



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

July 2008

Friends of the Anacostia River in Action

By Donn Ahearn, Greenbelt MD



Beaverdam Creek volunteers surround the largest tree in the Greenbelt forest preserve, a tulip poplar, January 2008. Photo by MICHAEL CHRISTAL

The Anacostia is one of the two major rivers of Washington, D.C. The Potomac, of course, is world-famous. Its sister river, running through the “back yard” of the District and its suburbs, had degenerated over decades to a virtual sewer. But a paddle along its upper reaches shows a hint of what it once was. A number of citizens’ groups, including the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG), are working to bring that original river back, all the way,

one tributary at a time.

Beaverdam Creek is a good place to start. Or, rather, to keep the way it is. Draining the suburbs of Laurel, Beltsville and Greenbelt in Prince George’s County, Maryland, Beaverdam is one of the healthiest — maybe the healthiest — of the 14 major tributaries of the besieged Anacostia. The river’s headwaters are here, shielded from civilization’s damage by forest and agriculture (these make up almost 78% of the sub-watershed;

75% of the overall Anacostia basin, by contrast, is developed). In an aerial view of the Anacostia basin, Beaverdam’s five-mile mainstem is an eye-catching green. Its fish and macroinvertebrate (essentially, “bugs” bigger than microbe-size) populations — two of the best indicators of stream quality — are the healthiest in the Anacostia. BCWWG, established in late 2005, is trying to keep it that way, and make it as much better as humanly possible.

This isn’t as easy a job as the above makes it sound. Agriculture beats development; but it puts things in streams that shouldn’t be there. And the largest federal steward of the Beaverdam sub-watershed — most of which is on federal land — is the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). This partnership has resulted in access permits to BARC holdings and assistance in efforts such as a biotic inventory of the stream on the property. And BARC has practiced enlightened watershed management, encouraging BCWWG’s programs of herring re-introduction and habitat improvement, and maintaining woodland buffers along most of the creek on its property. The future of BARC itself, however, is uncertain in a time of greater budget restrictions on non-military federal activities. This sort of thing — repeated with each watershed landlord — tends to keep BCWWG on its toes.

BCWWG focuses on environmental awareness and *Continued on Page 9*

Painting Nature’s Blank Canvas

One man’s tale of how planting life helped him learn about his own

By Zachary Chludil

CHESANING, MI — In 1992 my parents bought a humble ranch home on 7.5 acres of land. At the time I was in fourth grade and was in the process of becoming completely enthralled with the outdoors. On a newly acquired 7.5 acres to roam, I found more than enough to keep me occupied. The majority of the parcel was farmland when my parents bought it. There were some trees but not many, some grassy meadow areas, and there was a mud-hole of a pond with a small ditch line attached, which was a fourth grader’s dream!

That shallow crater served as a reservoir of study while I monitored the tadpoles’ daily existence as they matured into frogs, both Leopard and Bull. Careful attention was paid to the resilient willows that grew along the bank, the persistent cattails, and the red-winged blackbirds that were sure to show every spring, cackling and cooing as only they can in a declaration of spring on an otherwise brisk March day. It was there, as a fourth-grader that I began to develop my deep respect and loyalty to nature.

That same spring of ‘92 is now looked back upon as the beginning of a sweet, monumental legacy fostered by my Father and me. That spring we took the liberty of turning the farmland back over to nature as we bought 1,000 seedlings from the Shiawassee County Conservation Club. It took weeks, but by mid-May we had our future planted. I must give my Dad a lot of credit for allowing a wide-eyed ten year-old to “paint the blank canvas” and faithfully run the operation when he was at work. I imagine my interest alone *Continued on Page 3*

Fighting Back in a World Gone Mad

Shut the store’s doors if you want shoppers

By David Blair, Bedford PA

Imagine turning on your air conditioner on a hot summer day. Then imagine propping your front door wide open all day long while the air conditioning is still running. Sound foolish? You bet it is, yet it is being done in thousands of places all summer, every day. Every summer that I go to the beach (and sometimes other places) I see store after store, AC on, doors wide open and outside temperatures in the 90s. The BTU energy loss from this practice has gotta be astronomical. Never mind that the doors might be opened hun-

dreds of times a day, the difference between leaving doors open all day and having customers open them for themselves has to be huge. Whether store owners care about global warming or not, I am sure they just want to sell more stuff (whatever that is).

Being definitely convinced that global warming is a serious problem, the only question I see is “What can people do about this ridiculous open-door practice?” I have these suggestions. First, if we are going to buy stuff, we should buy it at stores that keep their doors closed. If store owners with open doors see other businesses doing just as well or better with doors closed they might decide to save money and do the right thing. *Continued on Page 6*

From the Editor



Dear Friends,

You are sure to enjoy our stories this month. We are fortunate to have several unique articles from different places in the country. Cozy up in your easy chair or on your porch and relax with our latest issue of "The Order of the Earth News."

This has been an unusual month for both Arikia and me. Arikia has not just landed one job in New York City (her dream), but two! Before she left for her interviews, she laid out the design for this month and created many useful tools for me to use in future editions. And I have a marvelous freelance writing job which will help cover our costs this month.

I have begun to learn InDesign but there are a LOT of things that still baffle me. If anyone out there in the world of electronic publishing would like to help me continue where Arikia left off, that would be wonderful. One example is that I have no idea how to put page numbers on a master page. I have no idea how to even find my master page now that Arikia set it up. Actually, I'm not even sure we *have* a master page. You can see I need to learn more.

We have a new advertiser on page 11. Paul is our local produce/tree/flowers/organic-gardening advice man. He is even carrying vegan cookies (in case you don't know what that is, it's ultimate vegetarian fare with no eggs or dairy in addition to no meat — very good for global warming activists to eat).

I hope you get a lot of cool swims in or whatever your heart wants most during the summer. For me, it's swimming.

For the Earth,
Iona

1st Amendment to the United States Constitution

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

INSIDE The Order...

3. **Paradise: Painting Nature's Blank Canvas**
by Zachary Chludil
4. **News: European Union Agrees to Outlaw 'Green' Crimes** by World Council for Sustainable Business
5. **Views: On Hospitality** by Marion Stuenkel
6. **Tightwads Make the Best Environmentalists**
by Barbara Erakko Taylor
7. **Musings: Fireflies** by Barbara Knox
New Earth Rising by Glen Barry
8. **Musings: Endgame** by Derrick Jensen
9. **Green Youth: Alaska** by Kaylah Johnson
10. **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Part VII -- Long-Term Warming**
11. **Kilowatt Ours: Electricity Investigation**
by Jennifer Barrie
12. **Lawmaker Investments Not So Green**
by Lindsay Renick Mayer
Val's Vegetarian Recipe by Valerie Stanley
13. **Letters to the Editor**
14. **Finally, A Dose of Sanity from Congress on Climate Legislation** by A. Siegel
15. **Grassroots Power**
16. **Grassroots Power**

Wish List

PHILANTHROPIST.....\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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One month's postage.....\$100

Upgrade Photoshop Elements 3 to Version 6.....\$75

One set of cartridges for large color printer.....\$120

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"The Order of the Earth News" is a Monthly Publication

Our Goal: To create a hugely successful newspaper that will report the story of people around the world working to protect their land bases, strengthen local communities and achieve 90% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030.

Our Mission: To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate and creative.

The Dream: Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish again.

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Contact Us

Mail: HCR 83 Box 881 Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255

Email: ionaconner@pa.net

Phone: 814-259-3680

Web: www.theorderoftheearth.com

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THANKS!!

was enough to encourage his trust in me to grow our “investment,” which was a significant one as 1,000 seedlings didn’t exactly come cheap. Dad and I held dialogs about how to plant, where to plant, and what the landscape might look like some day. I was keen to follow his advice as I was already a prized pupil of his horticultural know-how, which was passed on to him by his Grandparents who were natives of old-world Czechoslovakia.

As that year passed, his knowledge and my passion bloomed into a fantastic fusing of collective growth. I took water from the pond in 5-gallon buckets and humped them all around the property, mixing Miracle Grow and tending to the trees on an almost daily basis. To my surprise, I saw results in that first year as the White Pines jumped a foot at least!

Dad and I made a few more seedling purchases as the years went on; most notably five years later we bought another 700 seedlings. By that time I was 15 and practically a professional. I had spent the preceding five years learning hands-on, fully investing in every one of the multiple mistakes that emerged. To name a few, we planted 50 Red Oaks in a low-lying wet area, and we lost all but the 10 that now stand so proudly as the lone survivors of a bad site choice on the part of the planters. It is fair to say that we took good care of the rabbit population as they gladly devoured much of our deciduous plantings, including pricey Sugar Maple, Red Maple and various Oak seedlings. Perhaps our biggest mis-

cue, though, was following the published recommendation from the conservation club to plant evergreens only 7 feet apart and in rows 10 feet apart. As an experienced “tree guy” I’m here to tell you that 7 feet is far too close to plant trees if you want them to become decent-looking and mature at some point. Better advice would be to double that to about 15 feet between trees. This allows the sun to reach the tree from all sides throughout its juvenile growth stage, which allows the canopy to become full-bodied as the terminal leader reaches for its true apex, resulting in a straight, full, healthy tree. This end result is much more appealing as opposed to the reaching, side-winding action that usually occurs when the trees are in competition with each other for the sun’s almighty light. Fifteen feet may look like a lot of ground left bare when planting seedlings. But trust me – you’ll be glad you did just a few years later.

These mistakes were part of the learning curve that I encountered, but my reaction to them is what took the project to another level. I became, and still consider myself, “the master of transplantation.” There were well over a hundred evergreen trees that we initially planted too close together. For a couple of spring and fall seasons in a row, I made huge efforts to successfully transplant these young trees to the other side of the property, which at that point still had plenty of open space to plant. Towards the end of that era I even started to transplant four-to-five foot White Pine and Spruce by hand! Out of the hundreds of transplants

trunks of the young trees to ward off the rabbits and mice that will surely girdle almost anything if given the opportunity. It’s hard to admit, but I’ve probably lost half as much as I’ve gained. But it is entirely safe to say that the presence of the property now speaks for itself. It is truly an amazing place to be, and a sight that any set of eyes could appreciate.

There is much more than meets the eye though on this particular piece of land. I have built and maintained a lot of soul here. In the past sixteen years the trees have helped open my eyes (and ears) not only to changes in their path of existence but in mine as well. I know it sounds a

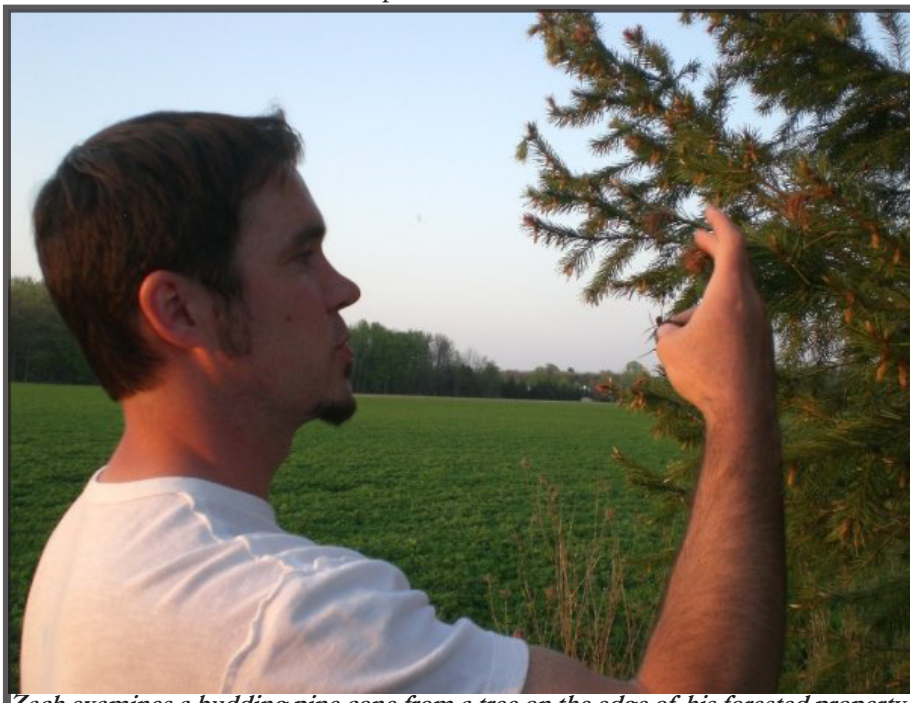
to take root — that is where it stands and commands the world around it.

Trees are perhaps the most underrated piece of our life puzzle. Not only do they clean our air like a vacuum but I’ve also seen how they react to adversity. I’ve seen how they heal after a buck rub-attacks their trunks; how they shoot up suckers and resilient secondary branches after a main branch breaks or is lost for whatever reason. The trees have taught me how to persevere, how to battle, and how to never give up (much like the late, great, Jim Valvano). The trees have helped me cope with loss, and through their spirit a true wealth has been found. I can’t imagine not planting these trees just the way my Dad and I did. I can’t imagine how much less I would have to offer the world if not for the incredible volume of life and character that the trees and I have exchanged over the past sixteen years.

I know, all this fuss over some trees on a measly 7.5 acre plot of land in Mid-Michigan... Well, I am obviously excited about it and the trees I planted have only been around 16 years! I am only 26! What about the majestic and mighty Oak trees that live anywhere from 300 to 900 years! The ones on the side of the road would take two or three people to put their arms around them. Imagine what kind of stories they could tell. The little slice of appreciation that I have grown for nature through my rather small experience is nothing compared to the boundless world that exists among us.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to experience nature the way I have, but don’t be limited to the words on this page. I encourage anyone on this planet to take a closer look at this wonderful world — it’s mind-blowing. I am going to estimate that on the low side there are at least 2,000 trees on our property, and I’ll use a low median of them being 10 years old. 2,000 trees X 10 years is 20,000 years of life being lived simultaneously on this 7.5-acre patch of grass, and you can feel it! The presence of life is exhilarating. This life is quite an opportunity, there is so much to grasp...

If you have the means, plant a tree — build some soul. If not, at least take a walk through a woods and tune in to the marvelous show that many of us take for granted or are missing altogether. I have proof that the fruits will yield high harvests for years to come.



Zach examines a budding pine cone from a tree on the edge of his forested property. Behind him is a field of wheat. Photo by Arikia Millikan.

made, I only lost one. I was a little careless with the spade, took a bad angle and sliced through the majority of the root system. Poor Red Pine...

It is now immensely gratifying to see the Northeast corner of the property rise and challenge the once dominant Northwest corner for towering supremacy. The two sides are both vigorous as many of the trees, now sixteen years old, are coming out of their juvenile form and into full maturity. The White Pines, which are the most prevalent species on the property extend about 35-40 feet tall and 20 feet wide. They are huge for their age.

I also spent a good amount of time trying to deter the constant pests that come with the territory of growing and nurturing trees. My best tip is cutting up pieces of old garden hose and slicing it length-wise, then fitting it around the

bit silly, and many readers may question my sanity at this point, but what I am about to say is true.

Just as my life has taken twists and bends, highs and lows, I have witnessed the same parallels in the nature of these trees. Through my careful observation of them, they have been invaluable in my navigation through the changing tides of life. I give significant credit to the trees for teaching me how to be tough, and how to have the mental moxie to weather a storm. They’ve influenced me to stand tall in the presence of danger and face the challenge at hand instead of putting it off and hoping someone else does it. How many of us would keep our composure while taking on a tornado face-first? A tree can’t run. A tree can’t go home and play video games. A tree can only be — and wherever it is fortunate enough

EU Agrees to Outlaw 'Green' Crimes

By World Business Council for Sustainable Development



After eight years of negotiation, the European Parliament has reached an agreement with member states on legislation that will force national governments to apply criminal sanctions to those causing deliberate or negligent damage to the environment.

The agreement will infuriate British Conservatives who have been fighting tooth and nail against what they called an "intrusion" into national criminal law.

But supporters of EU-wide measures, including the European Commission, have argued they are necessary to prevent offenders from taking advantage of the "scattered and disparate criminal law provisions."

To appease opponents, the agreed directive makes clear that criminal sanctions can only be requested in case of "substantial damage," death or serious injury and limited to areas where the EU has competence, leaving national legislation intact in other areas.

According to the agreed text, the list of punishable crimes will include:

- Unlawful discharge or emission of substances into the air, soil or water in a way likely to cause "death or serious injury to any person" or "substantial damage" to the environment;
- the shipment of waste;
- the killing, destruction, possession and trading of specimens of protected fauna or flora species, except when it concerns negligible quantities with little or no impact on the specimen's conservation status;
- any conduct which causes the significant deterioration of habitats within protected sites, and;
- the production, importation, exportation, placing on the market or use of

ozone-depleting substances.

Any inciting or aiding and abetting of such conduct will equally be considered a criminal offence.

No Minimum Penalties

The Commission had originally hoped to impose sentences ranging from one to ten years' imprisonment or fines

of **300,000 to 1,500,000 €** (\$473,000 to \$2,355,000), depending on the severity of the offence.

However, in the final compromise, which seeks to comply with the European Court of Justice ruling, the level of penalty is left to the discretion of member states. The directive simply asks that they be "effective, proportionate and dissuasive".

'More Ambition' Demanded in Fight Against Ship Pollution

In a separate vote on May 20th — designated as the first European Maritime Day — MEPs adopted a report on the Commission's proposals for a new maritime strategy, which criticizes its lack of action on cutting pollution from shipping.

They insist that maritime policy must make a "substantial contribution to reducing greenhouse emissions," notably by incorporating shipping into the EU's emissions trading scheme, as is being done with the aviation sector.

MEPs also urged the Commission to introduce minimum NOx emission standards for ships using EU ports and to promote better quality marine fuels with reduced sulphur content. To encourage implementation, they propose introducing taxes or charges on all ships sailing within EU waters or stopping at Community ports.

They further point out that the Commission is so far yet to act on limiting land-based pollution of the sea and call on the EU executive to put forward an action plan.

Safer Ship Dismantling

In another vote on May 21st, MEPs further called on the Commission to take action to prevent EU countries from "dumping" toxic

waste on the beaches of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, where the large majority of EU-registered rusting ships are sent to be decommissioned.

The report calls on the EU to boost its own dismantling capacity and to ensure that all EU ships are pre-cleaned of hazardous waste if they are sent to poorer countries, where the fatal accident rate is much higher than in the EU and one in six workers suffers from asbestos.

Positions

Parliament's rapporteur on the Environmental Crime proposals Hartmut Nassauer welcomed the deal on the legislation. "We are setting a precedent," he said, noting that the vote represented the first time that Parliament has approved a comprehensive piece of legislation implying the use of criminal law. He further advocated the possibility that the use of criminal sanctions could be extended to other fields than protection of environment in the future.

Despite the watering down of its original proposals and the lack of any common minimum penalty levels, the Commission said it believed the agreement would nevertheless constitute "a very important step towards improving the implementation of environmental legislation. No more safe havens will be possible for those responsible for polluting our environment," said Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot.

But according to Green MEPs, "while the proposed directive marks a positive first step, it is far from perfect." Monica Frassoni, co-president of the Greens/EFA group lamented the limits imposed on the scope of the directive and the fact that responsibility for implementing the new rules and for setting the level of fines will be in the hands of member states. "We will closely follow their actions in this regard," she said.

British Conservatives have long argued against EU-wide measures, saying "many EU countries, including Britain, are vigorously opposed to the Commission's intrusion into criminal law." Reacting to a 2005 judgement by the European Court of Justice which granted the Commission authority to require criminal sanctions against polluters, Timothy Kirkhope, a British Conservative MEP, said: "Far from being a shot in the arm for EU democracy, this is a serious blow to our right to decide these matters for ourselves."

Pioneers Show Americans How to Live "Off-Grid"

By Tim Gaynor, excerpt

BISBEE, Ariz (Reuters via Environmental News Network, May 25, 2008) -- With energy prices going through the roof, an alternative lifestyle powered by solar panels and wind turbines has suddenly become more appealing to some. For architect Todd Bogatay, it has been reality for years.

When he bought his breezy patch of scrub-covered mountaintop with views to Mexico more than two decades ago, he was one of only a few Americans with an interest in wind- and solar-powered homes.

Now, Bogatay is surrounded by 15 neighbors who, like him, live off the electricity grid, with power from solar panels and wind turbines that he either built or helped to install. "People used to be attracted to living off-grid for largely environmental reasons, although that is now changing as energy prices rise," he said, standing in blazing sunshine with a wind turbine thrashing the air like a weed whacker overhead ...

Bogatay and his neighbors at the 120-acre development are among a very small but fast-growing group of Americans opting to meet their own energy needs as power prices surge and home repossessions grow ... Rosen estimates that as many as 350,000 U.S. households meet their own energy needs, and growing at 30 percent a year ... While installation costs for the solar panels, wind turbines, converters and batteries needed to power up an off-grid home were prohibitively expensive a few years back, improved technology and ramped up production has driven down costs significantly ... One clear sign that the off-grid lifestyle is moving more mainstream is that developers and other organizations are starting to look at off-grid alternatives, drawn by both environmental arguments and simply the bottom line.

Lonnie Gamble, a developer behind an off-grid subdivision in rural Iowa called Abundance Ecovillage, offers plots at \$40,000 that include free wind and solar power from shared systems, as well as water from a rainwater collection system, waste recycling and access to shared amenities including a farm ... "You can have hot showers and a cold beer," said Gamble. "You have no water bill, no sewer bill, no power bill and you can harvest something fresh from the greenhouse ... why would you ever do anything else?"

The Examined Life: On Hospitality

By Marion Stuenkel

My friend Katie told her son, "Visiting Marion is like camping." She wasn't talking about the beauty of a campfire at night on the mesa, nor the warmth of a cup of boiled coffee held within your hands at dawn, Katie was referring to not having a can opener to open a desired ingredient, to not having a lamp to see, to having to make her traditional dish in an iron skillet because the casserole dish was gone, and well, it was a long list of comparisons, including layering clothing and sleeping on mats on the floor.

Katie and I have known each other since our boys were 2 years old. We met as neighbors in the South Valley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. We baby-sat one another's children. I am as smart as she is and better educated, she has most all the common sense. Our husbands both died in 1995, her Jack of a brain tumor and my Tom of AIDS. Since early on in our friendship I've answered Katie, to the question, "Who would you choose to ensure your survival if but you two were marooned on a desert island?" We had known one another for 29 years when Katie came to Madison as my first guest post the "letting go of the material" stage in my quest for simple living. I believe that we must live simply for the environment's sake including not fighting destructive resource wars.

Socrates wrote, "...that the unexamined life is not worth living..." in his Apology. His was not an apology in the sense of having made a mistake or having done something wrong. His words were a defense against a charge. Katie's visit caused me to examine my life and the changes I was making. Katie brought her towel and washcloth as I'd asked. She ate out of my one bowl and spoon while I ate with a measuring spoon out of the one pan. Upon leaving Katie told me, "Your home is no longer hospitable."

This was a charge against which I had no defense.

I could have answered inconvenient, difficult or eccentric with self-righteous comments about ecological footprints and the number of planets it would take for everyone to live as I once did, but she was not

saying I was wrong or mistaken. Hers was a charge about no place at the table. As I had given the table away and we ate on my grandson's table it was literally as well as figuratively true.

Katie, who is now simplifying too is making her annual visit soon. Nearly five years after the "inhospitable" visit she told her friend who is coming with, "Marion lives simply, but we are very welcome." During the intervening years I'm near to accomplishing my goal of having all my personal belongings fit in a backpack. And my value of simplicity is no longer in competition with the value of hospitality. My company has belongings in my home in a sufficiency of cutlery and bowls. I've borrowed or stored (often hand-me-down) towels, can openers, cloth napkins, a card table, chairs and a lamp. I borrowed a mattress as Katie has back trouble and finds my mats on the floor too hard.

When I do something I do it whole hog and now realize my past model was of an ascetic in a cave. Katie's reaction caused me to examine my life. Now my model is a Catholic Worker House. The material objects for simple hospitality are functional, sufficient, old, well-used and pleasing. Guests can come to simple living.

Marion Stuenkel is a Kyoto-compliant, anti-nuclear activist modeling simple living for her grandchildren, practicing intentional income-reduction-war-tax-resistance, and eating local food in Madison, Wisconsin.



How to Recycle Clothes

The Alternative Consumer

One of my sisters, Kate, was spring cleaning a couple of closets recently and after sorting through things she wound up donating most of her clothes to the local church.

But there was a small pile of clothes that looked ripe for the dump. Karmically, she didn't want to deposit these pre-loved clothes into the trash bin. So she did what sisters do — asked the older one for advice. I came across a great suggestion from organicgardens.com where we discovered that cotton and wool "rags" and old leather gloves could be composted.

Both Good Will and The Salvation Army are willing to take on even the thread-bare threads — they send them to "rag sorters" who make very good use of the material.

Thought I'd pass along a few other tips for recycling your beloved threads:

- Patagonia has a smart system for recycling their clothes or Polartec wear through Patagonia's Common Threads Garment Recycling Program.
- Montreal-based, On and On is currently accepting used clothes for recycling
- And N.Y.C. residents looking to donate wearable clothes can contact WearableClothes.com, a service that puts still-good garments to good use.
- Related: swap-O-rama, freecycle, clothingswap, pdxswap, u-exchange and swishing [are other resources you might like].

Textiles make up about 4 percent of the weight and 8 percent of the volume of all municipal solid waste in the U.S. — more info at the Institute for Self Reliance and at the Council for Textile Recycling.

How do you keep **your** used garments out of the landfill?

A City Committed to Recycling Is Ready for More

By Felicity Barringer, excerpt

SAN FRANCISCO (*The New York Times* May 7, 2008) — Mayor Gavin Newsom is competitive about many things, garbage included. When the city found out a few weeks ago that it was keeping 70 percent of its disposable waste out of local landfills, he embraced the statistic the way other mayors embrace winning sports teams, improved test scores or declining crime rates.

But the city wants more.

So Mr. Newsom will soon be sending the city's Board of Supervisors a proposal that would make the recycling of cans, bottles, paper, yard waste and food scraps mandatory instead of voluntary, on the pain of having garbage pickups suspended.

"Without that, we don't think we can get to 75 percent," the mayor said of the proposal. His aides said it stood a good chance of passing.

What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future.

This is the defining moment.

Rajendra Pauchari, Chair Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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Westminister: 410-871-2121 Fax: 410-751-9214 Frederick: 301-668-5757

Tightwads Are The Best Environmentalists

By Barbara Erakko Taylor, © Hannibal MO

Now I don't mean to malign the financially frugal. Tightwad sounds so derogatory, but really I was married to a frugal man for 25 years and he had absolutely no interest in the environment. Let me give you an example.

Once his company paid for the senior staff to stay in an upscale hotel in Annapolis. The minute we got into the room, he threw the windows open. "But the air conditioning is on," I told him, feeling the cool air billow out of the room. "We're not paying for it," he replied, as he headed into the bathroom to burn off a few hundred gallons of warm shower water.

This same man still wears his high school plaid shirts three decades after graduating. He found a nifty solution for his work-on-the-car pants. As they tore, frayed, burst into pieces, he added duct tape. Now the pants are stronger than they were when he bought them, being about 80 percent tape. And an additional advantage — you don't have to waste water and soap washing them.

This was (and is) a kind and good man. Really. Everybody likes him, and they find his money-saving inventions ... inventive. He's the guy that plows everyone's driveway in the winter for free — and gets pies, cookies, casseroles, and good will in return. He keeps warm in his tractor not by buying a cab but by building a scrap plywood contraption that somehow uses engine exhaust to heat it.

He came home from work one Friday proudly telling me, "I only spent a dime this week."

He doesn't care a fig about global warming or saving the Earth or anything. But he does have a thing for trees and rocks. He likes them.

Now, consider me, the dedicated liberal wannabe environmentalist. I sign the petitions on global warming. I buy totally green cleaning products. I just buy a lot of them. In fact, I buy a lot of everything. I buy new clothes (forget the duct tape). I buy enough books to fell a few trees. I read the newspaper. I like to toot around in my car buying my things. I eat out a few times a week, and forget (every time) that I won't be able to eat it all, and they will give me the fistful

of leftovers in a cavernous Styrofoam container — and I will feel guilty. But I will take it because I spent money on that food and I don't want to cook tomorrow.

I also have a neighbor who never spends anything. We go shopping and the score is: me = 5 bags; her = 0. Occasionally she'll buy a grocery, as in one item. So I was distinctly thrilled when we shopped last week, to honor her 70th birthday, and she dropped nearly \$500 on 3 pairs of shoes, make-up, and earrings. "SEE," she told me, "I DO spend money."

Nevertheless, she — a staunch Republican — is a far better environmentalist. If we were to compare our purchases and lifestyles, she'd rank in the Gold Card Save-The-Earth Club, and I'd be in hock awash in possessions and environmental debt.

The irony is that I love the philosophy. I love the idea of Saving the Earth. I spend money on buying green, organic, and sweat-shop proof. I want a tankless water heater.

I have concluded, there are TWO ways to save the Earth. Spend a lot of money ... or don't spend any at all.

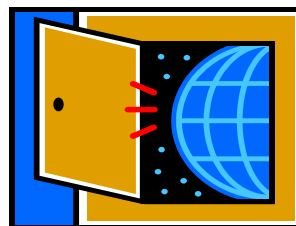


Photo by Pamela York Taylor

Barbara Erakko Taylor designed information systems for several Federal agencies before stepping into an even harder job of raising children. Today she creates peace jewelry — one bead for every country in the world — and hand-woven shawls. The author of two books on silence, she continues to write and is at work on a new manuscript about the spirituality of elderly forgetfulness. Her website is www.peaceandprayergifts.com.

Fighting Back in a World Gone Mad

(Continued from page 1)



tougher to do, but if you feel OK with telling them, it would be good.

Third, and most important, if you live in an area where this is a common practice, contact area supervisors, merchants' as-

Second, we should let them know about it and why. I know that this is

sociations, etc. and let them know that this is a marketing practice whose time has gone. Store owners with open doors may worry about losing business, but if merchants associations adopt ordinances against such a policy, all stores would be on a level playing field, stores will still sell stuff, thousands if not millions of dollars would be saved and there would be a lot less carbon dioxide in the air.

I cannot think of anywhere else where so little effort would result in so much positive change.



Find Green Candidates

www.NewMenu.org

Find Greens running for office near you.

web design provided by
www.DancingTreesWeb.com

THE NEW GreenLine Catalog is here!

For the most comprehensive offering of earth-cooling, green products for the office and home call 800-641-1117 to receive our free, full-color products catalog. Or, you can e-mail your request to info@greenlinepaper.com.



www.greenlinepaper.com

Fireflies

by Barbara Knox

In cities smog blurs moon and stars.
Tall buildings hide the evening sky.
The headlights blind from passing cars.
In urban light no fireflies fly.

But here at dusk outside my door
I look out on my garden rows:
the shadowed trees, the meadow floor.
Above my ridge a crescent glows.

Its light shines through a graceful slit,
a perfect curve pierced in the dome
of sky where evening stars are lit
above the fields where fireflies roam

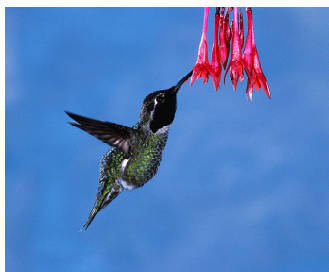
as thick as peepers peep in spring;
the ridge a flashing choir of light,
they charge the air with sparks that sing
and shed exuberance through the night.

Barbara's book of poems, "the limberlost," was published in 2005 and is available for \$10. To get your copy, send a check to: Barbara Knox, 17305 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, MD 20860.



'My' Hummingbird Told Me She Was Back

By Iona



I was sitting at my desk working on "The Order of the Earth" the last week in May when I looked up and saw a tiny hummingbird hovering at my window looking directly at me. She seemed to be telling me it was time to go fill the feeders that I had placed on the porch in anticipation of this moment.

True story.

New Earth Rising: Hope for a New Global Dream

by Dr. Glen Barry, Denmark WI

Sufficient and workable individual and social solutions exist for the wide range of ecological, economic, social and personal ills facing the biosphere and humanity; and together they could herald in a new era of global ecological sustainability.



New Earth Rising: Personal Redemption and Social Transformation

A new global dream of a sustainable, just and equitable world — where peace, truth and ecosystems are the foundation of fulfilling, experience-rich lives — is emerging. We are witnessing a "New Earth Rising," a new global consciousness built upon profound individual awakening, that understands through science, intuition and direct observation that protection and restoration of ecological systems (with healthy doses of personal redemption and social transformation) is the meaning of life. This bright green Earth ethic needs to be nurtured to allow it to grow and prosper; displacing the corrosive, corrupt and unsustainable ethic of maximizing personal consumption at the expense of shared social values.

While the Earth and humanity will not emerge unscathed from the wide array of global ecological crises, there exist numerous well-known and well-studied personal and social changes that could dramatically increase the probability of humans, civilization, other species and the Earth surviving. In a globalized, interconnected world something as seemingly innocuous as eating or how we meet other basic human needs, has

profound meaning. What has been particularly lacking in addressing global crises is a comprehensive, integrated approach to all these issues; [one] that seeks to develop and implement sufficient solutions.

New Earth Rising's global dream will stress working to protect and restore core ecological reserves globally while planting organic gardens locally, promoting incentives and sanctions to reduce population while personally reducing consumption, demanding urgent cessation of ecocidal and irredeemable industries such as coal and ancient forest logging while refusing to buy all Earth-destroying products, urging investment to meet the full range of human needs for all, while personally living rich and simple lives full of laughter and happiness, and the embrace of morality that stresses equity, fairness, sustainability and justice by and for all ...

As ecological limits continue to bite, responses of many types are possible. Technology has a place, but placing our full faith in a technological silver bullet is extremely dangerous because continuing advances are not assured, while unintended consequences are. Individuals (and by extension society) can [either] dig in and prepare to use every last bit of fossil fuel and other non-renewable resources to prop up artificially high populations and living standards, or we can embrace a new dream of returning to the Earth's bounty, rhythms and limits.

The Earth's greatest remaining unknown is whether epidemic human populations will understand change is essential to survival, and begin to power down voluntarily. Personal inattentiveness is in fact a choice to push things to the very limit, completely undermining the biosphere and ensuring there remain few resources or ecosystems to allow any other type of decent life for humans and all species.

As you awake to a New Earth Rising and help others to do so, be strong and resist small-minded ridicule and defensiveness. We are not only right, but together we are the Earth's future hope.

All this talk of ecological collapse may seem extreme, nonsense even If we continue as we are the end of being is upon us. While I am saddened, I try to not be afraid because positive individual and social change is possible, trends do not mean assured outcomes, and things can be different if we have vision, feel and care.

Real Spirituality

The technical and scientific tools to achieve global ecological sustainability must be informed by a new Earth ethic that is adequate to the times. The spirituality that is most real is found in our personal connection with the natural world and our responsibility toward her. I would suggest polytheistic ritual and worship of Gaia and nature, rejecting myths of ancient monotheistic gods that made the Earth and now sit in judgment of our every action, are a vital part of a New Earth Rising.

Many will continue to believe in ancient superstitions, and that is fine as long as you do not deny ecological fact, [but] make your beliefs ecologically positive, and take responsibility for how your teachings are impacting these crises. Whatever your faith please consider yourselves stewards of the Earth, protect your habitat, be accountable and ethical, as you live up to the morals your god expects.

While I still have doubts whether real fundamental change can come from within these structures, I challenge believers in ancient prophets to prove that accountability to an invisible creator is more likely to lead to an assured long-term future than humanity making informed, ecological science-based policy decisions.

Whatever you believe, work on the big issues. Reject small, easy victories for committing decisively to adequate solutions to the great issues of our day. And regardless if you win or lose, make a difference and do not be afraid to change. The Earth dramatically needs a small cadre of Earth peacemakers willing to do what it takes to save creation -- including partaking in revolution when other options are exhausted, and the need and opportunity arise.

Anyone thinking their life is going to remain unchanged by converging global crises that are fundamentally ecological in nature is delusional. Either you and your loved ones will be destroyed as ecosystems and societies collapse, or the way you live will be simplified as part of the global solution.

It is hard to imagine how someone could be too radical regarding developing and rapidly propagating a new way of living to avert ecological crises destroying creation.

Be the change.

<http://earthmeanders.blogspot.com>

Endgame by Derrick Jensen

Hailed as the “philosopher poet” of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization, and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen’s book *Endgame* “the best work of nonfiction in 2006....*Endgame* is the most important book of the decade and could stand as the must-read book of our lifetimes.”



Just last night I saw a television commercial put out by BP, the corporation formerly known as British Petroleum. The corporation now claims that BP stands for Beyond Petroleum, and runs public relations campaigns extolling its renewable energy research. For example, BP has made a lot of noise about the fact that in 1999 it paid \$45 million to buy Solarex, a corporation specializing in renewable energy. This may seem like a lot of money until we realize that BP paid \$26.5 billion to buy Arco in order to expand its petroleum production base, and until we realize further that BP will spend \$5 billion over five years to explore for oil just in Alaska, and until we realize even further that BP spent more in 2000 on a new “eco-friendly” logo than on renewable energy. As Cait Murphy wrote in *Fortune*, “Here’s a novel advertising strategy — pitch your least important product and ignore your most important one. . . . If the world’s second-largest oil company is beyond petroleum, *Fortune* is beyond words.” BP’s regional president Bob Murphy acknowledges that BP is “decades away” from moving beyond petroleum, which means that the whole Beyond Petroleum name change is meaningless: by that time we’ll all be beyond petroleum, since the accessible oil will all be gone. Further exemplifying the meaninglessness of the name change, a resolution calling for BP to do more to slow global warming was opposed by the board and defeated. BP’s chair Peter Sutherland told shareholders that “there have been calls for BP to phase out the sale of fossil fuels. We cannot accept this, and there’s no point pretending we can.”

In other words, BP’s name change is a “statement of priorities” and not a legally binding commitment. Or more to the

point, it’s another one of those smoke-screens.

This particular type of smokescreen has been most fully developed by a public relations consultant with the appropriately name Peter Sandman. He has been nicknamed the High Priest of Outrage because corporations hire him to dissipate public anger, to put people back to sleep. Sandman has explicitly stated his self-perceived role: “I get hired to help a company to ‘explain to these confused people that the refinery isn’t going to blow up, so they will leave us alone.’”

He developed a five-point program for corporations to disable public rage. First, convince the public that they are participating in the destructive processes themselves, that the risks are not externally imposed. You asked for it by wearing those clothes, says the rapist. You drive a car, too, says the PR guru. Second, convince them that the benefits of the processes outweigh the harm. You could never support yourself without me, says the abuser. How would you survive without fossil fuels?” repeats the PR guru. Third, undercut the fear by making the risk feel familiar. Explain your response and people will relax (whether or not your response is meaningful or effective). Don’t you worry about it, I’ll take care of everything. Things will change, you’ll see, says the abuser. We are moving beyond petroleum and toward sustainability, says the PR guru. Fourth, emphasize again that the public has control over the risk (whether or not they do). You could leave anytime you want, but I know you won’t, says the abuser. If we all just pull together, we’ll find our way through, says the PR guru. Fifth, acknowledge your mistakes, and say (even if untrue) that you are trying to do better.

I promise I will never hit you again, the abuser repeats. It is time to stop living in the past, and move together into the future, drones the PR guru.

Speaking to a group of mining executives, Sandman, who also consults for BP, stated, “There is a growing sense that you screw up a lot, and as a net result it becomes harder to get permission to mine.” His solution is not actually to change how the industry works, of course, but instead to find an appropriate “persona” for the industry. “Reformed sinner,” he says, “works quite well if you can sell it. A ‘Reformed sinner,’ by the way, is what John Brown of BP has successfully done for his organization. It is arguably what Shell has done with respect to Brent Spar. Those are two huge oil companies that have done a very good job of saying to themselves, ‘Everyone thinks we are bad guys We can’t just start out announcing we are good guys, so what we have to announce is we have finally realized we were bad guys and we are going to be better.’ . . . It makes it much easier for critics and the public to buy into the image of the industry as good guys after you have spent awhile in purgatory.”

In the ad I saw last night, an off-camera interviewer asks a woman, “What would you rather have: a car or a cleaner environment?”

The woman pauses, seemingly thoughtfully, before at last saying, “I can’t imagine me without my car. Of course I’d rather have a clean environment, but I think that that compromise is very hard to make where we are.”

The ad ends with a voiceover saying what BP is doing to make the world a better place.

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Deep Green Resistance

A Weekend Workshop with Derrick Jensen, Aric McBay and Lierre Keith

September 19-21
Ithaca, New York

We live in the most destructive culture to ever exist. In Derrick’s talks around the country, he repeatedly asks his audiences, “Does anyone think this culture will voluntarily transform to a sustainable way of living?” No one ever says yes. If we really accept the seriousness of the situation, what would that mean for our strategy and tactics? This is the urgent question we will be exploring over the weekend.

Topics include:

ORGANIZING THE RESISTANCE
BRINGING IT DOWN: BOTTLE-NECKS AND LEVERS
SECURITY CULTURE
LIBERAL VS RADICAL: SOME CONCEPTUAL BASICS
FIGHTING FUTURE FASCISM
PREPARING FOR THE CRASH

Sliding scale \$150-450, includes meals and lodging/camping. Some scholarships available. DGR is being held at a large private home on a lake. There are five bedrooms that each sleep four people, lots of floor space that can be used for sleeping, and the great outdoors for camping. Participants limited to 50. Contact: tours@derrickjensen.org.



The biggest piece of ice I ever saw.



Here I am helping a six-year-old boy pronounce a word in the reading camp I started during our trip.

Alaska

By Kaylah Johnson

Polar Bears

Polar bears are fascinating animals. Due to global warming, polar bears are dying. The Bush administration doesn't seem to care about global warming and how it will cause the death of animals, and eventually humans in the future. The Bush administration took its sweet time putting polar bears on the Endangered Species list, but it finally did. Being on the list can help polar bears from becoming extinct because we will be forced to take action on keeping them safe.

Helping global warming to happen is easy – all you have to do is keep your lights on all day or put your heat as high as it can go. It's stopping global warming that is the hard part.

By 2012, all the ice will be melted if you sit back and do nothing. By 2050, two-thirds of the world's polar bear population will likely be extinct if you just sit back and do nothing. As a community, we need to act now.

Conclusion

While saying good-bye to all my friends I had met four weeks earlier in Alaska, I thought about how Alaska had changed my life in so many ways. The village where we stayed was a very low-class area. It made me grateful to come home and appreciate my life-style and how hard my parents work to keep me in good surroundings.

Alaska changed my ways of thinking as well. Polar bears will die if we as a whole don't do anything about what's happening to them. That's why I changed my ways with electricity, gas and water. I make sure that everyone around me does, too.

Kaylah Johnson is a senior at South Hagerstown High School. She hopes to become a lawyer. While visiting Alaska, Kaylah surged ahead with her idea of starting a reading camp for the little ones even though no one was particularly interested. She arranged a lunch for her prospective students and their parents and won them over.

Friends of the River

(continued from page 1)

education; citizen action; watershed stewardship; and fun. The last can't be overrated; people who enjoy places like Beaverdam up close and personal go home with greater incentive to protect them. Bird walks, bat walks, bikes and "Stormwater Hikes" (mixing business with pleasure by monitoring stormwater runoff patterns) in the Beaverdam basin are thus a big part of the group's social presence. But there's work being

done too, enough so that the group, in its first year, won the Jim Cassels Award for Community Service, named after one of Greenbelt's leading citizen activists and rewarding the group that does the most in a year for the Greenbelt community at large. In 2007, BCWWG won the "Green Man 2007 Winter Solstice Award" from the CHEARS (Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society) for its efforts in outreach and stewardship. Given that CHEARS's domain is the entire Chesapeake Bay region, this is nothing to sneeze at!

In 2008, BCWWG has taken on the task of macro-invertebrate monitoring. This task requires the ability both to identify "bugs" and to divine water quality from the ones that show up in a sample of stream water (pollution-intolerant "bugs" are the canaries in the coal mine of watersheds). A "bug" sample from Beaverdam was the centerpiece of the group's information table at Greenbelt's 2008 Green Man Festival, held every May to reinforce the community's ties to the natural world surrounding it. A lot of astounded citizens, young and old, (continued on page 16)

Estimated Multi-Century Warming Relative to 1980-1999 for AR4 Stabilization Categories

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Annual Assessment Report was released November 17, 2007. [This is] "the most essential reading for every person on the planet who cares about the future," said Geoffrey Lean of *The Independent* on the report's release. Since ours is, above all, a Global Warming paper, we are presenting the report as a series. For better graphics, please go directly to www.ipcc.org.

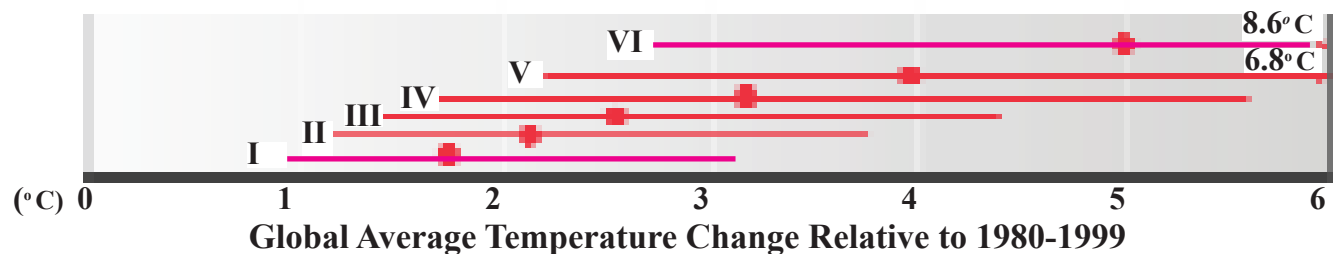


Figure SPM.8. Estimated long-term (multi-century) warming corresponding to the six AR4 WGIII stabilization categories (Table SPM.3). Temperature scale has been shifted by -0.5°C compared to Table SPM.3 to account approximately for the warming between pre-industrial and 1980-1999. For most stabilization levels global average temperature is approaching the equilibrium level over a few centuries. For GHG emission scenarios that lead to stabilization by 2100 at levels comparable to SRES B1 and A1B (600 and 850 CO_2 -equivalent ppm; category IV and V) assessed models project that about 65-70% of the estimated global equilibrium temperature increase assuming a climate sensitivity of 3°C would be realized at the time of stabilization (WGI 10.7.2). For the much lower stabilization scenarios (category I and II), the equilibrium temperature may be reached earlier (Figure SPM.11)

Anthropogenic warming and sea level rise would continue for centuries due to the timescales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations were to be stabilized.

Estimated long term (multi-century) warming corresponding to the six AR4 WG III stabilisation categories is shown in Figure SPM.8.

Contraction of the Greenland ice sheet is projected to continue to contribute to sea level rise after 2100. Current models suggest virtually complete elimination of the Greenland ice sheet and a resulting contribution to sea level rise of about 7 meters if global average warming were sustained for millennia in excess of 1.9 to 4.6°C relative to preindustrial values. The corresponding future temperatures in Greenland are comparable to those inferred for the last interglacial period 125,000 years ago, when paleoclimatic information suggests reductions of polar land ice extent and 4 to 6 meters of sea level rise.

Current global model studies project that the Antarctic ice sheet will remain too cold for widespread surface melting and gain mass due to increased snowfall. However, net loss of ice mass could occur if dynamical ice discharge dominates the ice sheet mass balance.

Anthropogenic warming could lead to some impacts that are abrupt or irreversible, depending upon the rate and magnitude of the climate change.

Partial loss of ice sheets on polar land could imply meters of sea level rise, major changes in coastlines and inundation of low-lying areas, with greatest effects in river deltas and low-lying islands. Such changes are projected to occur over millennial time scales, but more rapid sea level rise on century time scales cannot be excluded.

Climate change is likely to lead to some irreversible impacts. There is medium confidence that approximately 20-30% of species assessed so far are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average warming exceed 1.5 - 2.5°C (relative to 1980-1999). As global average temperature increase exceeds about 3.5°C , model projections suggest significant extinctions (40-70% of species assessed) around the globe.

Based on current model simulations, the meridional overturning circulation (MOC) of the Atlantic Ocean will very likely slow down during the 21st century; nevertheless temperatures over the Atlantic and Europe are projected to increase. The MOC is very unlikely to undergo a large abrupt transition during the 21st century. Longer-term MOC changes cannot be assessed with confidence. Impacts of large-scale and persistent changes in the MOC are likely to include changes in marine ecosystem productivity, fisheries, ocean CO_2 uptake, oceanic oxygen concentrations and terrestrial vegetation. Changes in terrestrial and ocean CO_2 uptake may feed back on the climate system.

Adaptation and mitigation options:¹⁴ A wide array of adaptation options is available, but more extensive adaptation than is currently occurring is required to reduce vulnerability to climate change. There are barriers, limits and costs, which are not fully understood.

Societies have a long record of managing the impacts of weather- and climate-related events. Nevertheless, additional adaptation measures will be required to reduce the adverse impacts of projected climate change and variability, regardless of the scale of mitigation undertaken over the next two to three decades. Moreover, vulnerability to climate change can be exacerbated by other stresses. These arise

from, for example, current climate hazards, poverty and unequal access to resources, food insecurity, trends in economic globalization, conflict and incidence of diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

Some planned adaptation to climate change is already occurring on a limited basis. Adaptation can reduce vulnerability especially when it is embedded within broader sectoral initiatives (Table SPM.4). There is high confidence that there are viable adaptation options that can be implemented in some sectors at low cost, and/or with high benefit-cost ratios. However, comprehensive estimates of global costs and benefits of adaptation are limited.

Adaptive capacity is intimately connected to social and economic development but is unevenly distributed across and within societies.

A range of barriers limit both the implementation and effectiveness of adaptation measures. The capacity to adapt is dynamic and is influenced by a society's productive base including: natural and man-made capital assets, social networks and entitlements, human capital and institutions, governance, national income, health and technology. Even societies with high adaptive capacity remain vulnerable to climate change, variability and extremes.

Both bottom-up and top-down studies indicate that there is high agreement and much evidence of substantial economic potential for the mitigation of global GHG emissions over the coming decades that could offset the projected growth of global emissions or reduce emissions below current levels (Figure SPM.9, SPM.10).¹⁵

While top-down and bottom-up studies are in line at the global level (Figure SPM.9) there are considerable differences at the sectoral level.

No single technology can provide all of

the mitigation potential in any sector. The economic mitigation potential, which is generally greater than the market mitigation potential, can only be achieved when adequate policies are in place and barriers removed (Table SPM.5).

Bottom-up studies suggest that mitigation opportunities with net negative costs have the potential to reduce emissions by around 6 GtCO_2 -eq/yr in 2030, realizing which requires dealing with implementation barriers.

FOOTNOTES:

¹⁴ While this section deals with adaptation and mitigation separately, these responses can be complementary. This theme is discussed in Section 5.

¹⁵ The concept of "mitigation potential" has been developed to assess the scale of GHG reductions that could be made, relative to emission baselines, for a given level of carbon price (expressed in cost per unit of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions avoided or reduced). Mitigation potential is further differentiated in terms of "market mitigation potential" and "economic mitigation potential". **Market mitigation potential** is the mitigation potential based on private costs and private discount rates (reflecting the perspective of private consumers and companies), which might be expected to occur under forecast market conditions, including policies and measures currently in place, noting that barriers limit actual uptake. **Economic mitigation potential** is the mitigation potential, which takes into account social costs and benefits and social discount rates (reflecting the perspective of society; social discount rates are lower than those used by private investors), assuming that market efficiency is improved by policies and measures and barriers are removed. Mitigation potential is estimated using different types of approaches. Bottom-up studies are based on assessment of mitigation options, emphasizing specific technologies and regulations. They are typically sectoral studies taking the macro-economy as unchanged. Top-down studies assess the economy-wide potential of mitigation options. They use globally consistent frameworks and aggregated information about mitigation options and capture macro-economic and market feedbacks.

Electricity Investigation

By Jennifer Barrie, jen@kilowattours.org

This curriculum was developed as a companion to the award-winning DVD "Kilowatt Ours," which won "Best Environmental Film" at the 2007 Southern Appalachia International Film Festival. Iona is learning and shares her answers in red.

Billing History Usage

(Iona's results in red)

1. Call your local electric utility to request a billing history usage for the last two years for your home.
2. When you receive the history, compare your electricity use for year one with year two. Did your electricity use increase or decrease? **Our first year total kWh was 24,601. Our second year was 22,782. We used 1,819 fewer kilowatts the second year just with modest awareness and no really significant changes.**
3. Compare each month throughout the year. What patterns do you see? How does your usage change at different times of the year? **Summers are very low (we have no AC); winters very high.**
4. What ideas do you have about the patterns you see in your electricity use? What do you think affected your electricity use in different months and in different years? **When we saw our March electric bill, we turned off the heat and our bill dropped dramatically. We are learning to live much cooler.**
5. What do you think you can do to lower your monthly usage? **Turning off the heat really helps a lot! I just checked into having our off-peak hours and on-peak calculated separately so we are going to switch as much of our appliance work (vacuuming, dishwashing, even some cooking) to the cheaper hours, after 9 p.m. and before 9 a.m. plus weekends and holidays. This proves to me that the real energy gluttons are the businesses. When I interviewed our power company, they advised me to unplug appliance we don't use too often, so I'm starting to do that, too.**

Research Your Electricity Distributor and Producer

Your electricity distributor is also called your local electric utility. Call or find the Web site of your electricity distributor and try to find the answers to the following questions. You may also need to research the electricity producer if it is separate from the distributor.

1. Is your distributor a privately or pub-

licly owned company? **Public.**

2. How many customers does your distributor service supply? **Penelec services 590,000 customers in 31 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Right now about 35 customers are switching to photovoltaics or wind according to Bruce Rummel, Senior Engineer in charge of interconnections.**

3. Does the company produce its own electricity or buy it from a producer? Who is the producer? **Penelec is a FirstEnergy company. It owns no generating stations but purchases energy wholesale.**

4. What primary energy sources are used to produce the electricity and what are the percentages of each? **According to Scott Surgeoner, spokesperson for Penelec, 55% of our energy comes from coal, 25-28% from nuclear and the remaining 20% from an assortment of sources including wind, oil, hydro and pump storage (reservoirs on mountains with pipelines running down the mountain that can be opened during peak hours so that gravity brings water down to make electricity. At night the water is pumped back up.**

5. Where are the power plants or reservoirs located where the electricity is produced? **Coal-fired power plants are located primarily in Indiana, Cambria and Armstrong counties. There is a large energy complex running along the Pennsylvania/Ohio border.**

6. Where do the fossil fuels originate? **The coal comes from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Wyoming; nuclear power comes from Ohio and two nuclear plants near Pittsburgh.**

7. Does the provider have a program that allows you to support green power sources? What is it called and how does it work? **Renewable Energy Blocks for 100 Kw each provide energy through Community Energy wind tower and methane digesters. The minimum is two blocks at \$.50 and the maximum is 50.**

8. What sort of programs do the distributor and producer have to help protect the environment and natural resources? **Penelec has contracts for 200-250 megawatts of wind power. It is one of the**

largest wind users in the Mid-Atlantic area. They are spending nearly \$2 billion for scrubbers on a large coal-fired power plant in Ohio and during the next few years will work to bring all their plants into Clean Air Act compliance.

9. Find one more fact about how your electricity is produced and distributed that is interesting to you. Has your electricity distributor or producer been in the news lately? **In October 2007, PennFuture (a PA environmental group) sued FirstEnergy because their Bruce Mansfield plant in Shippingport, Beaver County, PA violated opacity standards, which relate to how emissions obscure background objects, at least 250 times between November 2002 and March. "The Clean Air Act contains a provision that lets citizens bring enforcement lawsuit after notifying the alleged violator and state and federal environmental agencies." PennFuture's Senior Attorney, Charles McPhedran, stated that emissions from the stacks "blanket nearby homes, yards, gardens, cars, swimming pools and outdoor furniture." The plant applied to the Department of Environmental Protection for alternative opacity limitations.**

FirstEnergy Corp. donated carbon offsets to nine colleges and universities to counteract their emissions for Earth Day events. FirstEnergy also joined Green Circuits, an 18-month Electric Power Research Institute initiative that will identify possible options for reducing electricity losses on distribution and transmission lines.

100 CYCLISTS TO RIDE FROM NEW YORK TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING

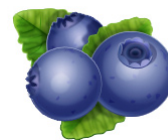
A Fundraiser and Climate Conference on Wheels

Climate Ride 2008 is the first multi-day bicycle ride to raise money and awareness for global warming and renewable energy legislation. From September 20th to 24th, 2008, one hundred Climate Riders will pedal 320 miles from New York City to Washington D.C. Each day, expert speakers will address the riders as well as community members along the way. Money raised will benefit Focus the Nation and Clean Air — Cool Planet.

Each rider will be responsible for raising \$2,250, which will be donated to the project's beneficiaries. Clean Air — Cool Planet partners with businesses, campuses, city governments, and other organizations throughout the northeast to reduce carbon emissions. Focus the Nation works with over a million participants on college campuses throughout the country to raise awareness of global warming.

Registration began April 15th and is open to anyone who wants to make a difference on global warming. During the fully-supported ride, participants will cycle approximately 60 miles a day and spend nights at group campgrounds. Interested participants can visit www.climateride.org to register.

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LAWMAKER INVESTMENTS NOT SO GREEN

by Lindsay Renick Mayer, excerpt

MinuteManMedia.org, May 14, 2008
 -- When environmental lobbyists and eco-friendly citizens come a-knockin' on lawmakers' office doors, Democrats (and some Republicans) can detail efforts to pass legislation that directs taxes collected from the oil and gas industry towards renewable energy initiatives. But the politicians probably won't mention that while they're encouraging the country to invest in alternatives, they themselves aren't doing so with their own money. According to the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics, members of Congress have more money invested in each of the top five oil and gas companies, individually, than in 305 green stock companies combined.



The most recent personal financial disclosures show that members had at least 45 times more money invested in the oil and gas industry (at least \$20.6 million) than in public companies that provide "green" products and services (at least \$452,100). This includes companies that develop renewable energy projects, manufacture energy efficiency products, recycle material or create wind or solar products. The amount of money members have plunked down on these green stocks, as listed in the newsletter *Progressive Investor*, has actually decreased 23 percent since 2004, while their investments in oil and gas have increased by 30 percent.

"Every purchase that we make, whether to buy a car or a piece of clothing — and that includes stock in our portfolio — we're making a strong statement about what we want," said Rona Fried, editor and publisher of *Progressive Investor*. "If you invest in clean energy stock, you're making a statement that that's where you want to see the world going. If you invest in fossilized companies, you're going to be stuck with the dinosaurs."

Democrats, who have tried repeatedly in the last year to pass legislation that would tax oil companies and use the money for wind and solar energy subsidies, had even less money invested in green stocks than Republicans in 2006 — at least \$59,300 compared to at least \$392,600. Of course not all members of Congress agree that renewable energy is the way to go — and even if they did, they might not be comfortable buying stock in such companies yet, because the industry is young and the stocks can be volatile, *Progressive Investor's* Fried said. Indeed, between 2004 and 2006, lawmakers were not getting rich off of their green investments. On aver-

age, individual lawmakers earned at least \$2,700 on these investments over the three-year period, through dividends, capital gains, royalties and interest, the Center found. They made an average of \$24,200, however, on their investments in the oil and gas industry. Because the most recent personal financial disclosure data available is from 2006-2007. [New] reports were due mid-May — it's still impossible to say whether members have become more or less invested in these companies in the last 15 months.

Then again some investments in alternative energy aren't considered to be healthy. Last year President Bush signed an energy bill that doubled the use of corn-

based ethanol, a controversial biofuel that is driving up the price of food worldwide. In 2006, lawmakers had at least \$825,400 invested in the companies that stand to profit the most from corn-based ethanol production, including agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland. Democrats owned 75 percent of those investments (though Senator John Kerry and his wife, Teresa, own 60 percent alone).

Democrats may have less of their own money invested in green stocks, but those companies have invested more in the campaigns of Democrats than Republicans.

Of the total \$242,900 that the companies' employees and PACs have given to federal candidates, parties and committees so far in the 2008 election cycle, 68 percent has gone to Democrats. The oil and gas industry, however, has traditionally supported Republicans. This election cycle, Republicans have received 73 percent of the total \$11.5 million from the oil and gas industry.

Addressing global warming and investing in clean technologies and renewable energy is not a partisan issue, said Doug Stingle, membership and outreach coordinator of the Midwest Renewable Energy Association. "This is something that everyone should be invested in. It's not an ideological issue," he said. "If global warming severely alters our ecosystem in such a way that we can't live our lives, it won't matter if you're Republican or Democrat. It's beyond that."

Lindsay Renick Mayer writes for Capital Eye, the online newsletter and blog of the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan research organization in Washington, D.C., that tracks the influence of money on elections and public policy at its website, OpenSecrets.org.

Val's Vegetarian Recipe Strength From a Bean and a Leaf

Do you sometimes feel a bit lethargic midway through the afternoon? Re-think what you're eating for lunch. I'm a big fan of eating "live" foods, i.e. foods in their "as close to natural" state as possible.

Also, do you know that you can increase the oxygen carrying capacity of your blood by combining chickpeas with spinach? You can find chickpeas in your regular grocery store in the canned food aisle. And, you can further increase the beneficial aspects of hummus and spinach by having them with a glass of orange juice (no recipe needed!) These tips are straight from the Red Cross!

Here is a recipe for a delicious sandwich (or wrap) that will have you feeling rejuvenated, and ready to take on the rest of the day.

Hummus and Marinated Spinach Sandwich

To Make the Hummus: Drain 1 can of chickpeas. Add the juice of 1 lemon (about ¼ cup). Add ¼ cup olive oil, 1 clove garlic and 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes. Put all ingredients in a blender and mix until smooth. Chill in a covered container.

To Make the Marinated Spinach Salad:

- 1 bag of fresh Spinach
- 1 small can of mandarin orange segments (drained) or sliced strawberries
- ½ cup of slivered almonds
- Toss with Balsamic Vinaigrette dressing
- Refrigerate overnight or for a few hours

I like to make this ahead of time because it allows the spinach to soften and soak up the Vinaigrette dressing and the flavors of the mandarin orange segments and almonds to blend. Spread the hummus on your favorite whole grain bread or toast or wrap and top with the marinated spinach salad. Enjoy!

Next month ... Serendipity and Strength from a Seed ...

Valerie Stanley is an attorney, animal law professor who lives in Laurel, Maryland. Her dream is to make eating vegetarian easy and fun. Please send any comments to her at valjostant@yahoo.com.

Valerie quotes T.M. McNally: "And it is of course trucks and automobiles and jet fuel — the hard facts of modernity — that have made both God and horses increasingly irrelevant to our culture. What is lost is our respect and affection for — our connectedness to — our fellow creatures, as well as a divine admonition to care for them properly."

Bethlehem Business is "The Vegan Bakery" to Stars

By Wendy Solomon

BETHLEHEM, PA (*Fulton County News* June 6, 2008) -- Danielle Konya and her small but dedicated staff at Vegan Treats in Bethlehem work at a quick, steady pace in the tight confines of the bakery's kitchen ... There is not a moment to be wasted. Aside from the bakery's voluminous regular orders, they were turning out 600 more French pastries for the Farm Sanctuary Gala in New York, a celebrity-laden affair that was held recently to raise money and awareness for humane treatment of farm animals. Konya was selected to be dessert coordinator for the \$400-a-plate soiree.

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Letters to the Editor

July 2008

Page 13

Hello Iona,

I walked into the Frederick Mom's Organic Market yesterday, and what did I find upon check-out? Yes, I found *The Order of the Earth!* It was good to see that most of them were gone as well. The reader base must be expanding. I know, I know you have never heard of anyone getting excited over a newspaper.....

I want to respond to a 'portion' of the Harkins Letter-to-the-Editor article and respond to a 'bit' of the quizzing you received regarding your military and airline emissions knowledge. I found his article to be contradictory at times, and am skeptical of his motive, probably because much of his conviction wasn't clear. Regardless, I enjoyed reading the Harkins letter (p 14, June 08); another view and another consideration, which brings me to some information I found today.

My son is a pilot (private and military), so any news information I find regarding flight/aircraft etc., piques my interest, which is then sent on to him, therefore I am always on the watch. Today I woke up to find my May 30th, 2008 ATT Headline News to reveal a bit more information regarding this focus on airline emissions. First it is posed as a question and then answered by an Associated Press (AP) Science Writer. (Keep in mind that the panel studying jet emissions was an 'international' panel and that this is not intended to answer all that Harkins questions.)

Q: "What happens to all the jet fuel exhaust that's deposited high in the atmosphere, where airliners and other aircraft fly? Given the amount of fuel the world's jets collectively consume — and the fact that the temperature is well below zero at an airliner's typical cruising altitude — it seems unlikely that the exhaust would just harmlessly dissipate.

"So where does it all end up? Is there a growing layer of spent fuel around the planet at 35,000 feet? And is this contributing to global warming?"

Michael A. Terminiello
Plantsville, Connecticut
May 30th, 2008

A: "Just like car engines, jet engines burn fossil fuels and produce emissions that add to global warming. And they are spewed at higher altitudes, which increases the heat-trapping properties of the pollution, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In 1999, this panel of international scien-

tists produced a special report on airplanes and global warming. It found that airplane emissions add to global warming directly by producing the chief man-made global warming gas, carbon dioxide. That's the biggest global warming effect from planes — and it's relatively small compared with the net effect from power plants and cars, said Jerry Mahlman, a retired top federal climate scientist and expert on the upper atmosphere.

Airplanes' condensation trails, or "contrails," also contribute to global warming. And planes spew nitrogen oxides, which increase the global warming effect of ozone in the atmosphere — but also fight global warming a bit by reducing the amount of methane in the atmosphere.

In 1992, airplanes were responsible for about 3.5 percent of the global warming effect, according to the science panel. But the group predicted that by 2050 that figure would increase to 5 percent.

And no, planes don't produce their own stratospheric belt of carbon dioxide — they don't fly high enough for that to happen. Instead, jet emissions mix with all the other carbon dioxide produced closer to the ground, Mahlman said.

Seth Borenstein
AP Science Writer, Washington
May 30th, 2008

I hope you find this informative.
Sincerely,
Cynthia S Waugh
Sykesville, Maryland

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

I was in Seoul, the capital of Korea, and came back to Daegu. I am very sorry to read the news stories in Myanmar and China. I am angry at the military government of Myanmar. I was there six years ago to help the people in Yangon. I met the minister of health at that time. You know what? I was introduced to a major general in uniform. The minister was an active-duty military personnel. I was so shocked. People are suffering. I have a friend in Myanmar and I sent an email but I can not get his response. Maybe Internet is controlled by the government, I guess. The politicians are hungry for power and they do not care about the people. [Ed.: *Pyong's friend is fine.*]

I have a good news for you. Cheju island in Korea is a small island located in the south. Cheju island is famous or notorious for strong wind. Now it is a blessing. The local government and energy company built many wind mills which produce electricity.

People are talking about clean energy nowadays. In Youngduck which is located in the east coast, many wind mills have been built. I am happy about that. They are moving in the right direction, even if the progress is slow.

I took a nature walk this afternoon. When I was teaching my students in Korea, I used to take a nature walk in a university. This afternoon I took a walk on the same route I used to take. There are small ponds and forests and vegetable fields. In the forest I was impressed by the strong smell of pine with fresh spring breeze. In Korea there are many pine trees but I could not smell the strong fragrance of pine. For two years [while I was in the United States] I almost forgot the smell. My lungs were awakened by the old memory of the smell. There are many wild flowers greeting me. They are humble and pretty. They never try to show off.

On a small space in a forest, I found physical exercise equipment which was installed by the university for the people. Students and local people can use the equipment. I was very happy to see this kind of concern of the university, even if it is a small thing. There are old houses relocated from old towns for educational purpose for the youngsters. Nowadays, we cannot see these kind of houses any more elsewhere.



You know what? Koreans love dandelions and sometimes they pick dandelions up for salads which are good for health. Dandelions are beautiful and their flowers are yellow and pretty. Yes, we eat the flowers of dandelion, but we put a flower or two on salads for ornament and same time we eat them. I do not understand why Americans do not like dandelions in the grasses in their yards. In Japan dandelions are the symbol of hope, because dandelions were the first living things coming out of the debris of nuclear bombing sites. I think we have to change our old paradigm to embrace our nature and living things.

This afternoon, I thought of you and John who are working hard to save the Earth, the only One Earth. I am still busy with read-

justment, but moving forward step by step. (next day)

This afternoon I had a nature walk too. I noticed that there are only a few anglers around reservoirs or ponds. They used to make a mess around the bodies of waters by throwing wastes. I do not like anglers of fresh water. Thank god, nowadays the anglers take their wastes back to waste disposal places.

I believe that we can change our behavior for better. Individuals and community and government have to work together to make this planet more beautiful and green.

I am getting more involved in the nature-loving movement. This afternoon, we had a dinner meeting with one of my friends. He said that a priest of Daegu parish is devoted to preservation of nature. So I will see him in the near future.

This morning I passed by a stationery store and asked the owner whether he sells ink in bottles. He said that he has them. I was so happy and I bought a bottle and filled my fountain pen with ink when I came back home. Nowadays people use only disposable ball point pens. A couple weeks ago I dropped by a super market to buy bottled ink but they did not have any. They sell only disposable pens. I think we might be back to the old tradition of using ink instead of disposable pens. This is a small thing but we can reduce plastic wastes.

I had a meeting with the president of a university and talked about the committee of nature preservation to minimize global warming. He is very interested in the movement. I hope many universities will join this kind of movement. This is my mission and social service, I think.

I hope you enjoyed staying at your son's place. Drive carefully back to Shade Gap, the cradle of The Order of the Earth.

Take care.
Pyong, your brother in the Universe
Daegu, Korea

**"The Order of the Earth"
is for sale at the following
Pennsylvania locations:**

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Sandy Ridge Market, Orbisonia

Whale Rescue Changes All

If you read the front page story of the *San Francisco Chronicle* on May 1, you would have read about a female humpback whale who had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines.

She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth.



A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farallone Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help.

Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her ... a very dangerous proposition.

One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.

They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her.

When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles.

She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around — she thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.

The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

May you, and all those you love, be so blessed and fortunate ... to be surrounded by people who will help you get untangled from the things that are binding you.

And, may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.

[Ed.: From one of those emails most people delete without even reading.]

Oil Exploration Tests off Alaska Prompt Lawsuit

By Yereth Rosen, excerpt

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, May 5 (Reuters) - A coalition of environmental and Alaska Native groups on Monday filed a lawsuit seeking to block the oil industry from conducting seismic tests the groups say will harm whales, walrus and other marine mammals in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Anchorage, targets permits issued to Shell (RDSa.L: Quote, Profile, Research) and BP (BPL: Quote, Profile, Research) by the U.S. Minerals Management Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Shell holds permits to survey areas of the Arctic Ocean for potential new oil sources, and BP has a permit to survey the area around its Liberty prospect in the Beaufort Sea.

The main threats from seismic tests are the loud, repeated blasts made by air guns used to map out undersea geologic formations and seafloor conditions, environmentalists say.

"They're far louder than sound levels that can injure, that can literally deafen marine mammals," said Brendan Cummings, Oceans Program Manager for the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the plaintiffs in the case ...

Cummings said that other threats come from the presence of a fleet of vessels needed to conduct the tests. There are risks of leaks and oil spills, a potential for ship strikes injuring swimming mammals and disturbances that could scare animals away from their migration and feeding areas, he said ...

Follow-up on Lawsuit

By Brendan Cummings, Attorney

We have three separate lawsuits going that relate in some way to oil industry seismic surveys in the waters off Alaska. Such surveys only happen in the summer when the area is relatively ice free (and when the whales are at their highest concentrations). We expect initial court decisions sometime in the next month or so as the surveys are scheduled to begin in mid-July. Hopefully we will have an injunction in place by then preventing the surveys. Center for Biological Diversity, Duluth, MN 55804; 218-525-3884; bcummings@biologicaldiversity.org

Finally, a Dose of Sanity from Congress on Climate Legislation ©

By A Siegel, Get Energy Smart. NOW!!!

Alternet.org, May 28, 2008 -- Today, Congressman Ed Markey has announced that he will introduce the Investing in Climate Action and Protection (iCAP) Act next week. Unlike the Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Climate InSecurity Act (BLW CISA), the iCAP follows science calling for a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in covered sectors by 85 percent by 2050. It also is serious in making polluters pay, with nearly 100 percent of pollution permits auctioned (94 percent in 2012, 100 percent by 2020). And, it has strong provisions to secure social equity (both domestically and internationally). In short, iCAP is in line with the basic principles for global warming legislation.

The iCAP has significant focus on "investing," on investing in a positive vision for dealing with Global Warming. "To heal this sick planet" in a way that will strengthen society and strengthen the economy at the same time.

Now, iCAP has a tremendous amount of value.

It also has a tremendous amount of material.

Having just seen the summary and read (and listened to via CSPAN) the speech, it is not the time to embrace the legislation as is, even within its strengths. For example, there seem to be some uncertain elements. For example, let us take one point:

Return over half of auction proceeds to low- and middle-income households to help compensate for any increase in energy costs as a result of climate legislation.

The iCAP Act returns over half of auction proceeds to low- and middle-income households through rebates and tax credits. This will compensate all increased energy costs due to climate legislation for all households earning under \$70,000 (66 percent of U.S. households), and will provide benefits to all households earning up to \$110,000 (over 80 percent of U.S. households).

This raises a number of questions.

- Should there be a drive for covering 100 percent of "increased energy costs"? To me, the key focus should be to help people stabilize their overall energy costs via energy efficiency (for example). Thus, is that money better spent on fostering a rapid move of rental properties into energy efficiency to lower renters' energy usage (and, therefore, bills)?

- This also reads, to a certain degree, as an income-level "cap and dividend" program. One element of "cap and dividend" is to build political support. While this covers "80 percent of U.S. households", there seems to be a political benefit of having 100 percent of U.S. citizen households receiving some form of dividend. For example, if giving 50 percent of funds, why not give these out equally to 100 percent of U.S. citizens living on US soil which would mean that every citizen would make a profit if they pollute less than 50 percent of the U.S. average. And, if doing it in this fashion, guardians of citizens less than 18 years of age could receive half the funds and the other half could be invested in renewable energy and other climate-friendly (continued on page 16)



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Here is Port Townsend, Washington Peace Movement's "IMAGINE PEACE COMMUNITY PORTRAIT"! As the daffodils were beginning to bloom at the giant peace sign in Nomura's Field, local peace-minded people gathered to IMAGINE PEACE. More than 850 people joined hearts and voices on March 22 asking the world to "give peace a chance". Photo by David Conklin.

Live Green! Vote Green! Green Party Convention in Chicago July 10-14

The 2008 Green Party of the United States Presidential Nominating Convention and Annual Meeting is being held in Chicago, Illinois from July 10th-14th. The headquarters hotel, the Palmer House Hilton, is a great historic landmark right in the heart of downtown. Our nominating convention is being held at the Chicago Symphony Center just around the corner from the hotel. Please visit the following link for more information on how to register <http://www.gp.org/2008-elections/index.shtml>.

For 'EcoMoms,' Saving Earth Begins at Home

By Patricia Leigh Brown, excerpt

SAN RAFAEL, California (*The New York Times* February 16, 2008) — The women gathered in the airy living room, wine poured and pleasantries exchanged. In no time, the conversation turned lively — not about the literary merits of Geraldine Brooks or Cormac McCarthy — but the pitfalls of antibacterial hand sanitizers and how to retool the laundry using only cold water and biodegradable detergent during non-prime-time energy hours (after 7 p.m.).

Move over, Tupperware. The EcoMom party has arrived, with its ever-expanding "to do" list that includes preparing waste-free school lunches; lobbying for green building codes; transforming oneself into a "locovore," eating locally grown food; and remembering not to idle the car when picking up children from school (if one must drive). Here, the small talk is about the volatile compounds emitted by dry-erase markers at school. Perhaps not since the days of "dishpan hands" has the household been so all-consuming. But instead of gleaming floors and sparkling dishes, the obsession is on installing compact fluorescent light bulbs, buying in bulk and using "smart" power strips that shut off electricity to the espresso machine, microwave, X-Box, VCR, coffee grinder, television and laptop when not in use ...

Part "Hints from Heloise" and part political self-help group, the EcoMom Alliance, which Ms. Pinkson (founder) says has 9,000 members across the country, joins a growing subculture dedicated to the "green mom," with blogs and Web sites like greenandcleanmom.blogspot.com and eco-chick.com.

"Now I feel I'm doing something."

Old-Growth Timber Sales Stopped

SONORA, California (*UnionDemocrat.com*, excerpt) — Thanks to a legal challenge brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and numerous allies, a federal judge last week shut down a series of massive timber sales in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains. The ruling declared that the U.S. Forest Service likely broke the law when it revised a management plan for all 11 national forests in eastern California — calling for a more than fivefold increase in logging throughout the Sierra range. The logging plans would have sawed down old-growth forest to pay for the logging of smaller trees. But destroying the Sierra's large, fire-resistant old-growth trees would increase the risk of fires that could devour homes and communities. And let's not forget all the imperiled species — including the Pacific fisher and the California spotted owl — that would be harmed by increased logging ravaging their ancient forest habitat.

Saving 422-Square-Mile Tejon Ranch

LOS ANGELES, California (*The New York Times*, excerpt from Editorial, May 13, 2008) — If you've ever driven up Interstate 5 from Los Angeles and over the Grapevine, you've passed signs for Tejon Ranch, the largest contiguous privately owned property in California. The Interstate passes along the western edge of the 422-square-mile ranch, which spills to the northeast across the Tehachapi Mountains and into the Mojave Desert and the San Joaquin Valley just south of Bakersfield. Like so much of Southern California before it was developed, Tejon Ranch is an environmental mosaic, a place where several ecological regions converge. Now, unlike most of Southern California, it will be protected from development.

Last week a coalition of five environmental groups, working with the company that owns and manages the ranch, announced that 240,000 acres — the vast majority of the ranch property — would be protected by a new conservation agreement, which will gradually phase in conservation easements. Development will be allowed on 30,000 acres, mostly along the corridor created by Interstate 5. [Ed.: Well, I'm not happy about the 30,000 acres.]

The People's Grocery Expands

(*EcoSpace.cc*, excerpt) — The People's Grocery is a community-based organization in West Oakland, California whose mission is "to develop a self-reliant, socially just and sustainable food system...that foster[s] healthy, equitable and ecological community development". The organization which is literally embedded into the fabric of the community runs several different programs all aimed at connecting local citizens to natural food sources and healthy ways of living. A small part-time staff and large host of volunteers supports the five urban gardens, youth-education programs, community health outreach and public policy initiatives. Recently the organization shifted gears from prioritizing their "Mobile Market," a bright orange and purple bread truck that delivered affordable, fresh, local produce and natural foods throughout Oakland neighborhoods, to establishing a full-service grocery store.

Coal Company Will Not Build Power Plant

By Dale Wetzel AP, excerpt from *Jamestown Sun*

BISMARCK, North Dakota (*Daily Climate.org*, May 21, 2008) -- After seven years of planning, a coal company has suspended development of a 500-megawatt power plant in southwestern North Dakota because of uncertainty about federal carbon dioxide rules, a company official says. Westmoreland Power Inc. is returning \$562,500 in state subsidies for the Gascoyne project. The money came from a North Dakota research fund financed by a tax on coal mining.

D.C. Launches First Bike-Share Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Christian Science Monitor* excerpt, April 29, 2008) — Smart-Bike D.C. in Washington is poised to launch the nation's first European-style bike-sharing service. The district is teaming with Clear Channel Outdoor to provide members, who pay an annual \$40 fee, with card-user access to three-speed bikes stored at computerized racks around the city. The system will start with 120 bikes at 10 stations but could expand to 1,000 bikes at 100 stations within a year.

If we're ever going to get away from the Car Culture, mass transit needs to be free.

-- Iona

Friends of the River *(continued from page 9)*

saw critters they had no idea lived out their back doors: diving beetles; whirligig beetles; mayfly and damselfly nymphs; and phantom midge larvae, among others. (BCWWG let 'em go after that; they'd want you to know that.) Visitors also got to contribute their own written ideas for better eco-stewardship to the "Show and Tell" board for public consumption.

The group played a key role in introducing the "Reel and Meal" series, a monthly feature at Greenbelt's New Deal Cafe that combines great food and social consciousness (in the form of a film on a topic of ecological or social significance on a Monday night). And that's not all: BCWWG has been a prime mover in introducing Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) to Greenbelt. CSA aims to reduce the carbon footprint and runoff problems attending agricultural transit while raising community consciousness of the criticality of local agriculture. To this end, subscribers to the CSA get regular shipments of produce from local farmers. Over 90 subscriptions have come in so far; more are expected once Greenbelt's first Farmer's Market opens this summer.

Beaverdam Creek isn't what it was when the Native Americans were the watershed watch group. But nothing says it can't be that again. It's certainly something to work with; and the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group knows that small hopes like that are the beginning of all great things.

Finally, A Dose of Sanity from Congress

(continued from page 14)

investments to be distributed to these citizens after they turn 18.

And there is a serious question as to whether dedicating "over half of auction proceeds" is necessary for achieving the necessary compensation. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBBP) has looked closely at this issue.

The United States can reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in a way that does not increase poverty or otherwise harm low-income households and is fiscally responsible.

From their work, the CBBP has determined that "approximately 14 percent" of total auction revenues will be "needed to fully offset the increased energy-related costs faced by low-income consumers".

Again, this is just a first look at a quite substantive action by Ed Markey.

Expect this to get more attention ... from me and others.

Read more at www.getenergysmartnow.com.

July Events at Genesis Farm Blairstown, New Jersey

July 9 Film Series: Kilowatt Ours

7:00 pm — A New Cosmology Introduction 7:30 — Featured Film No cost: Donations welcome. This film takes us from the devastating "mountaintop removal" coal mines of West Virginia to the solar panel fields of Florida, with the discovery of solutions to America's energy problems all along the way. See page 9 for the Kilowatt Ours Energy Curriculum in practice.

July 10-15 Exploring a New Cosmology and (Earth Literacy Program I)

July 17-22 Deepening the Great Work (Earth Literacy Program II)

Programs begin at 6 pm with dinner on Thursday evening and end after lunch on Tuesday. Cost: \$550 for each program; includes lodging and all meals. Come for the first week; stay on for the second or come another time. Highlights of the 16-day Immersion in a New Cosmology program in two 5-day sessions. Live and learn in the context of a mutually-enhancing relationship with Earth, as we examine the full scope of the 13.7 billion-year Universe story, as well as its implications for our lives and creative work. Register for both, or take the first and return for the second at another time.

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