his graduation from college. Ekwe's heart was so touched by the children that he started the Milk Basket in 2011 and has held onto the dream of returning to carry out the mission and goals of the Milk Basket. Odi was the scene of a violent massacre in 1999 when thousands of innocent civilians were brutally murdered. The community is trying to rebuild itself and regain normality and a sense of security in their lives.

Agriculture is another important aspect of self-sufficiency, which the Milk Basket will encourage. With my education in Food Science and Technology and attendance at the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology conferences (which has impacted positively on my experience and work on my small farm), I am well prepared to start organic community gardens, selecting the most nutritious foods and teaching others how to do subsistence farming. Everyone can be involved in this part of our program.

Food fortification is a recognized approach to supply vitamins and minerals to needed populations in underdeveloped communities, and the current global strategy in food formulation includes formulations of protein-rich mixtures from locally-available foodstuffs that complement each other. This can be achieved by focusing on agriculture and food processing done close to home.

The Milk Basket will employ a few hands that will help in the distribution of milk and educational materials and will also report back to Peak Milk after the Spelling Bee competitions and other significant achievements or events. The Milk Basket will also provide cash prizes for the 1st- to 3rd-place winners in the competitions.

Thank you and God bless,
Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Founder, Milk Basket NGO



Karen Feridun, founder Berks Gas Truth

Civil Disobedience *continued from page 4*

permit to PGE.

Finding themselves with no other options, residents requested the help of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF). Grant Township Supervisors, with broad community support, passed a CELDF-drafted Community Bill of Rights ordinance in June 2014. The ordinance established rights to clean air and water, the right to local community self-government, and the rights of nature. The proposed injection well is prohibited as a violation of those rights.

PGE promptly sued the Township, claiming that it had a “right” to inject within the Township.

The case is ongoing. Last year, in October 2015, the judge invalidated parts of the ordinance, stating that the Township lacked authority to ban injection wells. Three weeks later, in November 2015, residents voted in a new Home Rule Charter. The rights-based Charter reinstated the ban on injection wells by a 2-to-1 vote, overriding the judge’s decision.

CELDF assisted the community with the drafting of the Charter and is representing

the Township in the ongoing litigation with PGE.

Grant Township Supervisor and Chairman Jon Perry summed up the situation by saying, “Sides need to be picked. Should a polluting corporation have the right to inject toxic waste, or should a community have the right to protect itself?”

Perry continued, “I was elected to serve this community, and to protect the rights in our Charter voted in by the people I represent. If we have to physically and nonviolently stop the trucks from coming in because the courts fail us, we will do so. And we invite others to stand with us.”

Those others are showing up. Tim DeChristopher, co-founder of the Climate Disobedience Center, stated, “I’m encouraged to see an entire community and its elected officials asserting their rights to defend their community from the assaults of the fossil fuel industry, and I know there are plenty of folks in the climate movement ready to stand with Grant Township.”

CELDF community organizer Chad Nicholson has been working with the community since 2014. He added, “In

our country’s history, we celebrate people standing up to challenge unjust laws. The American Revolution, abolition, women’s suffrage, the labor and civil rights movements, marriage equality—all required people to take action resisting illegitimate laws. All required creating new and more just laws in their place. We applaud the people of Grant Township for taking action as their community is threatened, and asserting their rights. It is an honor to stand with them.”

If you are interested in supporting the efforts in Grant Township, please contact Stacy Long, lemonphone28@gmail.com or 724-840-7214.





Remember your dreams.

Letters and Emails from our Members



Hi Iona,

Thought of you immediately!!!
Great repurposing video.

Go to: https://youtu.be/7nf_OxIrZN4

I know I need to save it because there were so many good ideas! For those who still buy the square tissue boxes—they make great small wastebaskets for the car! When full, just recycle.

(FSC label with the following note)

Best response ever to this article: “Almost everything you buy, from cereal to mascara, is killing the rain forest.” (https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/03/11/almost-everything-you-buy-from-cereal-to-mascara-is-killing-the-rain-forest/?hpid=hp_no-name_opinion-card-a%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

So I tried to give it all up. It was almost impossible. This is an incredible article! Here is the certification we should be looking for when we buy paper products.

“G” *Dylan Weiss*



Dear Iona

I always have that symbol, in fact I never saw any paper products without that symbol. I wish they still made paper from Papyrus!

Brendan Wissinger, Pennsylvania

Iona,

One of best things is if we legalized hemp production we would not need so many rainforest products. Probably none!

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania

(Iona's reply)

Hi “G”,

I haven't bought tissues in decades—part of my paper-products boycott to help save trees. Thanks!

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

Thank you for your encouragement. You are a born cheerleader. Spring is coming here in Korea, but it is still chilly and windy. But wild cherry flowers and forsythia are in full blossom. Everything has a beginning and everything has an end. Winter is fading away and the lady spring will prevail. That is Nature, and it is the law of the Universe.

So far I feel A-OK. And I have to go to a university hospital for a final diagnosis. I do not worry and I am not nervous. Nowadays I think of the world beyond this planet. Everything has an expiration date. But I cannot read the bar code of my expiration date. When my time is up, I have to leave this planet. And I have to get prepared, I believe.

Some famous monks in Korea starved to death when their time was coming up. No life support devices at all. I attended a seminar at Ithaca named “Thanatology”. It was an interesting seminar and I learned a lot about death.

Well, this is a bit heavy stuff but everybody will face this event, no matter who. I try to enjoy the coming spring and I try to live my life to the fullest till the time.

Pyong, brother in the Universe, Korea

PS: I am so lucky to meet you in the Universe.

Dear Iona,

So discouraging. Saving these forests and similar issues has become the main goal of my life. It's very frustrating though since I've yet to find a way to do it that fully engaged me. My volunteer job has gotten to where there is almost no work. I really want a career where I can spend all my time on this and earn enough to survive. What else is new, right?

I'd go back to school to study related biology/ecology if needed. I've sacrificed my life to these causes, and if I don't find a better way to get involved, it will have been in vain. The biggest wrong is that there is no money allocated for the saving of the Earth, which is the single most important thing we possess and our abuse of it will soon have dire consequences for humans.

I wish there were a green economy certification that combined it all—he ocean, forests, climate, animal rights, etc. That would fix a hell of a lot. Once a few biggies got it, the others would feel pressure.

I once worked full time for a group, and if I could find one like them I'd do it again. Read the website of James Borrell. I'm basically doing what he recommends.

I can never be happy though unless I'm

working to save these things.

Bill Boteler, Washington, D.C.

Iona,

Thanks for sharing. Stay well and take care of you.

Jeannette Bartelt, Maryland

Hello Friends,

Am forwarding a very interesting article from Iona Conner as well. SEE BELOW!

Ella McElwee, Pennsylvania

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

It is said that May is the queen of the seasons. The flowers of acacia are in full blossom. The smell of the flowers is so sweet that I am almost lost. Yesterday I went to a forest of pine trees. I found a stump of an old pine tree, and I was sitting on it and reading a book. And I enjoyed my meditation. The breeze through the pine trees brought me new strength and energy. I love the quiet and peaceful place. And I am calm and collected in the wood. I am just a layman in this forest. There are many trees and plants whose names I do not know. Farmers are more enlightened than I.

I was almost day dreaming in this peaceful place. All of sudden a pheasant broke the dead silence by its sharp and loud voice. But I did not mind his crowing, because I know that he is also one of my friends in the woods.

I moved to a graveyard area and sitting on grass and concentrating on my breath. Out of the blue two baby elks came out of the wood and danced for me for a while. They were so cute. It was the very first time for me to see baby elks in Korea.

I was thinking what I have to do in the last part of my life time. I try to be humble and love others and the Mother Nature. It is said that life is a puff of smoke. And it is said, “*Memento mori*”. But I have more things to do before I go upstairs. Well, this is my small story.

Pyong, brother in the Universe

PS. *Memento mori* is the medieval Latin theory and practice of reflection on mortality, especially as a means of considering the vanity of earthly life and the transient.