



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Breaking the Language Barrier

Defenders of Wildlife Magazine

Immersing yourself in the local culture really does make learning a foreign language easier — even if you're a nuthatch, learning chick-a-dee-dee-dee.

According to a new study, red-breasted nuthatches can understand calls uttered from black-capped chickadees that warn about predators in the area, and they are able to interpret if a raptor poses a high or low danger.

"No one has ever seen this behavior before," says Christopher Templeton, a University of Washington doctoral candidate who made the findings along with Erick Greene, a biologist at the University of Montana. "There are a fair number of animals that respond to other animals' alarm calls. But this is the first example of subtle information from a call being interpreted by another species."

Two years ago, Templeton found that chickadees, which are similar in size to nuthatches and have the same predators, have two types of alarm calls. When they see flying falcons, hawks or owls, they give a soft, high-pitched call. But if the predator is perched they use a loud, varied-pitch call in an attempt to beckon other birds to help harass and chase away the predator.

Their calls also vary depending on the size of the predator. For example, a small pygmy owl poses a greater danger to chickadees because it is smaller and more agile than the larger and less-maneuverable great horned owl, and the birds issue their calls accordingly.

To see if nuthatches responded to the chickadee alarm calls, Templeton placed speakers at the base of trees where nuthatches were present. When the small predator alarm was played, more nuthatches became agitated and flew closer to a speaker than when they heard the large owl alarm.

"We have no idea how nuthatches learn to interpret the chickadee calls," says Templeton. "But that one animal has cracked the code and extracted the information from another is amazing."



On the fifth anniversary of the U.S. attack on Iraq (March 19), there were 1,000 protests in the United States with several in D.C. This one is the "No War, No Warming" protest in front of the American Petroleum Institute at L Street and 13th Street NW in Washington, D.C. We knew we were in the right place when we saw police lights flashing. Peaceful demonstrators were sitting in a circle in the middle of the intersection with a symbolic windmill facing the giant, Darth-Vader-looking building which houses the oil giants (not the building shown here). The people protesting both the war and global warming were a cross-section of America — young and old, black and white, well-dressed and casual. The mood was festive in spite of the heavy police presence, especially when new contingents showed up like CodePink (women and one man dressed in bright pink), a lively green RUDE band and others dressed in black. Photo by Iona.

No War No Warming Protest Loud and Clear

by Iona

Q. "What Does Democracy Look Like?"

A. "This is What Democracy Looks Like!"

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Live Report) — This shout was heard over and over in front of the American Petroleum Institute (API, which represents all the major oil companies) on March 19, as hundreds of global warming protesters joined with anti-war groups in numerous locations around the nation's capital with concurrent demonstrations in other cities against our

country's deadly policies.

Global warming activists set up a "Green Zone" (photo above) in front of the API because it gives an enormous amount of money to congress. The activists' presence represented a commitment to building a clean energy future.

Cindy Sheehan (whose son Casey was killed in Iraq) spoke with students in Berkeley, California, where World Can't Wait activists marched from the high school to the Marine recruiting center.

"The Army recruiter broke every promise he made to Casey," Cindy said. "The recruiter told him he could

be a chaplain's assistant. He ended up being a Humvee mechanic. My son was forced into combat five days after he got to Iraq. The war machine will lie to you," she told the students.

Critical Voice led a dramatic March of the Dead with 100 people wearing black with white masks, and the names of people murdered in Iraq printed on them. Many wore "ARREST BUSH" shirts.

War veterans marched and Gran-nies Against the War were arrested for trying to be recruited instead of young people by the military in Atlanta. See photo montage on page 12.

Carbon Offsets: Boon or Boondoggle? Part I

by Iona

Great Controversy Surrounds New Schemes to Limit Greenhouse Gases

How do I condense 74 pages on carbon offsets and trading into one or two? Easy. I make this a series starting with an article I wrote a few months ago, adding a speech by an environmental professor at Dickinson College earlier this year and giving you a few headlines about the current debates.

There will be a lot of proposed legis-

lation regarding "cap and trade" concepts and you will need to know what people are talking about.

I tend to be suspicious of any system based on money, such as the new phenomenon of carbon offsetting, recently developed as an antidote to rising carbon emissions around the world, resulting in a \$91 million global market.

You can see where "global markets" have gotten us so far — a totally unjust paradigm where rich nations and multinational corporations take over resources and even workers from poor countries

and siphon off the cream for their own use and their stakeholders' purses.

I believe the concept of a global market needs to be reigned in and replaced with community energy projects and strong local economies practicing true democracy with the highest value placed on protection of ecosystems and children.

This collection of articles on offsets will help you learn more about them, at which point you may draw your own conclusions and act accordingly.

(Continued on page 15)



From the Editor



Dear Reader,

Finally I get to share my “50-Years-Into-the-Future” dream with you. When I woke up back in 1993, I wished I had a good movie producer at my fingertips to bring this to Technicolor life for audiences around the world. But I don’t. You’ll just have to imagine it for yourself as you read pages 11 and 12.

I recently read The Road by Cormac McCarthy, which mirrors my dream. After author George Monbiot read the book, he said: “A few weeks ago I read what I believe is the most important environmental book ever written. It is not Silent Spring, Small is Beautiful or even Walden. It contains no graphs, no tables, no facts, figures, warnings, predictions or even arguments. Nor does it carry a single dreary sentence, which, sadly, distinguishes it from most environmental literature. It is a novel ... and it will change the way you see the world.

“Cormac McCarthy’s book The Road considers what would happen if the world lost its biosphere, and the only living creatures were humans, hunting for food among the dead wood and soot.”

In an email conversation, my new friend, Don Harkins of “The Idaho Observer” (another small alternative press) said: “I think there are two possible alternatives in the material/temporal future: It will either be the mean, gray, “Mad Max” alternative, or, when the systems fall down, people will treat each other with compassion and respect and strength en route to deserving and making a better world. I hope for the latter but am bracing for the former with the knowledge that pockets of decent people are about to be challenged to maintain a sense of dignity in a chapter of human history that will not be very dignified. Good luck — to all of us.”

That little boy in Cormac McCarthy’s The Road is my boy, too. I will keep working on his behalf.

Fondly, Iona

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Wish List

- GENEROUS PHILANTHROPIST.....\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
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Let us know what YOU are doing to help create or restore ecological balance in your life and in the world.

NEXT DEADLINE: MAY 10

Email us at

ionaconner@pa.net

“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 a 90% greenhouse gas reduction 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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Tax-deductible contributions may be made to Grassroots Coalition. Just write “OE” on the memo line and send to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks!!



IPCC Report

Part V: Projected Regional Impacts from Climate Change

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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.

Table SPM.2: Examples of Some Projected Regional Impacts*

Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2020, between 75 and 250 million people are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change; • By 2020, in some countries, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50%. Agriculture production, including access to food, in many African countries is projected to be severely compromised; This would further adversely affect food security and exacerbate malnutrition; • Toward the end of the 21st century, projected sea-level rise will affect low-lying coastal areas with large populations. The cost of adaptation could amount to at least 5-10% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP); • By 2080, an increase of 5-8% of arid and semi-arid land in Africa is projected under a range of climate scenarios (TS).
Asia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the 2050s, freshwater availability in Central, South, East and South-East Asia, particularly in large river basins, is projected to decrease; • Coastal areas, especially heavily-populated megadelta regions in South, East and South-East Asia, will be at greatest risk due to increased flooding from the sea and, in some megadeltas, flooding from the rivers; • Climate change is projected to compound the pressures on natural resources and the environment, associated with rapid urbanization, industrialization and economic development; • Endemic morbidity and mortality due to diarrheal disease primarily associated with floods and droughts are expected to rise in East, South and South-East Asia due to projected changes in the hydrological cycle.
Australia and New Zealand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 2020, significant loss of biodiversity is projected to occur in some ecologically rich sites including the Great Barrier Reef and Queensland Wet Tropics; • By 2030, water security problems are projected to intensify in southern and eastern Australia and, in New Zealand, in Northland and some eastern regions; • By 2030, production from agriculture and forestry is projected to decline over much of southern and eastern Australia, and over parts of eastern New Zealand, due to increased drought and fire. However, in New Zealand, initial benefits are projected in some other regions; • By 2050, ongoing coastal development and population growth in some areas of Australia and New Zealand are projected to exacerbate risks from sea level rise and increases in the severity and frequency of storms and coastal flooding.
Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is expected to magnify regional differences in Europe's natural resources and assets. Negative impacts will include increased risk of inland flash floods, and more frequent coastal flooding and increased erosion (due to storminess and sea-level rise); • Mountainous areas will face glacier retreat, reduced snow cover and winter tourism, and extensive species losses (in some areas up to 60% under high emissions scenarios by 2080); • In Southern Europe, climate change is projected to worsen conditions (high temperatures and drought) in a region already vulnerable to climate variability, and to reduce water availability, hydropower potential, summer tourism and, in general, crop productivity. • Climate change is also projected to increase the health risks due to heat-waves and the frequency of wildfires.
Latin America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By mid century, increases in temperature and associated decreases in soil water are projected to lead to gradual replacement of tropical forest by savannas in eastern Amazonia. Semi-arid vegetation will tend to be replaced by arid-land vegetation; • There is a risk of significant biodiversity loss through species extinction in many areas of tropical Latin America; • Productivity of some important crops is projected to decrease and livestock productivity to decline, with adverse consequences for food security. In temperate zones soybean yields are projected to increase. Overall, the number of people at risk of hunger is projected to increase. • Changes in precipitation patterns and the disappearance of glaciers are projected to significantly affect water availability for human consumption, agriculture and energy generation.
North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warming in western mountains is projected to cause decreased snowpack, more winter flooding, and reduced summer flows, exacerbating competition for over-allocated water resources; • In the early decades of the century, moderate climate change is projected to increase aggregate yields of rain-fed agriculture by 5-20%, but with important variability among regions. Major challenges are projected for crops that are near the warm end of their suitable range or which depend on highly utilized water resources; • During the course of this century, cities that currently experience heat waves are expected to be further challenged by an increased number, intensity and duration of heat waves during the course of the century, with potential for adverse health impacts; • Coastal communities and habitats will be increasingly stressed by climate change impacts interacting with development and pollution.

(continued on next page)

*Unless stated explicitly, all entries are from WGII SPM text, and are either very high confidence or high confidence statements, reflecting different sectors (Agriculture, Ecosystems, Water, Coasts, Health, Industry and Settlements). The WGII SPM refers to the source of the statements, timelines and temperatures. The magnitude and timing of impacts that will ultimately be realized will vary with the amount and rate of climate change, emission scenarios, development pathways and adaptation. www.ipcc.org.



ClimateGroundZero.org Citizen's Direct Action Camp (free) June 1-6, 2008; Montana: Learn How We Can Cut Emissions 80% by 2025 "We All Live at Climate Ground Zero"

We live in a time that requires citizens to take action on global warming. While our national politicians and leaders propose compromise and weak measures, the situation gets worse, day-by-day and year-by-year. Despite urgent warnings, and the steadily intensifying climate crisis, the strongest bills in both houses of the U.S. Congress call for reducing emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 — 42 years from now! We believe waiting 42 years WILL NOT SOLVE the problem and demonstrates a clear lack of vision, courage and leadership from our national politicians, and also demonstrates how much the fossil

fuel industry controls our politicians, our laws and our democracy. It is time for American citizens to show leadership, take direct action, and make our politicians accountable to us. To this end we announce a "Citizens Direct Action Training Camp" to be held June 1 to 6 in Montana to oppose and confront the massive fossil fuel development in the Rocky Mountain Corridor from Fort MacMurry, Alberta all the way to New Mexico. We oppose:

- ◆ Alberta Tar Sands and Coal Development;
- ◆ Development of coal in Montana and Wyoming to feed America's electricity appetite;

- ◆ Montana Governor Schweitzer's plan to import Alberta dirty fossil fuels into the U.S. through transmission lines from coal plants in Alberta, and his seven proposed Montana Tar Sand refineries;
- ◆ Proposed massive oil shale developments in Utah and Colorado;
- ◆ Transmission lines to be connected to proposed coal-fired power plants all over the United States; and
- ◆ Mountain Top Removal Coal Mining.

The Action Training will include *History and Practice of Non-Violent Direct Action, Campaign Strategy, Direct Action Skills, Media Skills and Community Organizing*. The camp is being organized by

ClimateGroundZero.org and GlobalWarmingSolutions.org. Workshop presenters have experience in rock climbing and outdoor actions and have worked with groups such as Greenpeace, the Ruckus Society, Gear for Good, Amazon Watch, Global Exchange, People for the Planet and School of the Americas Watch. GlobalWarmingSolutions.org has a plan for getting off fossil fuels quickly entitled *Rosie Revisited: A U.S.-Led Solution to Global Warming*. It shows how we can cut emissions 80% by 2025. The camp is free but you must pay to get there. If you are interested in going, please contact JR Roof at jr@globalwarmingsolutions.org.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4th Assessment Report Projected Regional Impacts from Climate Change *(Continued from page 3)*

Examples of some projected impacts for different regions are given in Table SPM.2 starting on page 3. Some systems, sectors and regions are *likely* to be especially affected by climate change.¹²

Systems and sectors:

•Particular ecosystems:

A. Terrestrial: tundra, boreal forest and mountain regions because of sensitivity to warming; Mediterranean-type ecosystems because of reduction in rainfall; and tropical rainforests where precipitation declines;

B. Coastal: mangroves and salt

marshes, due to multiple stresses; and C. Marine: coral reefs due to multiple stresses; the sea ice biome because of sensitivity to warming.

- Water resources in some dry regions at mid-latitudes¹³ and in the dry tropics, due to changes in rainfall and evapotranspiration, and in areas dependent on snow and ice melt;
- Agriculture in low-latitudes, due to reduced water availability;
- Low-lying coastal systems, due to threat of sea level rise and increased risk from extreme weather events; and

• Human health in populations with low adaptive capacity.

Regions:

- The Arctic, because of the impacts of high rates of projected warming on natural systems and human communities;
- Africa, because of low adaptive capacity and projected climate change impacts;
- Small islands, where there is high exposure of population and infrastructure to projected climate change impacts; and
- Asian and African megadeltas, due to large populations and high exposure to

sea level rise, storm surges and river flooding.

Within other areas, even those with high incomes, some people (such as the poor, young children, and the elderly) can be particularly at risk, and also some areas and some activities.

FOOTNOTES:

¹² Identified on the basis of expert judgment of the assessed literature and considering the magnitude, timing and projected rate of climate change, sensitivity and adaptive capacity.

¹³ Including arid and semi-arid regions.

Polar Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main projected biophysical effects are reductions in thickness and extent of glaciers and ice sheets and sea ice, and changes in natural ecosystems with detrimental effects on many organisms including migratory birds, mammals and higher predators; • For human communities in the Arctic, impacts, particularly those resulting from changing snow and ice conditions are projected to be mixed; • Detrimental impacts would include those on infrastructure and traditional indigenous ways of life; • In both polar regions, specific ecosystems and habitats are projected to be vulnerable, as climatic barriers to species invasions are lowered.
Small Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea-level rise is expected to exacerbate inundation, storm surge, erosion and other coastal hazards, thus threatening vital infrastructure, settlements and facilities that support the livelihood of island communities; • Deterioration in coastal conditions, for example through erosion of beaches and coral bleaching is expected to affect local resources; • By mid-century, climate change is expected to reduce water resources in many small islands, e.g., in the Caribbean and Pacific, to the point where they become insufficient to meet demand during low-rainfall periods; • With higher temperatures, increased invasion by non-native species is expected to occur, particularly on mid- and high-latitude islands.

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Endgame

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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.”

Sometimes I think we think too much. Sometimes I think we don’t think very clearly. Usually I think it’s both at the same time. Our thinking, which so often isn’t thinking, makes us crazy, ties us in knots. This is not accidental. It is common to abusive situations. As Lundy Bancroft, former co-director of Emerge, the nation’s first therapeutic program for abusive men, writes in his book *Why Does He Do That? Inside the Minds of Angry and Controlling Men*, “In one important way, an abusive man works like a magician. His tricks largely rely on getting you to look off in the wrong direction, distracting your attention so that you won’t notice where the real action is. . . . He leads you into a convoluted maze, making your relationship with him a labyrinth of twists and turns. He wants you to puzzle over him, to try to figure

him out, as though he were a wonderful but broken machine for which you need only to find and fix the malfunctioning parts to bring it roaring to its full potential. His desire, though he may not admit it even to himself, is that you wrack your brain in this way so that you won’t notice the patterns and logic of his behavior, the consciousness behind the craziness.”

As I tried to make clear in *Language and Culture*, nearly everything in civilization leads us away from being able to think clearly and from being able to feel. If we were able to do either, we would not allow those in power to kill the world, to kill our non-human neighbors, to kill humans we love, to kill us. And once we have been inculcated into this thinking that is not thinking, this feeling that is not feeling, the culture does not need to do much to

continue to confuse us. We will continue to confuse ourselves with all of our not-thinking and not-feeling. We will do this gladly, because if we did not confuse ourselves, if we allowed ourselves to think in a way that really was thinking and to feel in a way that really was feeling, we would suddenly understand that we need to stop the horrors that surround us, and we would suddenly understand that we *can* stop the horrors that surround us, and we would suddenly understand what we need to do in order to stop the horrors — the problems are not cognitively challenging — and we would start to do it.

I do not think the nonhuman mothers I mentioned earlier entered into philosophical debates on the purity of their motives. They just knew in their bodies what they needed to do. As we know in

ours.

The Chinese poet Sengtsan wrote, “The more talking and thinking, the farther from the truth.” I sometimes think he was talking about us. Several thousand years of inculcation and ideology all aimed at driving us equally out of our minds and our bodies, away from any realistic sense of self-defense, have gotten us to identify not with our bodies and our landbases, but with our abusers, with governments, with civilization. This misidentification is a marker of our insanity, and it is one of the things that drives us further insane, that leads to further confusion, that leads to further inaction.

Break that identification, and one’s course of action becomes so much clearer.

Reprinted with permission from the author.

The Radical Notion of Fierce Love

by Hillary Banachowski and Marcus Sims

Most people tend to think of love as soft and squishy, yet there is another side to love that rarely gets much attention — and that is fierce love. The love that a mother bear, parent (or anyone for that matter) feels when they see their young or loved one in harm’s way. It is this radical love that calls upon our superhuman strength, actions, ideas and resourcefulness. We fight for what we love, when necessary. This very primal instinct for defending that which we love so deeply, is what called my husband and me to drive nine hours to Massachusetts to attend a Derrick Jensen workshop on Civilization and Resistance.

Prolific author, environmental activist and farmer, Jensen has a knack for inspiring people to question their own basic personal assumptions and beliefs and the assumptions and beliefs of our culture in relation to our precious Earth.

“If we truly love and care for the Earth,” he says, “then why do we continue to allow this destruction to happen? Why do we strive to gain the support of those in power who are doing the most damage to our world?”

Jensen likens it to being the prisoner in the cell trying to convince the justice system that prisons are unjust. His work raises questions like: “What does democracy mean to me?” and “What systems and structures in our culture are supporting life and which ones are in need of a change?” These are questions that, as a culture, we rarely ask ourselves. After all, challenging the status quo requires courage and perseverance.

Derrick Jensen encourages folks to find where their passion and strength lies and to use it in service of preserving life.

We left the weekend with even more questions than we came with. But one

thing is certain — our fierce love for this planet, all living things and future generations will carry us forward to act from places deep within ourselves that, even now, we don’t even know are possible.

For more information on Derrick Jensen and his books, including *Endgame*, visit www.derrickjensen.org.

Hillary is a visionary artist with a background in social work, Women’s Work, Art, Deep Ecology and Reiki. She blends her passion for Earth stewardship and honoring the sacredness of all life with the creative process. She sells her watercolor collages and sustainable, unique clothing through www.artinspires.net. See page 9.

Marcus is a dedicated Earth warrior and woodworker by trade, with extensive experience and training in Music, Organic Farming, Men’s Work, Deep

ecology and is certified as an Advanced Taketina Rhythm Teacher. To see his beautiful, sustainable wood furniture visit www.treincarnation.com.



Energy

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Kilowatt Ours: A Curriculum for All of Us, Part V: Energy Discussion

[Ed.: This program was developed by Jeff Barrie and his sister, Jennifer Barrie, in Nashville, Tennessee. It will be a series as I go through the lessons myself. The DVD is wonderful. It won "Best Environmental Film" at the 2007 Southern Appalachia International Film Festival.]



Jennifer Barrie doing a Kilowatt Ours program. Photo supplied by Jennifer. jen@kilowattours.org

Overview

The purpose of the discussion questions is to help facilitate discussion after watching the film and to assess students' comprehension of the information presented.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AFTER-YOU-WATCH KILOWATT OURS

1. Where does your electricity come from? Electricity is sold to residents by a local distributor/utility which buys it from a producer/supplier (such as Tennessee Valley Authority). The producer may build coal power plants, dams for hydropower, nuclear power plants, or solar, wind, or methane gas facilities. In the southeastern states, approximately 60% of the electricity consumed is produced from coal and 25% from nuclear power.

2. What is TVA and what does it do? TVA is the Tennessee Valley Authority, a federal government agency created in the 1920s that produces and sells electricity to local energy distributors in the Tennessee Valley region.

3. What are some consequences of electricity production and consumption? Some consequences are mountaintop removal; habitat destruction; siltation and pollution in water-

ways; human health impacts, such as asthma and mercury contamination; air pollution; and cultural impacts.

4. Why does the Southeast have the highest rate of electricity use in America? One main reason is that electricity is relatively cheap in the Southeast, so people tend to use more. They use a great amount of energy cooling their homes in the summers as well as heating them in the winters. In general, buildings are not constructed to be energy efficient and lack adequate insulation.

5. Why do children suffer the consequences from our reliance on coal more so than adults? Pound for pound, children breathe in twice the amount of air in each breath while their lungs are still developing.

6. Why do you think the issue of energy is important right now? The problems related to energy production are having an increasingly negative impact. Some related problems are air and water pollution; limited energy supply; rising energy costs; global climate change; destruction of mountains, forests, streams and wildlife; human health problems; and rising consumption.

7. What are the two main steps that the film presents as the solution to the energy issue? Step 1 = Energy Efficiency; and Step 2 = Use Green Power

8. (a) What is energy efficiency? (b) Give two examples of energy efficiency. (a) Energy efficiency involves the use of technology that requires less energy to perform the same function. (b) For example, a compact fluorescent light bulb uses less energy to produce the same amount of light as an incandescent light bulb. Other examples are: adding insulation, sealing leaks, installing an adjustable thermostat, installing ceiling fans, buying Energy Star products, installing a geothermal system, and drying clothes outside on a clothesline.

9. (a) What is green power? (b) Is nuclear power a form of green power? (a) Green power is energy generated from renewable, nonpollut-

ing energy sources, such as solar, wind, methane and geothermal power. (b) Nuclear power is a form of power that is highly debated. Some people consider it a green power source. However, it does produce emissions and large amounts of extremely toxic radioactive waste which humans do not know how to dispose of safely.

10. Why are both energy efficiency and green power necessary to become a net-zero nation? In order for green power to be feasible and effective on a broad scale, we need to first reduce our energy consumption by becoming more energy efficient.

11. Why is replacing light bulbs such an effective way to save energy? Incandescent light bulbs are very inefficient. Only about 10% of the total electricity they use is actually converted into producing light; the other 90% is converted into heat, which is wasted energy. Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), on the other hand, convert about 75% of the electricity they use to produce light, only wasting about 25% on heat. CFLs also last much longer than incandescent bulbs, so do not need to be replaced as often. Replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs is relatively cheap and easy to do, pays off immediately, and saves a large amount of energy for the amount of investment.

12. What is meant by Energy Star? Energy Star is a program that labels appliances identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy as the most energy-efficient products in their classes. (www.energystar.gov)

13. What can you do to save energy at home without spending much money? Turn off appliances and lights, adjust the thermostat, dress appropriately indoors, close windows and doors when heat or air conditioning is on, use fans instead of air-conditioning, replace light bulbs, seal cracks with caulk, get new "used" appliances that are rated as Energy Star, add insulation, lower the water heater

temperature, take shorter showers, dry your clothes outside on a clothesline.

14. What can your school do to save energy? Your school can do some of the same things you can do at home. Your school has a budget for maintenance and may be able to do more, like replace windows or add daylighting features. Schools save much more by just turning off computers, monitors and lights when not in use!

15. How does saving energy improve education? When schools save energy, they also save money on their energy bills. The money they save can be used on other needs, such as teacher salaries, materials, computers, or extracurricular activities. Also, schools that use daylighting techniques experience improvement in student behavior, attitude, and test scores.

16. Why does recycling save energy? Recycling aluminum and steel cans especially saves a great deal of energy because Americans use so many cans, and so much energy is required to produce them. Making aluminum from recycled aluminum scrap takes only 4% of the energy that it takes to make it from bauxite ore. Right now, recycling of aluminum cans saves about 11.5 billion kilowatt-hours, which is enough electricity to light a city the size of Pittsburgh for six years! Recycling materials such as plastic, paper, cardboard and glass saves energy as well.

17. How can you take action on Step 2: Use green power? Once you are more energy efficient, you can do even more by buying blocks of green power with your savings each month. Just contact your local electric utility to find out how to sign up and support green power! [Ed.: These are offsets.]

18. How can you reduce your energy use by 30%?! Kilowatt Ours' top ten steps to reducing your energy bill are at www.kilowattours.org.

19. Can you think of anything else you can do to be part of the solution to the energy issue? Learn more and share your knowledge!

Women's Page

Volume 8, Number 5, Issue 74: May 2008

Page 7



ARIKIA MILLIKAN

**"The Order of the Earth"
Fairy Godmother
Graduated April 26
from the University of Michigan
with a Bachelor of Science Degree
in Psychology**

Arikia has worked side-by-side electronically with Iona to help beautify "The Order of the Earth" in the past few months. She has brought not only her newspapering skill (strengthened by working on her college's daily newspaper, "The Michigan Daily," as Associate Editorial Page Editor and writing a bi-weekly column) but her youthful and positive energy to many of these pages. We wish her life's joys and blessings as she heads out into the world. Watch for Arikia in upcoming issues of "OE."

Val's Vegetarian Recipe Column **OATBURGERS**

Ingredients:

8 Cups of Water
2 Medium, Yellow Onions, chopped
1 Cup Tamari Light (or light soy sauce)
2 Teaspoons Garlic Powder
6 Cup Oats (Quaker-rolled)
2 Teaspoons Pepper
2 Teaspoons Cayenne Powder
3-4 Tablespoons Whole Wheat Flour
¼ Cup Corn Starch
[Optional: 1 Cup Sunflower Kernels]

Put 6 cups (out of the 8) water, onions, soy sauce, garlic powder, pepper, cayenne, sunflower kernels and flour into large pot. Bring to a boil. Slowly add 6 cups oats. After all oats are in, slowly add corn starch and rest of water, while mixing. After corn starch is fully incorporated, remove from heat, cover, cool (approximately 1 ½ hours). Form into patties. Sauté in pan with oil until golden brown. Serve on pita bread, roll or bread, with lettuce, tomato, avocado, and relish, or alone with fried green peppers, onions and mushrooms. Uncooked oatburgers can be stored frozen for later use. **Makes about 15 medium-large size burgers.**

Valerie Stanley is an attorney, animal law professor and an old friend. Her dream is to make eating vegetarian easy and fun because "our health, the animals and our environment truly deserve a break today." Please send any comments to her at valjoanst@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."



EPA Defies Supreme Court on Climate Change 11 States and Conservation Groups File Suit

by Vickie Patton, Environmental Defense Fund

(Washington, D.C. – April 2, 2008) Today a dozen states and eleven non-profit organizations filed suit to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to comply with a Supreme Court ruling on the regulation of global warming pollution. The suit comes a year after the Court ruled that the EPA has the authority under existing law to regulate greenhouse gases and a week after the head of the EPA recanted his repeated commitment to respond to the decision on a firm and prompt time table.

The legal action asks a federal court in Washington, D.C. to direct the EPA to issue its determination whether global warming pollution endangers public health or welfare within 60 days. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is leading this new legal effort.

"The EPA is defying the Supreme Court and endangering our economy, our environment, and our health," said Environmental Defense Fund Deputy General Counsel Vickie Patton. "The law and the science are clear: The EPA must act now." Environmental Defense Fund is a party to the suit. The petitioning states are: Massachusetts, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Arizona, Delaware, Iowa, Maryland and Minnesota. Three cities also joined the suit.



Vickie Patton is Deputy General Counsel at Environmental Defense Fund, and a former attorney in EPA's General Counsel's office. Contact vpatton@edf.org or (720) 837-6239.



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Left: Youthful adults (environmental teachers) playing in the snow during a workshop at the annual Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) Conference last month. Paul Brigman, Shaver's Creek Environmental Center (with the baseball cap), leads "Do the Twist: Teaching Ecology with Our Favorite Camp Games." Right: Teachers learn about "Sharing Nature" from Joseph Cornell (right), keynote speaker at the Conference in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Cornell's book, Sharing Nature With Children, is a favorite with environmental educators. Photos by Patty Cernicky

Pennsylvania Environmental Educators Annual Conference 2008

by Ruth Roperti

Have you ever shown a child a maple leaf or explained stream bank erosion to your neighbor? Then you are an environmental educator, and you would have felt welcome, as environmental educators from many fields gathered February 29 through March 2 at Antiochian Village Conference and Retreat Center near Ligonier, Pennsylvania for the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE) annual conference.

Opening Thursday evening with live music at a meet-n-greet in the exhibit hall, the opportunities for learning and exploring new ideas began on Friday with a keynote address by Rick Flood. Mr. Flood challenged our long-time concepts of environmental education focused on experiences with the purpose of creating a love of and responsibility for nature. He emphasized we should instead be teaching sustainable systems. Since the 60's and the growing concern for the environment, how much change have we seen? One sample of the lack of progress is the United States now creates a bigger environmental footprint on the land than other modern countries, such as 60% more than Italy. It is important to

follow the regenerative design of nature. Humans, as citizens of the earth, affect this cycling system, and environmental educators need to be teaching people how to live by nature's plan.

During the conference, 68 different workshops were offered. There were different strands each session, including environmental education in the formal classroom, connecting human health to the environment, best environmental practices in life and work, and outdoor family fun. Participants explored current research, viewed model programs, gathered materials, and tried active games (in the snow!), as they learned from presenters, experienced and talented in their fields. If you couldn't find enough to do on site, field studies were offered to points of interest, or to see the release of a captured bear.

A conference needs built-in fun and entertainment, and PAEE did just that. There were walking challenges, an outdoor quest, morning hikes or yoga, a bonfire with storyteller, and a silent auction. Pittsburgh's Zany Umbrella Circus captured our hearts, while Bill Oliver, better known as Mr. Habitat, kept everyone at

the annual coffee house, singing well into the night.

The conference concluded with an awards banquet, where the best in environmental education were honored, and all attendees were likewise honored by long-time environmental educator, Joseph Cornell. His banquet address left everyone ready to continue, "Sharing Nature with Children."

For more information on past PAEE conferences and the upcoming one to be held at Raystown Lake Resort in central Pennsylvania next year, March 19 – 22, visit www.paeenet.net.

Ruth Roperti is the president of PAEE. She is retired from teaching 37 years in elementary education at Riverside School District in Beaver County, and continues teaching teachers through three different state Intermediate Units in western Pennsylvania. She also has been the volunteer environmental education director for 16 years for Moraine Preservation Fund, a support group, at Moraine State Park, where she headed the development of a field study program for students that includes a floating classroom.

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Forest Service Not Protecting Trout Streams

Conservation Group Appeals Logging and Drilling Project

Allegheny Defense Project Press Release, March 26, 2008 — The Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) appealed a U.S. Forest Service proposal that it says threatens one of the Allegheny National Forest's only wilderness trout streams. According to ADP, the South Branch Kinzua Creek Project threatens the South Branch Kinzua Creek watershed because it would result in nearly 2,000 acres of logging. The conservation group also says the Forest Service plans to provide stone material to oil and gas companies at no cost for private oil and gas road construction.

"South Branch Kinzua Creek is a special and unique watershed," said Megan Rulli, outreach coordinator for the ADP. "It is one of the only Wilderness Trout Streams in the Allegheny National Forest and the watershed contains parts of two unroaded areas that provide critical habitat for wildlife. The Forest Service proposal, however, will significantly alter the South Branch Kinzua Creek watershed just so it can cut more trees and allow oil companies to construct more roads and drill more oil and gas wells."

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission designates South Branch Kinzua Creek as a "wilderness trout stream." According to the Fish and Boat Commission, wilderness trout stream management "is based upon the provision of a wild trout fishing experience in a remote, natural and unspoiled environment where man's disruptive activities are minimized."

ADP points to the Fish and Boat Commission's own comments regarding the Forest Service's proposal to demonstrate that the project threatens a vital watershed.

"The Fish and Boat Commission told the Forest Service that its logging and road construction proposals would almost certainly reduce water quality in the South Branch Kinzua Creek watershed,"

said Bill Belitskus, ADP's board president. "As a resident within this watershed who has documented and reported oil and gas pollution to federal and state agencies, it's upsetting to witness the Forest Service dismiss the Fish and Boat Commission's concerns. The Forest Service must protect our wilderness trout streams, not degrade them with more roads, wells, clearcuts and herbicides."

ADP says the Forest Service is also ignoring the cumulative effects of road construction for oil and gas wells because it stated that companies could use "excess" stone material for private oil and gas drilling operations.

Wilderness trout stream management "is based upon the provision of a wild trout fishing experience in a remote, natural and unspoiled environment where man's disruptive activities are minimized."

"The Forest Service Chief recently admonished the Allegheny Forest Service for failing to protect surface resources from oil and gas drilling," said Ryan Talbott, Forest Watch Coordinator for the ADP. "Instead of changing its policies, however, the Forest Service is once again failing to protect surface resources by subsidizing oil companies' use of stone material for their private drilling operations. The Allegheny National Forest is not a private stone source for oil and gas companies."

Ryan Talbott
Forest Watch Coordinator
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(814) 221-1408

Trout Are Made of Trees



people, we're all part of one big circle of growing and eating and living.

The book, a Junior Library Guild selection by April Pulley and illustrated by Kate Endle, includes information about the life cycle of a trout, as well as conservation efforts kids can do themselves.

.....
*April Pulley Sayre is the award-winning author of over 50 books for young readers, including The Bumblebee Queen, Stars Beneath Your Bed (*Greenwillow*), and One Is A Snail, Ten Is A Crab (*Candlewick*). She lives in South Bend, Indiana.*

Kate Endle graduated from Columbus College of Art and Design with a bachelor's degree in illustration. Her work has appeared in children's books, magazines, greeting cards, and educational material. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

Be a Stream Hero!

Did you know trout are made of trees? It's true. Trout eat the insects and small fish that eat the algae on the leaves that fall from the trees into the stream. And if you eat trout—well, you're made of trees, too!

Follow two children on a fly-fishing trip with their dads as they discover the surprising ways plants and animals are connected in the food web in and around a stream. From leaves and bacteria to bears and

To receive a review copy or to arrange an interview with the author or illustrator, please contact Donna Spurlock at (617) 926-0329, ext. 122; dspurlock@charlesbridge.com.



Global Warming Discussion Circle in Frederick, MD

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- ◆ At Ten Thousand Joys
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- ◆ Based on excerpts from the Northwest Earth Institute www.nwei.org
- ◆ First Thursday of every month; \$20 for discussion guide if you would like to join
- ◆ Contact Hillary Banaowski 301-607-6073 lunachic727@earthlink.net
- ◆ Art work by Hillary; www.artinspires.net

**College Student
 Invents
 See-Saw Energy**

Christian Science Monitor, March 21, 2008 — A 23-year-old college student was awarded \$11,000 in grants to develop a new means of generating electricity for schools in Africa.

Daniel Sheridan of Coventry University in England, a former volunteer on a school construction project in Kenya, designed a see-saw that sends power to underground storage units when ridden by children. His calculations show that 10 minutes of use could produce enough to light a classroom for an evening.

[Ed.: *Why not do this everywhere?*]

**Audubon & Toyota to
 Work Together
 on Conservation**

Press Release National Audubon Society, March 26, 2008 — The National Audubon Society and Toyota today launched TogetherGreen, a nationwide Audubon program to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and offer volunteer opportunities to benefit the environment.

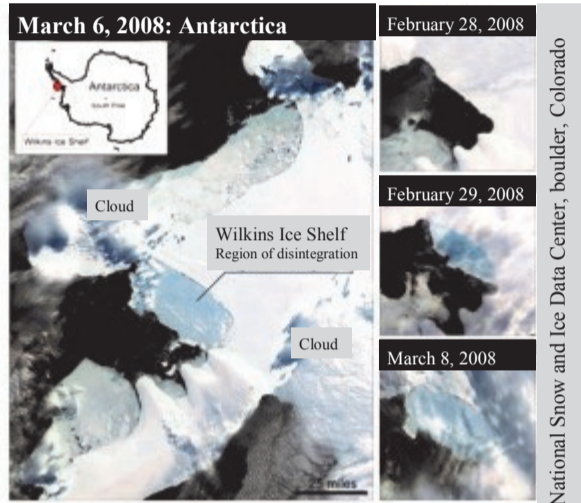
A \$20 million Toyota grant — the largest Audubon has received in its 103-year history — will fund TogetherGreen for five years, enabling Audubon to expand the scope and reach of its conservation programs.

TogetherGreen will include:

- ◆ Innovation Grants to fund dozens of on-the-ground projects each year that employ creative approaches and engage diverse communities to help achieve measurable land, water and/or energy conservation results;
- ◆ Conservation Fellowships to train and foster up to 200 promising environmental leaders who can serve as role models, expert guides and organizers for engaging new and diverse audiences in conservation actions; and
- ◆ Volunteer Days to be offered at Audubon Centers and other locations nationwide, providing hands-on opportunities to address environmental problems and restoration projects.

Antarctic Ice Shelf Collapses

by Iona with help from Will Dunham, Reuters and *The New York Times*



WASHINGTON, D.C. March 26, 2008 — "Satellite images show that a large hunk of Antarctica's Wilkins Ice Shelf has started to collapse in a fast-warming region of the continent, scientists said on Tuesday.

"The area of collapse measured about 160 square miles of the Wilkins Ice Shelf, according to satellite imagery from the University of Colorado's National Snow and Ice Data Center." Thus starts Will Dunham's article from Reuters.

This is a much faster rate of disintegration than previously detected and "the total collapse of the Wilkins ice shelf is now within the realm of possibility," states an editorial in *The New York Times* on March 28.

So you can begin to imagine the enormity of this news, Dunham states that, "The Wilkins Ice Shelf is a broad sheet of permanent floating ice that spans about 5,000 square miles."

"Block after block of ice is just tum-

bling and crumbling into the ocean," Ted Scambos, lead scientist at the National Snow and Ice Data Center, said in a telephone interview with Dunham.

Scientists flew over the break and saw that the ice shelf is being held together by a thin band of ice. Warming at the poles is occurring at a much faster rate than in the middle regions of Earth.

Scambos continued to say that, "Satellite images showing the collapse began on February 28, as a large

iceberg measuring 25.5 by 1.5 miles fell away from the ice shelf's southwestern front leading to a runaway disintegration of the shelf interior."

The Times editorial sums up the situation nicely, grimly and powerfully:

"Nothing dramatizes the urgency of global warming quite like a fracture of this scale. There is nothing to be done about a collapsing polar ice sheet except to witness it. It may be too late to stop the warming decay at the boundaries of Antarctic ice, yet there is everything to be done. Humans can radically change the way they live and do business, knowing that it is the one chance to find a possible limit to radical change in the natural world around us."

And that is what "The Order of the Earth News" is all about. Our goal is to educate, motivate and activate people to make radical changes. Our country has the dishonorable distinction of being the worst polluter and the most recalcitrant to correct the problem. Please join us!

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 Is Now on Sale at the
 Following PA Locations:**
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**Maryland at Forefront of
 Green Building Laws**

by Andrew Cannarsa, excerpt

"*The Examiner*" March 1, 2008 — Maryland is leading the green building revolution. With several municipalities, notably Baltimore City and Howard County, mandating that all new commercial projects achieve certain standards for energy efficiency and environmental design, the state is at the forefront of legislating green building.

"Green is the new black," said Stuart Kaplow, a Baltimore attorney concentrating in land use and environmental law. "The State of Maryland is on the cusp of becoming the green leader."

City Councilman Jim Kraft plans to introduce new green building bills at Monday's city Council meeting, including offering a 10-year tax credit for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver buildings and offering a tax credit dealing with the use of solar energy in commercial buildings, Kaplow said.

Baltimore City last year introduced what Kaplow called "among the strictest Green Building laws in the nation." In short, the law requires nearly all newly constructed buildings, with permits filed in 2009, to achieve a LEED Silver rating, the third-highest green building rating . . .

In Howard County, private developers must go through the process toward achieving certification in LEED techniques. Publicly-funded buildings of more than 10,000 square feet must be certified.

Montgomery County has also passed green building legislation, and Annapolis is currently considering similar green initiatives. [Ed.: *I would rather see NO building. Stop the madness. Period.*]

Find Green Candidates

www.NewMenu.org

Find Greens running for office near you.

 web design provided by
www.DancingTreesWeb.com



Iona's Corner

Volume 8, Number 5, Issue 74: May 2008 Page 11

There are many books out these days telling us what we need to do to avoid dire consequences of unchecked global warming. There are also many books revealing their authors' perspective on glorious nature. Then there are books trying to illustrate what life might be like in the future.

But *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy is the most distressing book you'll ever read. The reason I want to share it with you is because it mirrors a dream I had 15 years ago — a dream where the entire planet had turned to gray, recycled cardboard texture. There was no green left, no flowers, no trees, no birds or animals and the people (other than John and me) were all shiny plastic people as if designed by Lego.

In *The Road* a boy and his father walk through end-time pushing an old cart with their meager belongings. Fires have caused ash and dust and decay to be their steady companions. They plan their days trying to reach the coast while scavenging food and scraps for clothing or shoes and trying to plot a course with no cannibals. The father is slowly dying but he tries to hide his illness from his dear little boy. Words are few.

"They slogged all day down the southfacing slope of the watershed. In the deeper drifts the cart wouldn't push at all and he (the father) had to drag it behind him with one hand while he broke trail. Anywhere but in the mountains they might have found something to use for a sled. An old metal sign or a sheet of roofing tin. The wrappings on their feet had soaked through and they were cold and wet all day. He leaned on the cart to get his breath while the boy waited. There was a sharp crack from somewhere on the mountain. Then another. It's just a tree falling, he said. It's okay. The boy was looking at the dead roadside trees. It's okay, the man said. All the trees in the world are going to fall sooner or later. But not on us.

**"How do you know?
"I just know."**

And here's another section later in the book:

"He thought of his life. So long ago. A gray day in a foreign city where he stood in a window and watched the street below. Behind him on a wooden table a small lamp burned. On the table books and papers. It had begun to rain and a cat at the corner turned and crossed the sidewalk and sat beneath the café awning. There was a woman at a table there with her head in her hands. Years later he'd stood in the charred ruins of a library where blackened books lay in pools of water. Shelves tipped over. Some rage at the lies arranged in their thousands row on row. He picked up one of the books and thumbed through the heavy bloated pages. He'd not have thought the value of the smallest thing predicated on a world to come. It surprised him. That the space which these things occupied was itself an expectation. He let the book fall and took a last look around and made his way out into the cold gray light."

To the right is my dream from a night in 1993. Clipped to the page was a business card I had gotten from John when I first met him in 1989. A dove and peace symbol are in the upper left-hand corner and the name of his organization printed boldly in blue: **The Ecumenical Coalition for Peace and Justice Throughout the World.** That was why I fell in love with him.

Iona's "50-Years-Into-the-Future" Dream

WHIRLWIND — John and I are doing our work, getting ready for a meeting in some building
 TORNADO — We're lifted off our feet — everything is turning GRAY — we're bumped into walls but not hurt — we're both airborne — spinning from one wall to another individually
 Trying to get to him — success — NOW WE'RE TOGETHER — holding on to each other
 ROOM FLOATING — not much fear: I say to him for encouragement: "THINK OF GOD!"
 My own thoughts — Our work (I was not yet a Christian — did not think of God for my own comfort)
 CYCLONE STOPS — ALL IS GRAY — ALL FACES ARE NOW PRETTY MUCH

THE SAME!

My face looks like all the other women; John's like all the other men —
 like an old "TWILIGHT ZONE" show

Clothes, ages, facial hair and hairdos are different, BUT —

Basic men's faces are all the same
 Women's, too — very little difference

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

EVERYTHING ARTIFICIAL — ARTIFICIALLY BRIGHT COLORS

NO EARTH
 NO GRASS
 NO TREES
 NO FLOWERS
 NO ANIMALS
 NO SKY
 NO NOISE

SILENT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE; PEOPLE — LOTS OF THEM — Aimless, all moving as a herd
 LARGE BUILDINGS — FOUR STORIES HIGH

ALL GRAY
 ALL CRUMBLING

PEOPLE SLOWLY, CONSTANTLY MOVING IN THE SAME DIRECTION

Faces coming out of a GRAY building — smoothly — constant silent motion
 They have faces of shiny, colored plastic with slits for mouths which don't move or speak
 NO HORROR OR PAIN — Just coming out of the building like roaches as building is about to disintegrate
 NOBODY TALKS TO ANYBODY, LOOKS AT ANYBODY
 NO SIGN OF INTERACTION OR CONCERN

SLOW, STEADY MOVEMENTS — NO PANIC, SAME PACE, NO RHYTHM OR BEAT
 ONE HOMOGENIOUS MOVEMENT

NEXT BIG GRAY BUILDING CRUMBLING
 PHONEY PHONES BEING HANDED DOWN AND AROUND
 (like Dr. Suess's *Whisper-ma-Phone* in *The Lorax*, a book about saving trees)

PHONES MADE OF LEGO-TYPE MATERIAL
 POOR SECTION OF TOWN — EVERYBODY USED SAME PHONE — COULDN'T PAY THE PHONE BILL
 "EVERYBODY" SLOWLY LEAVES BUILDING AS BUILDING

C R U M B L E S
 F A L L S
 S L O W L Y

C R U M B L I N G

NOT REAL PEOPLE ANYMORE — LIKE LEGO PEOPLE — PLASTIC BROWNISH, BLuish
 SMOOTH, SHINY, PLASTIC FACES
 NO PAIN
 NO FEAR

A N A E S T H E T I Z E D

Continued on next page



Iona's Photographic Glimpse at the Activists in Washington D.C.
WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE? THIS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!!



(Continued from page 1)



Iona's "50-Years-Into-the-Future" Dream

(Continued from page 11)

Occasionally John reappears — not much like himself
 but somebody to talk with as I'm walking through this
 STERILE, CRUMBLING CIVILIZATION

LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE THE SAME
 WALKING AIMLESSLY — NO EMOTION
 JUST GOING ALONG — NO NATURE LEFT

GRAY BUILDING (NOT DARK)
 DISINTEGRATING GRADUALLY IN A
 PUDDLE OF WATER

Building had been made of recycled GRAY material;
 did not last

RECYCLED PAPER — ALL THE BUILDINGS
 WERE MADE OF RECYCLED CARDBOARD
 NOT LASTING

NOTHING IS LASTING
 EVERYTHING IS CRUMBLING
 NOTHING IS "REAL"

NO CHILDREN
 NO CARS

NO MORE TECHNOLOGY
 NO MORE NATURAL RESOURCES

NOBODY CARES !!!

EVERYBODY JUST KEEPS MOVING
 IN ONE DIRECTION AS IF IN A DAZE/HAZE

THE WHOLE MOOD CHANGES

I find an old, cotton book cover on the ground on
 which I had written a letter to John when I was in Is-
 rael. I'm excitedly showing it to him — the cloth feels
 good — it's REAL cotton, well-made, worn but hold-
 ing up after all these years. It had survived! One could
 see the threads woven together.

It was reddish in one corner — blood? paint? Not
 startling, just a curious stain.

BRIEF IMAGE OF WAR
 ALL OF THE GLORY BOYS HAVE MELDED
 INTO ONE EVIL IMPRESSION FROM
 SADDAM HUSSEIN TO
 NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF —
 ALL THE KILLERS — ALL THE
 FEROCIOUS MALE WARRIORS
 BECOME ONE EVIL IMPRESSION
 NOT ONE STANDS OUT
 ALL EQUALLY AWFUL
 DEADLY MEN

ONE MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN COMES
 LOPING, BOPPING OUR WAY.

**BOUNCY
 HAPPY**

She wears a t-shirt full of slogans.

SHE IS ALIVE

She has a message of hope on her t-shirt.

SHE HAS A SMILE

The first smile in the whole damn dream —

SHE'S REAL



She's got some quirky religion — New Age? Fun-
 damentalist?

WHO CARES?

She is the first human being who is awake mentally
 in the entire dream!

She's not "pretty" by Hollywood standards but
 she's much more beautiful than all the actresses in the
 world because she is

HERSELF.

She is not made up to be anybody else.

SHE IS HERSELF

She wears glasses and has a pocketbook slung reck-
 lessly over her shoulder. Her religion is not exactly
 mine but she's VIBRANT, HAPPY, ALIVE and will-
 ing/eager to THINK AND TALK. SHE HAS EN-
 ERGY; SHE HAS HOPE; SHE IS REAL.

EPITOGUE

John and she and I are now together — we have
 somebody to talk with and to plan with and to work
 with to change the world. As I woke up I wondered
 whether John and I got our own faces back.

The answer has to be YES!

Letters to the Editor

Volume 8, Number 5, Issue 74: May 2008

Page 13



Hi Iona,

Have you noticed how the price of food is skyrocketing? This has at least three causes that are directly related to the environment: 1. Grain taken out of production for food and put into biofuels (mainly corn for ethanol which is a complete waste), 2. Continued use of costly petroleum by the food production and transportation systems, and 3. Erratic weather due to climate change causing crop failures and shortages. I don't know which is the most significant environment-related cause but I'd guess it's on this or-

der I just mentioned.

This is really bad and is going to cause a lot of hardship all around the world. Activists need to make the government stop subsidizing corn ethanol development.

One thing to mention to your readers about the article I wrote last month about organic agriculture is that it uses less fossil fuel than other methods. It totally eliminates the fossil fuels used in producing [synthetic] fertilizers and pesticides.

This is more than an offset. I think David Pimmental is the expert on this.

Bill Boteler, Washington, D.C.

Dear Friends, Family and Luna Watchers,

Greetings from the Luna Lodge family! We hope that all of you are emerging from the winter months with smiles on your faces and warmth in your hearts. Our lodge continues to advance its mission: to educate people from around the world about the need of saving the rainforest and, more specifically, our little spot in paradise, the diverse community of the Osa Peninsula ...

One of the most important things in my life has been to help save and protect the Osa Peninsula from overdevelopment. To accomplish this I have now joined together with a foundation to begin to protect the Carate River Valley ... Please take a look at the section titled "Costa Rica White Hawk Project" at www.lunalodge.com to learn how you can help.

Amazingly, 5% of all the biodiversity in the world is in Costa Rica and 2.5% is on the Osa Peninsula. Because of this fact, it is one of the most diverse places left on the planet. My employees and I are working hard to educate our guests about the importance of this statement. But it all starts with one person and everyone in the world needs to practice sustainable living in their own community.

I love the saying, "All for one and one for all." Peace inside, Lana Wedmore and the Luna Family [Ed.: Email forwarded by Barbara Rimbach, who wrote about her trip to Costa Rica last month. Barbara and Lou Rimbach pose in the Osa rainforest on the right.]



Dear Iona,

Thank you so much for this month's edition of "The Order of the Earth."

I appreciate you, and your team's ambition and desire to educate us on environmental issues, events, and insights related to our planet.

If you would like to send me more copies, I will distribute them here in Lexington for you (libraries, etc.)

Thanks again, Iona,
Jack Rose III
Lexington, Kentucky

Dear Friends of the Forest,

Below is a link to a devastating article on the sad situation in the Allegheny National Forest regarding recreation and tourism. Three years ago, the Forest Service told citizens that they may want to go to other national forests if they wanted a good recreational

experience. Now, this economic report states that community leaders in Warren County expressed concern that increased tourism could conflict with the timber, oil and gas industries.

So, on the one hand, you have Warren County's leaders saying that tourism might conflict with the timber and oil/gas industries' desire to get rich at the expense of our public forests. On the other hand, the Forest Service, which manages the largest block of public land in Warren County and is the obvious place to start in building tourism, tells the public to go elsewhere.

Coincidence? I don't think so. The Forest Service and local leaders (who are heavily supported by the timber and oil/gas industries) have stymied the development of recreation and tourism so that the Allegheny National Forest

can be pillaged for black cherry, oil, and gas.

timesobserver.com/articles.asp?articleID=7679

P.S. Here is another article about the corporate oil and gas pigs at the public trough.

The most telling quote is: "We're very excited about the opportunity," said Stephen W. Rhoads, president of the Harrisburg-based Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association. "We just wish it were larger; 75,000 acres is not a whole lot of land."

Only an oil and gas executive could complain that giving them 75,000 acres to drill "is not a whole lot of land."

To read this article, go to www.dailyamerican.com/articles/2008/04/02/state_news/s_news861.txt

And as if that weren't bad enough, here are some statistics from another article:

1,300 new oil and gas wells were drilled in the Allegheny in 2007...and they're estimating another 1,400 in 2008. This is just insanity. We also learn from the article that the Forest Service is looking at a proposed well that would impact a bald eagle nest.

It's important to remember that the Forest Service said the 2007 Forest Plan would "not likely adversely affect" bald eagles in the Allegheny.

But now, oil and gas companies are proposing wells where bald eagle nests are located. Read this one at: www.kanerepublican.com/content/view/44273/

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Carbon Offsets

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Dickinson College Environmental Professor Looks at Carbon Offsets[®]

by Dr. Michael Heiman, Focus the Nation Panel Presentation on Carbon Credit Markets, January 31, 2008

Over the break I attended the annual meeting of the National Council on Science and the Environment held in Washington, D.C. Here 1,200 environmental scientists addressed the theme of global climate change. Today I will address a few observations and conclusions inspired by that meeting.

First, there was unanimous agreement that global climate change is occurring with humans having the major responsibility. Moreover, this admission came from agency heads in the Bush Administration as well as from the university scientists present. Furthermore, it was agreed that in order to limit average future warming to another 2 degrees C, beyond which civilization, as we know it would be seriously compromised, a global greenhouse gas emissions cut-back of 60-80 percent over the next 40 years was mandatory. The bulk of this responsibility will have to come from the industrialized nations. Finally most of those present acknowledged that market mechanisms will play a major role in meeting this goal — principally through the cap and trade system.

I want to outline some of my concerns with the market-based approach to mitigate global climate change. In so doing, I wish to outline where it is appropriate, but also where certain varieties, particularly involving offset projects to generate credits — as with tree plantations in Third World nations — are environmentally ineffective and socially unjust.

My interest in the purchase of carbon credits to neutralize one's carbon footprint came through the response by Al Gore to critics of his Academy-Award winning film, *An Inconvenient Truth*. When questioned about the situation that his three family homes collectively are responsible for 20 times the carbon emissions from the typical American home, he responded that his conscience was clear as he achieved carbon neutrality through the purchase of carbon credits.

Now, there are different types of credits and they can be broken down according to two basic criteria. First are they part of a mandatory market as in the European Union (EU) with its member states committed under the Kyoto Proto-

col, or are they voluntarily acquired, as in the U.S. by Al Gore? Second, are credits allowed only from on-site or local offset projects (as with energy efficiency, the installation of wind and solar power, or reforestation) or may they also be derived from distant offset projects, often in Third World nations?

My concern with the current U.S. voluntary market — where consumers can choose to be green — is that it flies in the face of rational market logic. As a result it will continue to be marginal, at least when compared to what can be attained through mandatory participation in a cap-and-trade market as found in Europe. Unlike consumer choice for organic food, which has personal as well as environmental benefits, the choice to offset your carbon footprint appears purely altruistic — corporate green bragging rights aside. The Bush Administration and its industrial allies promote this pattern of voluntary behavior as an alternative to direct regulation. However, I fear that a focus on voluntary behavior — be it with recycling, selecting a green power provider, and here, with the purchase of carbon offsets — actually focuses responsibility on individual choice and away from collective mandated regulation on production of that pollution in the first place. Thus industrial emitters can turn around and blame selfish consumers for the predicament we are in, thereby deflecting more effective direct regulation.

The futility of volunteerism aside, we as a nation will most likely implement a mandatory cap and trade system in the next Administration regardless of which party gains the White House. Next, I want to briefly address the equity and efficiency of the types of carbon credits allowed in the market, be they manda-

tory or voluntary.

First, in order for carbon credit to be assigned it has to have a meaningful environmental impact, removing or reducing emissions beyond what would have occurred in the absence of that credit being assigned. We call this **additionality**. Unfortunately, verifying additionality is an incredibly difficult process subject to all sorts of manipulation — a problem the EU is now wrestling with and one that the small voluntary market in the U.S. is far from reaching consensus on.

Second, let's examine the issue of **permanence** for carbon credits. While it is relatively easy to anticipate the life cycle of a solar or wind power project, it is much more difficult to do so and assign credits with carbon sequestration projects. With geological sequestration of compressed or liquid carbon dioxide, typically at major emitters, researchers admit that we are nowhere near commercial scale operation for the millions of tons required. We are still unable to even model the anticipated leakage rates from complex underground formations. Moreover, demonstration projects have had to deal with the high energy and capital requirements for carbon injection, the lack of suitable repositories close by the major emitters, and problems with saline discharge as the carbon dioxide displaces underground brine water. Deep-sea sequestration has its own set of problems such as through acidification of the oceans.

Turning to so-called biological sequestration, typically through reforestation or the planting of new forests, we have to acknowledge that trees eventually die and lumber eventually rots, thereby releasing carbon back into the environment. As one British historian put it, "Telling people to plant trees to

prevent global warming is like telling them to drink more water to prevent sea level rise!" Furthermore, the use of fertilizers and intensive tree farming have their own negative impact on soil-based carbon regimes, while changing weather patterns due to global warming have already lead to increased drought with forest fires undoing the temporary sequestration achieved. In addition, with biological sequestration we encounter what I consider a third problem with carbon offset trading, namely the **social impact** of the project itself — a problem that in turn may lead to carbon **leakage**.

Now, I have no problem with projects that actually cut emissions through energy conservation or provide renewable energy as long as the project is under local control and provides some local benefit. However, at present the least expensive source for carbon credits in the global market comes from reforestation and the protection of virgin forests from deforestation. As may be expected, this is cheapest when done in Third World countries with large forest reserves or with pastureland available for reforestation. The result has been a flurry of projects, typically brokered by the World Bank and well-intending but somewhat myopic Non Governmental Organizations. Thus, with insufficient thought given to the nearby residents dependent on those forests for their own livelihood, millions of acres of forests have either been set aside as a forest preserve or actually cut down and converted to the production of credit-creating bio-fuels.

The most outrageous example of the latter comes from Indonesia, now the world's third largest emitter of carbon dioxide after China and the U.S. Here virgin forests have been clear cut and burnt for palm oil plantations, yielding a renewable biofuel for sale to Europe. As intended, the importation of the palm oil generates carbon credits — more appropriately termed carbon indulgences — for sale to coal-fired power plants and other major emitters to offset their own carbon. While the EU is currently re-evaluating the effectiveness of such transactions, the situation remains that we have people (*continued on page 16*)





Grassroots Power

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Carbon Offsets

(Continued from page 1)

Having laid out the broad picture, I will tell you right now that I have purchased wind energy to help support the development of clean energy in the U.S.A. I did that to compliment all the hard work we're already doing to bring down our own emissions. In my mind, the windmills my mini-offset helps to build substitute for wind or solar power at our home that my husband and I will never be able to afford. We do no rely on offsets to assuage our consciences.

I DO NOT see our investment as a cop-out so we can be energy hogs in other ways. I visualize it as our contribution to the future of clean energy.

When the \$5 minimum we were paying was raised by WindCurrent to \$10 a month my friend who sells these green certificates volunteered to donate offsets for some of my "Order of the Earth" work.

Under our new certificate, we are offsetting 200 kilowatt hours per month and saving 3,300 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year.

We all need to do the right thing as our contribution to the global commons, whether we earn offsets or not. This is an entirely new and complicated experiment. It will take time and courage and intelligence to develop systems that really work and are still fair and effective — and not a way to simply think we can buy the "right" to pollute.

**Yes, the earth is still called earth
Not steel
Not asphalt**

Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada

Stream Buffers for Frederick County, MD

Email alert from Friends of Frederick County, April 9, 2008 — The Frederick County Commissioners and county planners discussed on April 10 the Countywide Stream Buffer Ordinance that would require vegetation alongside streams and the Monocacy River in Frederick County.

As the name "stream buffer" suggests, vegetation along streams and rivers is crucial to buffering a stream from pollutants, sediment, and nutrients from runoff. Buffers can also help to control floods and stream temperature, stabilize stream banks and provide habitat for terrestrial and aquatic animals.

As we approach another argument between the citizens favoring quality of life, clean air and water and conservation versus special interests, please remember that your voice — as a citizen — counts.

The health of the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers and the greater Chesapeake Bay Watershed depends upon clean waterways — and a wide buffer is necessary to do that. Please help support our effort to urge county officials to require wide stream buffers that will guarantee protection of these waterways.

Frederick County citizens need to take responsibility for making sure that the surface water leaving our county is as clean as it can be! Your voice counts! See friendsoffrederickcounty.org.

Michaux State Forest to Expand 2,500 Acres

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources newsletter, April 9, 2008 — A 2,500-acre parcel of land is being added to Michaux State Forest in Adams County, Pennsylvania, thanks to a donation from Gladfelter Pulp Wood Company. As part of the handover, the Conservation Fund is temporarily buying the land until more permanent funding sources can be found.

The land — known as the Tree Farm #1 [Ed.: Great name, eh?], or Mount Hope, property — is adjacent to Michaux State Forest and serves as a buffer to the popular Appalachian Trail corridor. It also lies within the viewshed of Gettysburg National Park and Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve.

Content to be Proud

by Zach Chludil

This world can be crazy — this world is unsure,
this world is full of lazy attempts at a cure.

This life is a firestorm, full of freedom yet despair —
the answer lies within us but most don't know its there.

Life's a living journey — ride the energy as it flies,
become the change you need to overcome the lies.

Carbon rises from our fuel, polluting mountain air —
the sinister is at rule, administering without care.

The dirt, the stones, the skies, they cry for us —
we've put faith in an empire we admire
but shouldn't trust.

Believing is a miracle some are too keen to accept —
I can't say I blame them in a world that's so inept.

Prisoners in every wavelength, dying souls cry out loud—
while many sit so standard — so content to be proud.

I don't mean to burst your bubble —
it hurts to bring you down,
but I'm warning you there's trouble if we don't take a
look around.

The United States is divided, deceit behind the scenes —
red and blue agendas ignite political schemes.

We need to take control and stand up for what's right —
but everyone's sleeping hard with vision
too sore for sight.

*Special thanks to Barb Rimbach,
Jane Geuder, Joanie and Joe Daurio,
Ariki Millikan, Yeumei Shon, Jack Rose
III and our wonderful volunteer contribu-
tors for helping with this Great Work.*



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65 Million Square Feet of Solar Rooftops Powering 162,000 Homes

MetaEfficient via Environmental News Network, March 31, 2008 — In an ambitious move, a Californian utility plans to create a massive, distributed “powerplant” by installing a total of two square miles of solar cells on the roofs of businesses. Southern California Edison plans to install 250 megawatts’ worth of solar power, generating enough electricity to power 162,000 homes.

Green Wombat reports: It’s a potentially game-changing move, one that could lower the cost of solar cells as manufacturers ramp up production to meet the utility’s schedule of installing a megawatt-a-week of arrays until it reaches the 250-megawatt target. That alone is more than the United States’ entire production of solar cells in 2006 and will generate as much electricity as a small coal-fired power plant, albeit with no greenhouse gas emissions.

The \$875 million initiative also marks the first big foray into so-called distributed energy by a major utility. Instead of building a centralized power station and the expensive transmission system needed to transmit electricity to the power grid, Edison will connect clusters of solar arrays into existing neighborhood circuits. A significant hurdle for the massive megawatt solar power plants planned for California’s Mojave Desert is the need in some cases to build multi-billion-dollar transmission systems through environmentally sensitive lands.

Greens Win Early 2008 Elections

The 2008 election year has begun and so far (April 14, “go to press day”) the Green Party has thirteen victories out of 22 races in contention. There are currently 235 elected Greens and the U.S. Green Party of the United States has set a goal of running over 1000 races in 2008 and achieving ballot status in as many states as possible. The Green Party is currently recognized in 21 states with Arizona likely the 22nd. www.gp.org.

HEIMAN ON OFFSETS

(Continued from page 14)
living in these regions.

When a forest is set aside as a carbon preserve or destroyed for biofuel plantations, the activities once undertaken or targeted for this forest will likely be pushed to other new areas. As occurred with the AES (*energy corporation*) project in Guatemala, this undoes the net sequestration sought. Displaced squatters in Africa and Asia have already set fire to the tree plantations and preserves set up in areas they once occupied. Taken together, this displacement of carbon offsets is termed **leakage** — a serious problem that carbon markets have a hard time accounting for. Moreover, what will happen in the project nations where their own so-called “low hanging fruit” has already been purchased for pennies on the dollar and set aside for outside buyers when it comes time for them to join the global climate protocol and reduce their own emissions? In short, what we have here is basically a 21st-century form of colonialism brought on by reliance on neo-liberal markets where the terms of trade and the chance for democratic participation are skewed in favor of rich and powerful First World players.

While I have outlined some of the problems associated with carbon markets, I do not want to leave you with the impression that the market has no role to play with carbon emission mitigation. In my view, markets are fine as long as they supplement rather than replace regulation. The geographic scale for trade must be large enough to insure that there are enough

buyers and sellers for a vibrant market yet not so large that we have a neo-colonial situation where one region — or more precisely one social class — is allowed to secure control and restrict access to the resources of another too weak to protect or even exploit them for its own development.

Finally, I want you to consider the feasibility of an outright **carbon tax** as already enacted in several European nations. Bypassing carbon markets that serve to turn our common atmosphere into a tradable commodity, a carbon tax is the quickest and most effective way to secure emissions reduction across the entire economy. Yes, it may be politically unfeasible to push another tax during this election year, but if we are willing to forego the additional revenue generated, a carbon tax can be designed to be impact neutral through corresponding reduction in personal and corporate income tax.

Dealing with the crisis of anthropogenic climate change will require a major structural adjustment and change in the way of life as we know it. I’m sorry, but you can not just buy your way out of 7 tons of carbon dioxide emissions from your 16 mpg SUV for just \$80 a year as suggested by a recent Ford commercial. I urge you to examine the economic, social, and ethical implications of the various solutions proposed and consider whether carbon markets allowing us to continue with our carbon-belching lifestyle can be more efficient, effective, and equitable than direct regulation or through imposition of a carbon tax.

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