



The Go-Back Club

Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: #18, February 2015

This is OUR paper: www.gobackclub.org

Our members live in 18 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Korea and Nigeria.



Photo Gordon Dimming

Dylan Miller, a senior at Juniata College, outside the hut he constructed of downed trees, leaves and other materials for the final credits of his college degree.

Juniata College Senior, Following Thoreau, Living in Hut in the Woods

By Bill Schackner

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: November 30, 2014

Independent study in college can be an isolating affair but Dylan Miller is taking matters to extremes.

Determined not to simply phone in his capstone research project on minimalist life, the Juniata College senior this fall is forgoing the warmth of a campus residence for an unheated hut he built deep in the woods of a nearby nature reserve. It is a structure fashioned from fallen pine trees that leaves him without electricity or plumbing — not to

mention student necessities like YouTube.

The 9-foot-tall, 17-by-17-foot structure is where Mr. Miller, 21, of Meadville intends to live and sleep this winter and spring so he can nail down the final credits of a degree in literary and philosophical studies.

Make no mistake, it would be easier to devour a reading list including works by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and a Buddhist text titled “The Dhammapada” while ensconced with friends in the campus library stacks, rather than bundled alone at night in a sleeping bag. But Mr. Miller said he hopes to use his

solitary experiences to better understand those authors’ works.

He also wants to demonstrate a larger point: that one can be as happy, if not more so, without material excess.

“Basically, I’m keeping a journal of my daily experiences, things that I’ve noted, things that have changed in me by virtue of the lifestyle,” he said.

Students on the liberal arts campus in Huntingdon, a rural setting between Altoona and State College, have had varying reactions to word that one of their own — a man whose outdoor résumé already includes

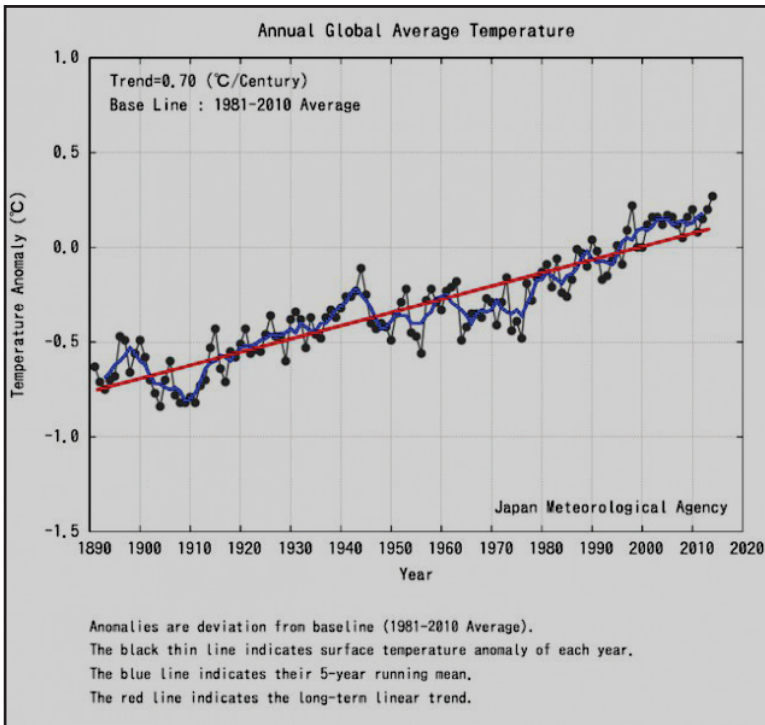
Thoreau continued on page 3

2014 Hottest Year Globally By Far

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Washington, D.C.

By Joe Romm, Climate Progress: January 5, 2014, *excerpt*

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has announced that 2014 was the hottest year in more than 120 years of record-keeping — by far. NOAA is expected to make a similar call in a couple of weeks and so is NASA. As the JMA graph shows, there has been no “hiatus” or “pause” in warming. In fact, there has not even been a slowdown ... What makes setting the record for hottest year in 2014 doubly impressive is that it occurred despite the fact we’re still waiting for the start of El Niño ... Much of Siberia “defrosted in Spring and early Summer under temperatures more than 9°F (5°C) above its 1981 to 2010 average,” as Live Science noted. This is the second exceptionally hot summer in a row for the region and scientists now think the huge crater discovered this year in the area “was probably caused by thawing permafrost.” The permafrost (soon to be renamed permamelt) contains twice as much carbon as the entire atmosphere. If we don’t reverse emissions trends sharply and soon, then the carbon released from it this century alone could boost global warming as much as 1.5°F. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/01/05/3607735/2014-hottest-year-by-far>.



WHOOOPS! CORRECTION FROM THE EDITOR

Note from Iona: Last month we published a story about the work done by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) and the Little Mahoning Watershed group. I neglected to put in the CELDF press release and I got two women’s names mixed up. I thought that Judy Wanchism’s daughter’s was Stacey Schmader, who works for CELDF. Stacey Long is Judy’s daughter.

You can read the CELDF press release this month on page 8.

Here is an email from Judy:

I would like to add my name to The Go-Back Club email list. I just have one question. I thought the Press Release from CELDF regarding the intervention of the Hellbenders and the Little Mahoning Watershed was going to be published. Did I misunderstand or did you chose a different route? I didn’t intend for my summary to be the main story but rather that Press Release. It is so important. Thank you for everything.

Judy Wanchism, Pennsylvania

ERHS (East Run Hellbenders Society)

[Judy also sent this link to “Pennsylvania Ecosystem Fights Corporation For Rights In Landmark Fracking Lawsuit” by Meilssa Troutman with glorious photos of the watershed and a copy of the ordinance, published in the *Public Herald*: http://www.publicherald.org/archives/19582/invisible_hand. And, later, this one: <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060011209>.]

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: Jeff and Jodi Andrysick, Carole Baker, Jerry Byers, Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, John Conner, Doug Davis, Allen Hengst, Dylan Miller, Pyong Roh, Bob Schmetzer, Briget Shields, Judy Wanchism, Wynde Winston, and Collin Yeoh

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 impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don’t know what to do. We invite them to join our Club.

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.

Thoreau *continued from page 1*

having lived in a cave — now has set up residence in the woods above campus.

“Some people in the community and in the campus community probably think he’s crazy but knowing Dylan — I’ve been his adviser since he was an underclassman — I was not surprised,” said Will Dickey, assistant professor of English, one of his faculty advisers.

“He’s always thinking outside the box, he’s interested in philosophical literature, studying world religions and has a deep love of nature and being outdoors,” he said.

Mr. Miller said his father, Bill, a geologist, planted the idea, telling his son one day, “If you like Thoreau so much, maybe you should write about him or do something like him for your senior project.”

His mother, Amy, a preschool teacher, said she supports her son and is proud of his project but goes to bed with a few more worries than the typical parent of a college student far from home — jitters that sometimes worsen when he gets to campus and connects to the Internet.

“When he posts on Facebook that he chased away a bear in the moonlight, that’s not helping me,” she said.

To get things started, Mr. Miller this summer gathered and then roped together the scattered lumber, insulated the gaps with leaves and topped off his dwelling with a 30-square-foot gray tarp so he could move in once fall classes began. He will be there through the spring semester.

“It was comfortable at first,” he said. “As it got colder, I covered up the windows and piled leaves on the roof to keep warmer air from rising through the tarp.”

For safety, he has a propane heater his parents bought for him but says he has needed it only eight nights so far. The lowest that the temperature has dipped is 16 degrees.

“It was pretty bitter,” he said. “It came a lot faster than I expected.”

If this winter proves to be average, Mr. Miller and his hut can expect 2½ feet of snow, according to the National Weather Service. Once winter arrives, the average high temperature in Huntingdon will be 40 degrees and the low 22.

In addition to his research project, Mr. Miller takes four classes this semester, requiring him to either walk half an hour or bike to campus, where he can access the Internet.

When he does work not requiring a Web connection, he studies in his hut, often under the glow of a lantern.

Juniata does not charge him board to live in the dwelling, which the college likens to a Native American hogan. But like others on the 1,600-student campus, he pays \$18,935



Photo by Dylan Miller

One of several “charismatic” photos sent by Dylan to give our paper “an aesthetic look.” Looks totally cozy!

this semester for tuition, plus \$270 in fees.

Mr. Miller does not bother with a meal plan, relying instead on a camping stove to cook his own grub — mostly pastas, cans of soup and other items “that have a long shelf life and don’t need refrigeration,” he said.

The project unfolding near a hiking trail in the 170-acre Baker-Henry Nature Reserve will culminate with a paper to be written by Mr. Miller. He demonstrated upfront his commitment to the project through a 21-page proposal and, while Juniata does not specify the number of hours he must spend in the hut weekly, his writings will reveal how much of himself he invested, Mr. Dickey said.

Independent study — be it in a laboratory or the woods — allows students to develop and take ownership of ideas, including unusual ones.

This is not the first time in recent years a Juniata student has gone well outside the box — and the comforts of campus — in the name of research.

Jake Weller spent the 2009-10 academic year living in a futuristic, self-built geodesic dome near Juniata’s astronomy observatory — a personal, noncredit project developed by the philosophy major from Lusby, Maryland. Another student, Jacob Gordon, dug his own World War I trench for a history research paper.

“The ground they let him dig it on was pretty shale-ey,” Juniata spokesman John Wall said. “He didn’t get very deep but he ended up spending a weekend in the trench.”

To get the O.K. for his hut, Mr. Miller had to adhere to campus and borough requirements, among them keeping a

portable toilet, having a cell phone for emergencies and letting campus police decide if weather conditions are too extreme for him to stay overnight.

Mr. Dickey said he’s not sure if bear spray was a requirement, though it would have come in handy last month when a black bear apparently mistook the toilet for a waste basket. “There were a few teeth marks on it,” Mr. Dickey said.

Scholars note that Thoreau did not completely wall himself off from others while at Walden Pond. So it may be fitting that Mr. Miller has had visitors, including his parents, who spent a night in the dwelling. His mother expressed surprise at its size and sophistication — with a cot, bookshelves and a desk, as well as a floor made of oak planks he found in a friend’s barn and handmade quilts from a friend.

“It was cozy,” his mother said.

Her son, youngest of five children, is interested in writing and she wonders if this experience might actually produce one day a “great American novel.”

When trying to sleep at night, he’s developed a preference for moving air and outdoor sounds. He’s even gotten used to preparing his food rather than have it ready made for him.

But for all the pleasures of roughing it, said Mr. Miller, he misses one time-honored campus tradition: “Being able to take midday naps — whenever I had a dorm, it was easy just to go back after class and sleep,” he said.

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Introducing New GBC Member From Nigeria Dedicated to Ending Hunger and Poverty: Ekwe Chiwundu Charles

(Compiled from several emails)

I am a practicing researcher in my field of Food Science and Technology. I strongly believe that this world will be a better place if we can plant more and develop our food processing industry.

You can check my journals on Google by typing Ekwe, C. C. Department of Food Science and Technology, Imo State Nigeria. I have done a series of research work based on food processing; my most recent work is here: <http://www.journals.savap.org.pk/archives.html>.

Please feel free to add me to your newsletter. I will be glad to read about your achievements.

* * *

I want to personally say thank you for all your efforts in making this world a better place in the midst of all the hate, greed and self interest of individuals at top positions.

It's actually a relief to know that I am not the only one trying to make a difference in this world that a few care. With the situation of things in my country, I have decided to start doing something instead of waiting for the greedy politicians to change. I have decided to dedicate my youth to helping the helpless by reducing hunger and putting an end to underdevelopment and abject poverty.

I have a dream that one day poverty will be exterminated through agriculture and human development.

I served in Odi, Bayelsa State, a riverine community that was affected by a serious crisis back in 1999 during former president Olusegun Obasanjo's regime and till date there are still signs that something bad happened in that community many years ago as there are malnourished children in that community and other riverine communities in Nigeria and all over the world but why this case is very touching is the fact that these communities are located in oil rich environments but yet, there is no clean water supply and good medical services or power supply in these villages. Here education is going [down] the drain because our government has refused to impact on people's lives over there.

Children die every now and then because their poor farmer parents can't afford to take them to better hospitals for adequate health care. It's really a pity.

Here people drink from wells, rain water or river water (brown water), children die every day from Malaria and other health-related problems ranging from diarrhea to



Photo Wikimedia Commons

A girl in Niamey, Niger. April 2006

other water borne illnesses arising from the fact that they [don't] have clean water and don't feed well.

During my service year, I belonged to a CDS group called Charity and what we did was to donate by free will — milk, soaps, detergents and food items — in some cases, financial help was rendered to the poor in order to make an impact on lives, no matter how small.

I even wrote to some food companies to help us with free food items where we can partner with them and save lives, which did not come to pass until my passing out.

We even went a step ahead to conduct a seminar for poor farmers on improved agricultural practices which will eventually lead to better productivity from their farms; we encouraged them to venture into local food processing to reduce harvest losses and increase the shelf life of perishable farm produce.

It's really difficult when you don't get much required help from the government or financial firms.

I have to stop here, because there is much to be done which will not be achieved without starting from the little you can. Thank you again for your time; may God continue to help you do your work.

* * *

I am happy to know that you would like to publish my letter in your newspaper, I will be most grateful as it will be a huge step to let people know what is going on.

When I talk about service it refers to a one-year service to our country Nigeria after our graduation from the University.

The goals are stated in the box.

I will have to stop here as I must go to work this morning.

Objectives of The Nigerian Scheme

The objectives of the National Youth Service Corps Scheme are clearly spelled out in Decree No.51 of June 16, 1993 as follows:

1. To inculcate discipline in Nigerian youths by instilling in them a tradition of industry at work and of patriotic and loyal service to Nigeria in any situation they may find themselves.

2. To raise the moral tone of the Nigerian youths by giving them the opportunity to learn about higher ideals of national achievement, social and cultural improvement.

3. To develop in the Nigerian youths the attitudes of mind, acquired through shared experience and suitable training, which will make them more amenable to mobilization in the national interest.

4. To enable Nigerian youths [to] acquire the spirit of self reliance by encouraging them to develop skills for self employment.

5. To contribute to the accelerated growth of the national economy.

6. To develop common ties among the Nigerian youths and promote national unity and integration.

7. To remove prejudices, eliminate ignorance and confirm at first hand the many similarities among Nigerians of all ethnic groups.

8. To develop a sense of corporate existence and common destiny of the people of Nigeria.

9. The equitable distribution of members of the service corps and the effective utilization of their skills in areas of national needs.

10. That, as far as possible, youths are assigned to jobs in States other than their States of origin.

11. That such a group of youths assigned to work together is as representative of Nigeria as far as possible.

12. That the Nigerian youths are exposed to the modes of living of the people in different parts of Nigeria.

13. That the Nigerian youths are encouraged to eschew religious intolerance by accommodating religious differences.

14. That members of the service corps are encouraged to seek, at the end of their one year national service, career employment all over Nigeria, thus promoting the free movement of labor.

15. That employers are induced partly through their experience with members of the service corps to employ more readily and on a permanent basis, qualified Nigerians, irrespective of their States of origin.



International Nature Loving Association

What Is INLA?

International Nature Loving Association
Singapore Web Site

Photo from Iona's trip to Korea (See www.gobackclub.org, September 2014.)

Nature is made up of the Sky, Earth, Human Beings, Living Creatures, Flora and Fauna. Human and all lives will not survive without the Sky and Earth as the Sky gives us sunlight, energy to grow and nurture all lives. The fruits and vegetables that we eat are from the Earth.

The present of Sky and Earth, all living Creatures, Flora and Fauna will lose their purposes, if there are no Human beings. On the other hand, the world will be so lifeless, with only Human beings and without Flora, Fauna and other living creatures. Therefore, the Sky, Earth, Human, living creatures and all Flora and Fauna are very closely dependant on one another and they are all part of Nature and part of the ecosystem.

Nature functions as a big harmonized family. The Sky and Earth are like our parents, all Human Beings (regardless of races, cultures and beliefs) and all Flora and Fauna, are siblings. The flying birds in the sky, the animals on the land, the fishes in the water are our brothers and sisters. The trees, flowers and plants are all part of this harmonized family.

Today, we talk about life, its not just about human life. In fact, we have many brothers and sisters and, without them,

this world will lose its radiance and luster which makes this world become Meaningless! Without all these living creatures, our world will lose lots of radiance, luster and beauty of Nature.

By Respecting, Protecting, Loving and Glorifying all Lives, this world will be a beautiful world for everyone to live in and a harmonious world will come true.

Field Report from GBC Member Pyong Roh, Korea

Yesterday I went to Chankg won, a modern industrial city in Gyeongsang Nam Do, the capital city of Gyeongsang Nam Do, in the southern part of Korea.

It was a special day for the International Nature Loving Association. A local chapter of Gyeong sang Nam Do (province) was organized and the initial meeting was held at a cultural center of the province.

The representatives of the headquarters and other local chapters and new members of this province and a member of the national assembly and local officials attended the meeting.

Before the plenary session, kindergarten children played a traditional dance, a choir of teachers sang popular songs and traditional singers in traditional costume sang old Korean folk songs. Poems on Nature Loving were recited by famous poets. And of course young dancers of happiness performed a happy dance with the audience.

At the plenary session, Dr. Byun and a

national assembly man gave congratulatory addresses. Dr. Lee, a dentist, was elected president of the new chapter and other key members were appointed.

They adopted these action plans:

1. We will encourage the people to have a nature loving spirit.
2. We will be the leaders to protect nature and prevent pollution.
3. We will encourage people to take plant-based foods and try to reduce greenhouse gases and we will be examples of a simple life.
4. We will pursue happiness and beauty of life by loving nature and loving neighbors.

After the plenary session, we had an all plant-based foods dinner.

Also, the Daegu chapter of INLA had a campaign to help poor neighbors. On December 6th 40 members of the chapter delivered 4,000 blocks of coal to 20 isolated poor people in Jain, a town near Gyeongsan city. The residents living on hills do not have money to buy coal blocks to heat their living quarters. And the members of the chapter and some of their children hand-carried the coal blocks because the road to the small village is too narrow for a car or a truck. This campaign is to help poor neighbors who are forgotten. One boy who participated in the campaign said, "I am happy to help poor neighbors." Their hands got black because of the coal blocks but their faces had wide smiles from helping the poor who appreciated the helping hands.

News Briefs Submitted by Our Members

Governor Cuomo Listens to “The People”



[Note from the Editor: Our Go-Back Club is working — several members emailed this to me to make sure I was up-to-date and I'm very grateful to them all.]

Citing Health Risks, Cuomo Bans Fracking in New York State

Submitted by John Conner, Briget Shields, Carole Baker, Wynde Winston, Jeff and Jodi Andrysick, Doug Davis and Bob Schmetzer

By Thomas Kaplan, excerpt ©
The New York Times: December 17, 2014

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's administration announced that it would ban hydraulic fracturing in New York State because of concerns over health risks, ending years of debate over a method of extracting natural gas.

Fracking, as it is known, was heavily promoted as a source of economic revival for depressed communities along New York's border with Pennsylvania and Mr. Cuomo had once been poised to embrace it.

Instead, the move to ban fracking left him acknowledging that, despite the intense focus he has given to solving deep economic troubles afflicting large areas upstate, the riddle remained largely unsolved. “I've never had anyone say to me, ‘I believe fracking is great,’” he said. “Not a single person in those communities. What I get is, ‘I have no alternative but fracking.’” ...

Read complete story at http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/18/nyregion/cuomo-to-ban-fracking-in-new-york-state-citing-health-risks.html?emc=edit_na_20141217&nlid=62768575&r=0.



The following articles were submitted by Allen Hengst, Washington, D.C. (in chronological order)

Restored Forests Breathe Life into Efforts Against Climate Change

By Justin Gillis, excerpt ©
The New York Times: December 23, 2014

In the battle to limit the risks of climate change, it has been clear for decades that focusing on the world's immense tropical forests — saving the ones that are left and perhaps letting new ones grow — is the single most promising near-term strategy... Over time, humans have cut

down or damaged at least three-quarters of the world's forests and that destruction has accounted for much of the excess carbon that is warming the planet. But now, driven by a growing environmental movement in countries that are home to tropical forests and by mounting pressure from Western consumers who care about sustainable practices, corporate and government leaders are making a fresh push to slow the cutting — and eventually to halt it.

In addition, plans are being made by some of those same leaders to encourage forest regrowth on such a giant scale that it might actually pull a sizable fraction of human-released carbon dioxide out of the air and lock it into long-term storage ...

“For thousands of years, the march

of civilization has been associated with converting natural ecosystems to crops that serve only man,” said Glenn Hurowitz, a managing director at Climate Advisers, a consultancy in Washington. “What's happening now is that we are trying to break that paradigm. If that succeeds, it's going to be a major development in human history” ...

Scientific reports suggest that 20 to 25 percent of the carbon dioxide that people are pumping into the air is being absorbed by trees and other plants, which keep taking up more and more even as human emissions keep rising ...

“Every time I hear about a government program that is going to spend billions of

News continued on next page


News Submitted by Our Members

News continued from previous page

dollars on some carbon capture and storage program, I just laugh and think, what is wrong with a tree?" said Nigel Sizer, director of forest programs at the World Resources Institute, a think tank in Washington. "All you have to do is look out the window and the answer is there. ..."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/24/science/earth/restored-forests-are-making-inroads-against-climate-change.html>

Tesla's New Roadster Will Travel More than 400 Miles per Charge

By Ankit Ajmera, *excerpt* 
Reuters: December 26, 2014


U.S. electric car maker Tesla Motors Inc. will relaunch its Roadster model with a new battery pack that will increase the distance the car can travel on a single charge by nearly two-thirds to more than 400 miles. The company's shares rose 2.8 percent to \$228.44 in late afternoon trading on the Nasdaq.

Tesla will demonstrate the enhanced range for the new Roadster in a drive from San Francisco to Los Angeles in the early weeks of 2015, the company said in a blog post. The current Roadsters can travel up to about 245 miles on a single charge.

Tesla had discontinued the production of Roadster, its first car, three years ago to focus on its 'Model S' sedan.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/26/us-tesla-roadster-upgrade-idUSKBN0K412O20141226>

Establishment Launches Heavyweight Response to Local Fracking Bans

By Jack Healy, *excerpt* 
The New York Times: January 3, 2014

LONGMONT, Colorado — Longmont has become a cautionary tale of what can happen when cities decide to confront the oil and gas industry. In an aggressive response to a wave of citizen-led drilling bans, state officials, energy companies and industry groups are taking Longmont and other municipalities to court, forcing local governments into what critics say are expensive, long-shot efforts to defend the measures.

While the details vary — some municipalities have voted for outright bans



Photo from <http://fuel-efficient-vehicles.org>

Tesla's electric Roadster will be relaunched and will get over 400 miles per charge. Shown is a 2012 model.

and others for multi-year suspensions of fracking — energy companies in city after city argue that they have a right to extract underground minerals and that the drilling bans amount to voter-approved theft. They also say state agencies, not individual communities, are the ones with the power to set oil and gas rules ...

New York State's move to ban fracking last month, for example, was foreshadowed by a ruling in June by the state's highest court that towns could use their zoning laws to outlaw the practice. In the wake of New York's announcement, anti-fracking activists in California, Maryland and Pennsylvania, among other states, renewed their calls for bans.

Longmont, which sits near the juncture of rolling plains and jagged mountains, has spent about \$136,000 fighting — unsuccessfully so far — to defend a 2012 measure that outlawed fracking. In July, a district court judge tossed out the ban and the city is appealing.


A judge also overturned a fracking ban last year in Fort Collins, Colorado, and denied pleas from the city to keep the ban in place while local officials went to court to defend a five-year fracking moratorium.

In Broadview Heights, Ohio, energy companies are suing the town — and residents are suing the energy companies in return — over a bill of rights that outlawed fracking and the disposal of its by-products.

In Denton, Texas, one day after voters passed the state's first ban on fracking in November, the measure was met with lawsuits from the Texas General Land Office and the Texas Oil and Gas Association. ...

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/04/us/heavyweight-response-to-local-fracking-bans.html>

Climate Denier Takes Reins of Senate Environment Committee

By Ben Terris, *excerpt* 
Washington Post: January 8, 2015

Senator James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) cemented his status as Public Enemy No. 1 for environmentalists long ago, topping it off with his 2012 book on climate change, *The Greatest Hoax*. This year he takes over the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee — the panel most associated with climate policy oversight — and says he plans to continue his role as a "one-man truth squad" on the issue ... Democratic activists like to think of Inhofe as a doddering caricature of conservative values who, given a platform such as the chairmanship of the Environment and Public Works Committee, will regularly supply punch lines to the opposition. They see him as an untethered radical off in a world apart even from his conservative colleagues... .

Fracking News

First-in-the-Nation Action: Ecosystem Files for Intervention in Lawsuit to Defend Own Legal Rights to Exist and Flourish

Comes as Industry Sues Township, Claiming it has a Corporate “Right” to Inject Frack Wastewater

By Thomas Linzey, Esq.
Executive Director CELDF
Press Release: November 18, 2014

GRANT TOWNSHIP, PA: Today, for the first time, an ecosystem in the United States filed a motion to intervene in a lawsuit to defend its own rights to exist and flourish.

Rights of the Little Mahoning Watershed were secured in law by Grant Township (Indiana County, Pennsylvania) in June.

The Grant Township Supervisors enacted a Community Bill of Rights ordinance, establishing the rights of human and natural communities to water and a healthy environment — including the rights of ecosystems to exist and flourish — and bans frack wastewater injection wells as a violation of those rights.

The watershed filed a motion to intervene in Pennsylvania General Energy Company (PGE) v. Grant Township, in which PGE is suing Grant Township to overturn the Bill of Rights. PGE claims that the Bill of Rights violates the constitutional right of the corporation to inject frack wastewater in the township.

Pennsylvania communities are increasingly threatened by injection wells, which are used to store fracking waste, endangering drinking water and local aquifers. Injection wells have also been linked with earthquakes in neighboring Ohio.

PGE sued Grant Township in August, followed by a unanimous vote of the Grant Township Supervisors to defend their Community Bill of Rights ordinance and to retain the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDf) as legal counsel to defend the ordinance.

The Little Mahoning Watershed is joining with the East Run Hellbenders Society in filing the motion to intervene. The Hellbenders — a local grassroots group — participated in the drafting of the ordinance.

CELDf Executive Director, Thomas Linzey,



Photo by Kyle Pattison, PublicHerald

Grant Township’s Community Bill of Rights gives the surrounding environment, including the Little Mahoning Creek and Watershed, the inherent right to thrive and flourish. An injection well threatens the balance of the local ecosystem and the Eastern Hellbender Salamander, which thrives in its waters. Who wins — the corporation (PGE) or the ecosystem? There is a mediation meeting scheduled for the end of February with all parties involved including the Hellbenders and the Watershed (a lawyer will speak on behalf of the Watershed). No date has been finalized. (Update submitted by Judy Wanchism.)

Esq., stated, “This lawsuit, brought by the gas industry to overturn a democratically-enacted law, threatens the rights of both human and natural communities. This represents the first time an ecosystem is seeking to defend its legally-enforceable rights to exist and flourish by intervening in a lawsuit.”

Linzey added, “Communities across the country have established the rights of nature in law. They recognize that we cannot protect the environment with environmental laws that legalize fracking and other harmful activities. Communities are recognizing the Rights of Nature in law as part of a growing understanding that a fundamental change in the relationship between humankind and Nature is necessary.”

Since 2006, communities in Pennsylvania and around the country have recognized the rights of ecosystems and natural communities in law with the support of the CELDF.

Through grassroots organizing and public interest law, CELDF works with communities across the country to establish Community Rights to democratic, local self-governance and sustainability. CELDF has assisted nearly 200 communities to ban shale-gas drilling and fracking, factory farming, water privatization and other threats, and eliminate corporate “rights” when they violate community and Nature’s rights. This includes assisting the first communities in the U.S. to establish the Rights of Nature in law — as well as assisted Ecuador to draft Rights of Nature provisions for its constitution in 2008 — as well as the first communities to elevate the rights of communities above the “rights” of corporations.

Contact CELDF at POB 361,
Mercersburg, Pennsylvania 17236;
717-498-0054 or www.celdf.org.



The Midui Glacier in Tibet. Photo by Kuan Sun/flicker/cc

Critical Glaciers Melting Under ‘Continuous Warming:’ Study

Following a comprehensive survey, Chinese researchers warn drinking sources may dry up in much of Asia.

By Nadia Prupis

Common Dreams: December 24, 2014

Glaciers in China are disappearing quickly, an environmental institute in Lanzhou confirmed on Wednesday.

Scientists with the Cold and Arid Regions Environmental and Engineering Research Institute conducted a lengthy survey of southern glaciers, which provide vital drinking water to India, and found that their total geographic area had decreased by 13 percent since 2002.

In the immediate future, the melting glaciers may release some amount of water, Liu Shiyin, who led the survey, told *Science* magazine. But any short-term effects “will be exhausted when glaciers

disappear under a continuous warming,” Liu said.

Science writes:

In 2002, Chinese scientists released the first full inventory of the country’s glaciers, the largest glacial area outside of Antarctica and Greenland. The data came from topographical maps and aerial photographs of western China’s Tibet and Xinjiang regions taken from the 1950s through the 1980s. That record showed a total glacial area of 59,425 square kilometers (36,903 square miles). The Second Glacier Inventory of China, unveiled here last week, is derived from high-resolution satellite images taken between 2006 and 2010. The data set is freely available online.

Liu and his colleagues calculated China’s total glacial area to be 51,840 square kilometers (32,193 square miles) — 13% less than in 2002.

In 2007, Beijing Climate Center director-general Dong Wenjie warned that, “The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are increasing — records for worst-

in-a-century rainstorms, droughts and heat waves are being broken more often... This in fact is closely associated with global warming.”

Liu told *Science* that his team’s inventory found the latest glacier retreat in the southern and eastern corners of the Tibetan Plateau. “We found the fastest shrinking glaciers are those in the central upper reach of the Brahmaputra River, between the central north Himalaya, the source region of the tributary of the Indus River,” Liu said.

Scientists have called attention to the risks of melting glaciers for years. The Chinese side of the Tibetan Plateau holds nearly 37,000 glaciers, which in turn feed some of the most vital rivers in Asia.

The Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences reported similar findings in May and warned that the plateau is more likely to be affected by climate change because it is the highest place in the world’s mid-latitude regions.

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Please Circulate this Message from Robert Kennedy Jr. – Submitted by Briget Shields, Pennsylvania

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. says New York State’s banning fracking because of health risks has: “...national significance that’s historical in many ways because it’s the first time in a decade that — in a meaningful way — a national political leader has

stood up to the power of big oil It was a decision that was made possible because democracy was still working in New York State.”

Short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckLsXbiaEgk>

How was democracy still working in New York State? It’s time for the rest of the U.S. to review the 2012 New York State video posted here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4c7WWDTmFY>

Vegetarian/Vegan Page

Story by Iona

All vegan photos by Collin Yeoh, Malaysia

Last month, I introduced you to the book *Food Choice and Sustainability: Why Buying Local, Eating Less Meat and Taking Baby Steps Won't Work* by Dr. Richard Oppenlander, who promotes a world-wide vegan lifestyle change to halt global warming immediately.

This month, I want to use one quote from him and as many beautiful, mouth-watering vegan photos as I can get on this page taken by my International Nature Loving Association friend, Col-

lin Yeoh, from Malaysia.

Oppenlander writes: "...The reason climate change is so strongly related to meat consumption is twofold. The first reason is that all the massive amounts of animals raised on the Earth to slaughter each year are producing greenhouse gases themselves — methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. The second reason is that these animals take up space and so forests are cut down and plants are destroyed to make room for them. The most devastating losses of forests are in our rainforests, which then contribute to climate change because carbon is emitted in the process. Additionally, there is loss of the oxygen-generating capacity of that forest, as well as localized climate change an imbalance of the water recycling process. ..."



Can you just imagine how healthy you would be if you ate meals like these? And how happy the animals of the world would be? And the forests and the whole planet???



Drawing by Jerry Byers, Texas

Note: Iona, and her husband John received a Chanukah card from a friend with this darling drawing. We don't get special artwork like this very often so we decided to include it in this edition of our newsbooklet. Thanks, Jerry!

Jerry also writes extensively and occasionally sends news clippings from the Western part of the U.S.

Here's what he wrote recently:

Dear Favorite Editor,

Just a cash-saving thought: Those little slivers of soap that are so small they are impossible to hold; collect them along with your hotel/motel soap bars and put them in a sock (or lady's panty hose). Hang the sock, tied in a knot, by the faucet outside to use before you come inside.

I also would like to urge you and all those you influence to contact your state Representatives and Senators. Beg them to force meth-lab operators, convicted of course, to register at their local police agency, as all sex offenders must.

It is necessary to protect our neighborhoods from all predators, drug manufacturers included.

God loves you and so do I.

Letters and Emails from our Members



Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

Thank you so much for your wonderful job. You must be an iron lady. I give you four As (Ambition, Aim, Action and Achievement).

Take a solid rest.

Pyeong Roh, brother in the Universe, Korea

(New member web site sign-up)

I assisted you and your husband yesterday at Verizon. Enjoyed the newsletter you gave me!

Derek Himes, Pennsylvania

Iona —

Beautiful e-newsletter! You cover well both the NO and the YES of our times.

Marjorie was with us yesterday in Bedford and brought the print out from her article in Go Back. As we build our Moving Forward in Pennsylvania District 9 movement, we may want to put your newsletter on the new web site with your permission.

My Earth Rights Institute has a strong network in Nigeria and I noticed your mention of Nigerians receiving your newsletter. We can work together to build more links, meanwhile here is a new volunteer possibility that you may wish to encourage to join your newsletter. (See page 4. Chiwundu did join us!)

Alanna Hartzok, Pennsylvania

Thanks Iona!

Loved reading all the interesting articles in this month's Go Back Club newsletter which I posted on Facebook. Want to wish you and your family a happy and healthy X-mas and New Year.

May 2015 usher in greater love, peace and hope for all animal kind and for our universe! I share in all of the holidays! Hanukkah first and then all the rest!

Am baking gingerbread boys and girls as we speak to use as ornaments along with popcorn/cranberry swags and candy-canes on Jim's X-mas tree (friend of six years) which we decorate together. Lots of fun ahead with the Rockville, Maryland gang coming in on X-mas day!

I have 20 gingerbread people for the tree and the rest of the dough for a gingerbread house to do with my five-year-old granddaughter and 10-year-old grandson! Each day I bake a few different kinds of cookies to box for gifts and then a New Year's Day open house — lots of fun, noise and laughter with family and friends. Doesn't get any better. Now I need to make these gingerbread guys come alive with piped Royal Icing!

I will take pictures when the kids are in! Unfortunately I do not have any of the destroyed gingerbread house with the

caved in roof (still it tasted good). It caved in because the gingerbread was too soft — needs several days to cure before assembling! UGH!!! But I do have a picture of something SOOOO funny that I baked a week ago this past Sunday for a community holiday dinner.

The plan was a roving cocktail party (not my idea) and sit-down dinner at the community clubhouse. Four people opened their homes for beer/wine and one or two appetizers before convening for dinner.

Mine was one of the homes. Sooo, I made 100 from-scratch potato pancakes and froze them the day before. I also made a rustic goat cheese spread in puff pastry.

Long story short, instead of hitting "bake" on the oven, I hit "clean" and then went to get in the shower. When I got out of the shower, I smelled something burning, went into the kitchen where I saw smoke pouring out of the oven.

Unfortunately I couldn't do anything about it since the oven door was on lock — for five hours!!! Then I realized I couldn't bake my frozen pancakes and wouldn't have anything to eat for my guests arriving in 15 minutes.

Ended up baking the pancakes across the way in the community clubhouse kitchen. All was well that ended well. So after five

Letters continued on next page

Letters and Emails from our Members



Photo submitted by Dylan Weiss

GBC member Dylan Weiss created a very burnt "delicacy" when she hit "clean" instead of "bake" on her oven, took a shower and afterwards smelled smoke but could not stop the disaster for five hours because the oven door remained locked.

hours, here's what the rustic goat cheese in puff pastry looked like!!! HappyHolidays!!!

I knew it would make you laugh ... it made everyone laugh.

On that note, it might be a harbinger for all of us to STOP allowing the oven to do the cleaning and "go back" to the real self cleaning which is, obviously ... clean it yourself. But forget about going back to using those spray cans of dangerous chemicals — just use the Norwex cloths lined with silver, a natural cleaner.

After the goat cheese disaster, the inside of my oven door was coated with a nasty greasy film. I was able to get it all off using the Norwex scrubber, natural cleaning paste and the silver lined cloth! Besides, I learned that when you allow the oven to "self clean" lots of toxic chemicals are released into the air in your home so it's back to using "elbow grease."

Dylan Weiss, Pennsylvania

Thanks, Iona

I am in Tucson for the holidays and will share the newsletter with my daughter.

Pat Croissant, Pennsylvania

Dear Iona

Sorry. I would love to see it. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I've got some information.

1. Brazil is working on getting the loggers and others out of the Amazon. But what gets me mad is they say they have to compensate everyone. I can see homeowners because it isn't easy to move a house and they would be homeless, but loggers you can move the equipment. Why don't they just evict them?

2. Nitrogen problems — I've found that putting nitrogen in the air can turn into chemicals that are bad for the environment but I think have found a solution. Take Nitrogen. Make it into the greenhouse gas and undo that twice.

3. I have very good news on renewable energy. UNFCCC made a law that says that CO₂ level cannot go above the level it was in 1990; it has to go down and stay there. The level in the year 1990 was 350 parts per million (ppm) in 2010 it was 380 ppm. So that means it is illegal. The problem is enforcing that. I just sent a message to United Nations Environmental Program Director-General about that. But the only international court that would take that would be PCA (European Union).

Brendon Wissinger (13 years old, extremely interested in climate change), Pennsylvania

Hello.

I find myself at the computer way too often. Maybe I need to subscribe to a local newspaper. I really liked the simpler days!

Elliott Worcester, Maine

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

Thank you so much for your kind and warm message. Today is the last day of the Year of the Horse by our lunar calendar (Korean local time). The next year is the Year of the Sheep, which is a gentle animal.

I wish for you and John a more peaceful and graceful year. I know that you have been working so hard throughout your whole life. You are a role model not only for Americans but also for the people in the world.

I'll tell you what I did while I was AWOL. I watched "The International Market." The movie is a brief history of Korea since 1950 when the Korean War broke out. I was 10 years old at that time. The North Korean army invaded South Korea and the unprepared South Korean army and small units of Americans retreated to the Busan perimeter in 1950. And then UN Forces landed at Incheon and the tide changed and UN forces moved to near the Yalu River near the border of China.

U.S. Marine units advanced to the Chosin reservoir but the Chinese army used human-wave tactics and almost surrounded the U.S.

Marine division and some other U.S. Army units and the UN forces had to retreat from the reservoir area to Hungnam, a port city in North Korea. UN forces and around 100,000 civilians were evacuated from the port by military and civilian ships to South Korea.

The movie is a story about the life of a little boy who was evacuated to the south. During the Korean war most industries and houses were destroyed by air strikes and bombardment. And many soldiers and civilians lost their lives.

After a cease-fire, Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. We went to school but there were no desks and we had to sit on the ground and we used wooden plates with a rope hanging around our necks to write what the teachers taught. We were hungry because we did not have food. We ate whatever was edible. Even college graduates could not find jobs and they took any jobs available. In winter time we did not have any heating material and we had to sleep without heat.

On top of that, people cut all the trees and even grass for cooking and heating and the mountains became bald. In the monsoon season in Summer, landslides and rain water flooded villages and cities. In the 1960s, many young men and women went to Germany as coal miners or nurses' aides to make money to support their families. Young girls in rural areas came to cities as housemaids to support their families left behind.

In the 1960s and early 70s, young men went to Vietnam as fighting soldiers and others went there as laborers to make foreign currency. Koreans worked very hard day and night. When I watched the movie, I felt hot stuff running down on both of my cheeks. And I had to wipe it with my handkerchief. Now Korea is a free country and it became an advanced country economically. We enjoy human rights and freedom of speech.

How about North Korea? Many North Koreans are starving to death and political prisoners are sent to gulags. Many people are purged. The regime is so cruel and many people are suffering. Now is the time for the international community to pay attention to this unbelievable situation. They have to do something to improve human rights. The people in the North are all human beings. Even dogs and cats are treated better in the free world than the North Koreans.

Let us do something to improve the human rights in the North.

Pyong Roh, brother in the Universe, Korea
Director of International Affairs
International Nature Loving Association