



# The Order of the Earth

## News, Views and Musings about our Planet

The Order of the Earth Volume 7, Number 11, Issue 68: November 2007

### Arctic Melt Unnerves the Experts

**The New York Times by Andrew C. Revkin, October 2, 2007, excerpt**

The Arctic ice cap shrank so much this summer that waves briefly lapped along two long-imagined Arctic shipping routes, the Northwest Passage over Canada and the Northern Sea Route over Russia.

Over all, the floating ice dwindled to an extent unparalleled in a century or more, by several estimates.

Now the six-month dark season has returned to the North Pole. In the deepening chill, new ice is already spreading over vast stretches of the Arctic Ocean. Astonished by the summer's changes, scientists are studying the forces that exposed one million square miles of open water—six Californias—beyond the average since satellites started measurements in 1979.

At a recent gathering of sea-ice experts at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Hajo Eicken, a geophysicist, summarized it this way: "Our stock in trade seems to be going away."

Scientists are also unnerved by the



summer's implications for the future, and their (*in*) ability to predict it.

Complicating the picture, the striking change was as much a result of ice moving as melting, many say. A new study, led by Son Nghiem at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and appearing this week in Geophysical Research Letters, used satellites and buoys to show that winds since 2000 had pushed huge amounts of thick old ice out of the Arctic basin past Greenland...The pace of change has far exceeded what had been estimated by almost all the simulations used to envision how the Arctic will respond to rising concentrations of greenhouse gases linked to global warming.

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### Battles Over Giant Power Lines Being Fought in Multi-State Corridor, excerpts

#### Security, Landscape Face Threats From Lines

by Ben Moyer

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania

(*Patriot-News* July 1, 2007)--Judging by the still local nature of the opposition, centered in southwestern Pennsylvania, it is unlikely that most Pennsylvanians are aware of the grave current threat posed by Section 1221

of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to the state's public parks and forests, conservation areas, historic sites, designated scenic rivers, and, most notably, the private property rights of Pennsylvania families.

Section 1221 authorizes the U.S. Department of Energy to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) in which electric utilities and distribution (*continued on next page*)

## From the Editor



*Dear Readers,*

Our wonderful layout/design-artist, Katherine Lukaszewicz birthed twin boys on October 29th. Please join me in wishing the family much happiness.

As Katherine eases into the role of "mother" and out of the role of "Publisher Guru," along comes Alisa Anderson, our new intern.

I met Alisa in Borders (where she works). When I rejected the bag she offered, I muttered, "No thanks; I'm spending the rest of my life trying to protect this precious planet."

"I thought I was the only one!" she responded.

Right away I knew she was on our team. I learned that she is between colleges now and was looking for an internship. We had a chance to chat in a local diner and I came away very excited! She is a bright, determined, compassionate 20-year-old artist with some experience in newspaper layout.

Watch for her work in future issues. She will be doing our Green Youth Corner from now on and some original artwork.

I want to draw your attention to two opposite articles about corridors—one is to create huge wildlife corridors, preserving vast sections of habitat and the other is huge power transmission corridors, which will destroy vast sections of habitat and ruin landscapes.

*Fondly, Iona*

(*Power Lines from page 1*) interests may site new power transmission lines, even if proposed lines are not approved by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission or the analogous agencies in other affected states...

The **100-mile wide corridor** designated by the Department of Energy includes 50 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Essentially, the southern two-thirds of the state makes up the NIETC corridor within Pennsylvania...

In addition to obvious liabilities to true national security, the NIETC corridors and Section 1221 will encourage increased emission of pollutants associated with acid precipitation and climate change. At a time when we regulate emissions from lawn mowers in the name of environmental quality, Section 1221 and the NIETC plan for the nation's energy production and delivery strategy will demand greater, and more centralized, dependence on fossil fuel combustion.

"This is like plugging a giant electric chord into the dirtiest power plants in America," said Chris Miller, executive director of the Piedmont Environmental Council...

Pennsylvanians interested in maintaining their property rights, protecting significant historic and natural sites, and promoting a more secure national energy strategy can contact their state and federal representatives in support of various bills that seek to alter or repeal Section 1221.

### Delay Sought in Power Line Hearing

by Sandhya Somashekhar  
RICHMOND, Virginia (*The Washington Post* September 21, 2007)-  
-Virginia utility regulators have asked for more time to study whether Dominion Virginia Power should be allowed to build a high-voltage power line through a 65-mile stretch of rural Northern Virginia. The staff of the State Corporation Commission has asked the commission, which approves power lines, to postpone arguments scheduled for January 14. Dominion's application is "voluminous" and "both complex and novel," (*to page 28*)

### "The Order of the Earth" 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.

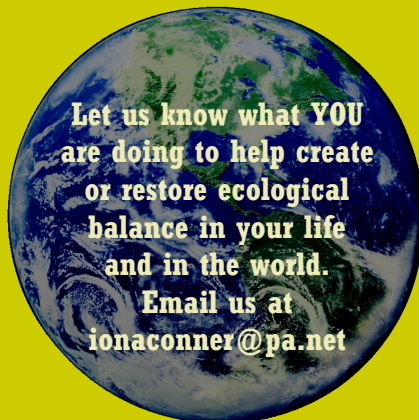
**Our Mission:** To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate and creative.

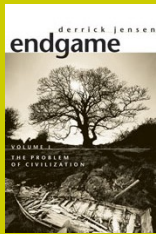
**The Dream:** Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish again.

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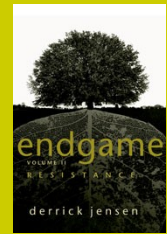
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## **Endgame by Derrick Jensen**

(excerpts from his book, Endgame, published in two volumes--  
a "must read" if you love this Earth  
reprinted with permission from the author)



If Nazis or other fascists took over North America, what would we all do? What would we all do if they implemented Mussolini's definition of fascism: "Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism because it is a merger of State and corporate power"? And what would we do if they then instituted laws allowing them to put a significant portion—say one-third—of all Jewish males between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five into concentration camps?

What if this occupied country called itself a democracy, but most everyone understood elections to be shams, with citizens allowed to choose between different wings of the same Fascist (or, following Mussolini, Corporate) party? What if anti-government activity was opposed by storm troopers and secret police? Would you fight back? If there already existed a resistance movement, would you join it? Substitute the word *African-American* for *Jewish* and ask yourself the same questions.

Now, would you resist if the fascists irradiated the countryside, poisoned food supplies, made rivers unfit for swimming (and so filthy you wouldn't even *dream* of drinking from them anymore)? What if they did this because . . . Hell, I can't finish that sentence because no matter how I try I can't come up with a motivation good enough even for fascists to irradiate and toxify the landscape and water supplies. If fascists systematically deforested the continent, would you join an underground army of resistance, head to the forests, and from there to boardrooms and to the halls of the Reichstag to pick off the occupying deforesters and most especially those who give them their marching orders?

Okay, so maybe your sense of kin, and your sense of skin, doesn't extend to the natural world. Maybe you don't yet love the land where you live enough that you will fight for it. But what if the fascists toxify not only the landscape but the bodies of those you love? What if their actions put dioxin—one of the most toxic substances known—and dozens of other carcinogens into the flesh of your lover, children, mother, brother, sister, father? Would you then fight back? What if the fascists toxify your own body? Would you still cling to the illusion that their edicts carry more weight than that brought to bear by their secret and not-so-secret police? Would you work for this regime? Would you teach others its virtues?

Or would you fight back? If you will not fight back when they toxify your own body (and toxify your mind with propaganda leading you to believe their edicts carry moral weight), when, precisely, will you fight back? Give me—and more importantly yourself—a specific threshold at which you will finally take a stand. If you can't or won't give that threshold, why not? None of these questions are rhetorical. The questions are real. They are, at this point, some of the most important questions there are.

### **Derrick Jensen Receives Standing Ovation at Maryhurst College**

by Iona

I was really excited when I learned that the author I admire so much but who lives in a Redwood forest in California was going to speak in Pennsylvania! I asked him if it was OK to tape his message and to take pictures. Derrick is very easy to work with so he said "Yes." Interestingly enough, the date was the same day a group representing indigenous peoples announced an "Unplug 2007" event, urging us all to avoid fossil fuel use and unplug appliances and electronics. I got my tape recorder set up on the stage, sat back in the front row and got my notebook out. Wait a minute—if my tape recorder's running, I don't need to take notes. I unplugged myself from the traditional behavior of scribbling furiously and relaxed for three hours. I was then able to absorb his entire, moving, thoughtful, deep, and passionate speech. When I got home I realized that my tape recorder had NOT been running. We were BOTH unplugged for a while. I decided it was better that way.



## Earth Calls for Radical Social Change and Spiritual Transformation

by Dr. Glen Barry <http://earthmeanders.blogspot.com/>

The Earth is a living organism, which some call Gaia. Humanity is taking apart Gaia's life support systems in an orgy of procreation and consumption. Only radical social change and profound spiritual transformation can save us now.

Radical is not a dirty word. It means markedly new opinions and actions far beyond the norm, often in response to dilemmas that stymie conventional wisdom. Many times in Western history radical political ideas expanded human dignity and opportunity.

In this era of resource gluttony, tyranny and militarism, and post population bomb explosion; the Earth and her humanity are crying out for radical social and ecological change. From one billion to over 6.5 billion people in just over 125 years. Dying oceans, an end to ancient forests, water scarcity, unknown toxins interacting, over-consumption amongst grotesque inequity, and climate processes disintegrating -- all are the face of a dying Earth as humans eat, and shit on, their home.

How can humanity lighten its load upon, and restore, the biosphere's ecological systems; even as plagued by war, injustice, poverty, disease and ignorance?

This is the question of all remaining time, and I welcome all comprehensive, sufficient policy prescriptions. However, I am highly skeptical regarding the ability of liberal democratic capitalism, Islamic fundamentalism, Chinese market communism; or any other existing religious, political or economic traditions' ability to equitably and justly feed 9 billion people on a failing Planet.

Sometimes radicalism and revolutionary thinking are the only way forward when liberal and conservative status quo responses have failed society and the Earth. Clearly this is now the case as over-population and inequitable over-consumption well beyond the carrying capacity of the Earth threaten the very biological basis of being. Radical political ecologism is the way forward.

Life, biological being, and ecological systems' very existences are threatened. Wanton death and suffering loom. Where to go to escape China's tyranny and America's imperialism, and their combined militaristic and ecocidal drain upon Gaia? Where to go into exile from a collapsing Earth? When and how will the liquidation of life end? Can we end it? How?

These are not my governments. I and my brethren are Earth citizens. This is not my economy. We imperfectly seek to live in a manner that the entire world could enjoy

forever. These are not my wars upon the Earth and the poor. Tyrannical and imperialistic governments do not speak for me. This is not my ecological science, demonstrating plodding incautious caution in the face of global ecological collapse. Nor is this my environmental movement, with allegiance to what is in vogue and stylish half-measures rather than a commitment to sufficient truths.

I am repulsed by all their Gods and prophets of war and oppression. In all my life I have really only learned one unique thing: The Earth is Truth. Truth is God. Thus the Earth is God. What do I mean by this simplistic, transitive statement of my youth? In all my early soul-searching and truth-seeking, the only demonstrably objective truth I could find is my and your utter dependence upon the Earth. We need water, air, land and other elements of good habitat to live. Thus the Earth is Truth.

God has been and is many things to many people, and I strongly suspect we are all pursuing alternative ways to the spirit(s) in the sky and Earth. Yet the idea that this spirit is best exemplified by what is truthful continues to resonate with me as I grow older. The truth found in a beautiful blooming spring flower, a laughing child and an intricate ecosystem is God.

And as every pre-algebra student knows, this leads us to the tautology that the Earth is God. There are many ways to this place of transcendent truth beauty -- philosophical, scientific and ecological intuitions are all equally valid paths to Gaia.

So what shall we do with this knowledge? If the Earth is truly God, which could be called Gaia, then she and all of her lively components are worthy of awe-filled worship; and of unflinching, devotional protection at all costs. Saving the Earth will require embracing Gaia spiritually, and pursuit of radical change on her behalf. We are called back to the land even as we engage the Earth destroying global growth machine. Certainly ending coal use, protecting ancient forests and flying less are worthy and necessary rituals of Gaia worship.

*Dr. Barry is founder and President of Ecological Internet, provider of the largest, most used environmental portals on the Internet including the Climate Ark at [www.climateark.org](http://www.climateark.org).*



## Wind Power: Consider the Alternatives

A Letter to the Editor of the Bedford "Gazette" by  
David Blair, Bedford, Pennsylvania

In some situations, if you are against something, you really have to be in favor of something else. Electricity generation is one of those times. If you are against wind energy coming to Bedford County, you must favor something else. Unless you don't want any electricity at all, you must want to get your electricity from somewhere. I would like to consider two of the alternatives, and I would like to consider that what we don't see is what should concern us.

About half of the electricity we use comes from coal-fired power plants. What comes from their smokestacks is what should concern us most. On June 9, 2004 MSNBC reported that health problems linked to coal-fired power plants shorten nearly 24,000 people's lives each year, including 2,800 from lung cancer.

I decided to try to compare the number of human fatalities from coal power plants to fatalities from wind turbines. We have read so much in the paper lately about how ice can build up on windmill blades in the wintertime and how dangerous they are. The only source I could find was the American Wind Energy Association itself. OK, how many average people die from windmills? We are not talking about employees who actually work on them, we all know that people die in coal mines, too. I am just talking about non-employee citizens. The answer is one. In the entire 20-year history of large-scale wind turbines, worldwide, only one non-employee person has ever died from a windmill. One.

Another concern about coal power is mercury. I am not talking about high level, short-term exposures that can kill people. I am talking about low-level, continuous exposure. The EPA estimates that Pennsylvania power plants account for over one-half of the mercury deposited in the Commonwealth. It goes into the air, we breathe it; it also comes back to earth and ends up in our water. Fish get it in their systems and then we eat the fish. Mercury causes memory loss and tremors in adults, but more importantly, it gets into unborn human fetuses from their mothers who have been exposed to mercury for years. According to the group Physicians for Social Responsibility, more than 60,000 children being born each year may suffer with learning (*continued on p. 8*)



## the offering ©

by Barbara Knox

An old man shuffles out of underbrush,  
a knife hanging from his worn belt;  
beard matted, dark eyes squinting  
through a thatch of eyebrows.  
He's no neighbor. I'm far from house and fields.  
A spring somersaults downhill, snickering.

He beckons, I hesitate,  
then follow him to an old, old oak  
whose knobby branches spread wide, reach high,  
hold its huge crown against the sky.  
Once a lone boundary marker,  
now slender pines  
grow straight up through it  
like weft woven on its warp.

He fills a leaf cup at the spring,  
limps to the oak, pours his offering  
at the tree's base, bows his head,  
then hobbles away. I go to the tree,  
press my face into rough bark.  
A buried shred of rusty fence scratches me.  
My drop of blood trickles over roots.  
I bow my head.

Looking up I see him sharpen his knife,  
cut a sapling for a staff, then turn,  
vanish down a faint trail,  
looking not at all  
like I think a dryad\* would.

\*A dryad is a wood nymph who dwells in or presides over woods and trees; a wood spirit or sprite.

*Barbara's book of poems, "the limberlost," was copyrighted and published in 2005 and is available for \$10. Her own illustrations adorning the booklet will delight you. To get your copy, send a check payable to "Barbara Knox," 17305 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860.*

## Wind: The Farmer's New Cash Crop

by Joseph D'Agnese, E Magazine, excerpt printed with permission, [www.emagazine.com](http://www.emagazine.com)

LOWVILLE, New York (*alternet.org* June 23, 2007)--In the spring of 1999 a stranger named Bill Moore arrived in the small town of Lowville, the county seat of Lewis County, New York, and checked into the Ridge View Motor Lodge on Route 12. Like many towns in this county, Lowville (the "Low" rhymes with "now") is blanketed with countless parcels of farmland and pastureland that are whipped, especially in winter, by powerful winds gusting out of Canada, 60 miles to the north.

This is dairy country, though the constant pressure for cheap milk has made the economics too chancy for single-family dairies. Moore, a broad-shouldered Yale man who had worked on Wall Street, had a passion for renewable energy and owned a company, Atlantic Renewable, that had already developed two wind farms -- one with seven turbines and the other with 20 -- 75 miles south of town. He had what he considered a good proposal for the 27,000 citizens of Lewis County: Milk wind, not cows.

When he started telling the locals about his notion, Moore was met with indulgent smiles but little genuine enthusiasm. "I made a presentation at a town meeting, and they looked at me like I was from Mars," he says. "They were polite. They didn't openly laugh."

Next, he wandered the countryside, knocking on farmhouse doors to ask permission to erect meteorological equipment to test the wind speed. "I was thrown out by a number of people," he says. "They've listened to a lot of sales pitches over the years: seed salesmen, fertilizer salesmen." As he'd learned over the years, farmers were a tough crowd to win over.

Eight years later, though, it's as if the cool reception Moore received never happened at all. Windmills stud the flat, stark landscape as far as the eye can see. Each turbine is taller than the Statue of Liberty, and nearly all of them are spinning inexorably toward the future of Lewis County -- and perhaps our own.

This is the Maple Ridge Wind Farm, the nation's largest new alternative energy project east of the Mississippi River. In the last year or so, 195 turbines have become operational in the towns of Lowville, Harrisburg, and Martinsburg, capable of producing 320 megawatts of electricity, the amount generated by a medium-size power plant, or enough power to run 98,000 homes.

What lured Moore and kept him commuting between Lowville (pop. 4,548) and his home in Maryland was the knowledge that this part of Lewis County was uniquely qualified to become the East Coast's largest wind

farm. From the back of the motor lodge, he could see the land rising to a kind of rocky ridge.

This is the Tug Hill Plateau, which has stood up to harsh Canadian air skating off Lake Ontario as long as there has been wind, stone, and soil. The plateau, about 600 feet higher than the surrounding countryside, sits west of the Adirondack Mountains in farm country. The Irish, German, and Polish immigrants who settled here a century ago did so because the land was cheap, and they soon learned why. The plateau is colder than the surrounding lowlands, and the growing season two weeks shorter. A few hundred feet above the plateau, wind speeds of 100 miles per hour are not unknown. . .

Moore felt strongly that his offer could bring new jobs, stabilize tax revenues, and elevate the quality of local schools, but to make it happen he would have to persuade more than 78 landowners to let him collect his data by erecting giant turbines on their land. He had to help the citizens of Tug Hill fall in love with wind.

Bill Burke belongs to the fifth generation of Burkes born on Tug Hill. He and his wife, Patricia, live in an Italianate-seeming white house with black shutters that is perched on the edge of the plateau, with wind turbines to the front and back. He's raised and milked cows on his 598 acres for more than 36 years and was just getting around to formulating his "exit strategy": Sell off 200 head of cattle, sell off equipment, sell off land, and settle down to a retirement blissfully free of debt.

"I don't know if you know what it's like for us farmers," he says, "but most of us are in debt from the moment we start up in business. I bought out three farmers when I got started, and now there's no one left to replace me."

Then along came Moore, touting wind. "I was on board from day one," Burke says, "but I could see others would take some persuading. We'd hold meetings and no one would show up. Not because they opposed the idea. They just didn't think it would happen." Noting that there are more than 100 landowners, Burke says, "Getting them all to agree on something is like trying to herd ducks."

To educate themselves about Moore's proposition, Burke and his wife drove south to Madison County to inspect Moore's seven-turbine wind farm; five of the turbines are on the property of dairy farmers Carl and Bonnie Stone.

The Burkes parked in the Stones' driveway, as many visitors do, and started asking questions. The Stones, who are unfailingly patient with the tourists, engineers, college students, and wind (*continued on page 8*)

## A "Wunderbar" Trip Through the Great Smokies

by Pyong Roh, Hackensack, New Jersey

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

On Monday we left New Jersey for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We arrived at Shenandoah National Park around two o'clock. The weather was very cooperative and we drove up to the Skyline Drive.

The forest at the entrance area is so dense and seems to be very healthy. Some trees already have yellow or red clothes for autumn. A couple of deer and wild turkeys greeted us at Skyline Drive. On the lookout we looked down upon meadows and small farms. It is a panorama. White clouds, hunter green trees, grasses, and wild flowers are so well arranged naturally and they make my breath break. Mother nature in the early autumn gives us a masterpiece of beauty. I said to myself "Wunderbar!" The mountain ridge road is so pretty and pristine that I hated to leave the drive. But we had a long way to go to the Great Smokies and we left the drive to get to I-81 South.

We came to a small village at the entrance of the National Park to stay for a night. In the morning we went to the visitor center to get oriented. We saw a movie about the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. According to the information in the movies, many animals came down to this area in the ice age because it was so cold for them in the northern part of America. Therefore there are many animal species in this park. Cherokees lived in this area for so many hundred years but they were forced to leave and they left this area to the newcomers in the 1800s. This mountain was so rich in good forests, and as usual, greedy people cut the trees and the mountain was devastated. Thank God! Good citizens and activists saved this mountain by purchasing the land and making this mountain area a national park.

We drove up to the mountain road and stopped by lookouts to see the forests. Trees made various tree communities. Some communities are large and some others are small. The competition between them should be very keen. I think they make some kind of compromise for occupancy of spaces. They settle the disputes on territory by peaceful way, I think.

We took a walk on a trail leading to a stream. There are old and young trees along the trail and I smelled some mysterious natural perfumes from trees and grasses, and mushrooms. The sound of water running down is a kind of voice of Mother Nature, which is so peaceful. I heard only natural sounds not man-made noise. There are so many man-made noises which we do not need. The trees are so dense that I cannot see the sky. What I can see is the

sunlight coming through the branches of trees. It seems to be the light coming from Heaven. The air is so crispy and fresh and my heart is pumping like a child.

On one lookout I saw skeletons of trees on a mountain range. Maybe air pollution or acid rain or some insects destroyed the leaves of the trees. I was so sad to see the skeletons of trees. Now is the time for us to protect the beauty of nature before it is too late. We took a walk on the Appalachian Trail. I was so excited on the trail. If I continue my hiking on this trail, I could reach Maine, I think. On the highest point of this mountain I saw white clouds below the range, which seem to be white smoke. Maybe that is the reason why they call this mountain smoky, I believe.

We took the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina. The road is on the ridges of mountains and I wondered how they built this road on a mountain. The scene is so picturesque that I thought I came to a wonderland. We stayed in Asheville, North Carolina for a night. Next morning we came to Luray Cavern, Virginia. Friday we finished our short adventure.

This is a brief report of my short adventure to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.



**FRIENDS HELP FRIENDS STOP  
GLOBAL WARMING**

Fran Staret, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(*Alternatives from page 5*) disabilities caused by mercury.

I have read articles in the newspaper from people saying they don't want to look at windmills because they ruin the landscape. In contrast to that, as a school teacher I look at kids who have learning disabilities every day that I go to work, and it is terrible to see kids who try so hard to learn and cannot, or to see kids who have given up on learning entirely because of learning disabilities. I also find it distressing to see people who cannot breathe, either from bronchitis, asthma, emphysema or lung cancer. Coal burning power plants have been associated with all of these.

The second largest producer of electricity in the U.S. is nuclear power (about 20 percent of our power). I only want you to consider two things: fuel rods and accidents. A spent nuclear rod stays dangerous for about



10,000 years. That is about as long as the Egyptian pyramids are old—times two and a half. Another way of looking at it is about 400

generations (if you consider a generation to be about 25 years).

If we ever had a major nuclear accident, or if terrorists ever got control of a nuclear power plant, the results could be unthinkable.

Back to windmills. Sometimes it is good to try to look at things in a way that we do not see with our eyes. The next time you look at a wind turbine, try to see that from that turbine there is no air pollution, no acid rain, no mercury, no carbon dioxide (global warming), no spent fuel rods, no nuclear accidents, and no terrorists wanting to take over a windmill.

When you think about the things you don't see, windmills are beautiful.

### Phone Message from John

Well, guess where I am now? I'm passing by these great big windmills (on the Pennsylvania Turnpike) and they're all moving around and all the cars are stopping to look at them and marvel and get all excited and I'll talk to you later. Bye.

(*Cash Crop from page 6*) enthusiasts who come to gawk at their turbines, welcomed the Burkes in after hearing their story. Emboldened by what they learned, the Burkes soon agreed to allow the developer to collect data and ultimately to erect seven turbines on their property. The guaranteed income -- a minimum annual payment of about \$6,000 per turbine, adjusted for inflation -- has transformed their lives.

"It's paying for me to retire," says Bill Burke. "It's given us a chance to stay in our house," adds Patricia Burke. "We don't have to sell after all. We sold off the herd one spring, and the heifers later, and now we just have to decide what to do with the land." (They plan to lease to area farmers.) ..He and Patricia travel the state stumping for wind power. At the heart of their acceptance of such a project in their own backyard was money. They had spent their lives dealing with the economics of the milking business; now their future, and that of their neighbors, was linked to the arcane economics of wind power...

So for the moment, a wind power boom -- boom with a lower-case b -- is on. Wind power generating capacity in the United States grew by about 25 percent last year, and we'll likely see the same percentage growth this year, if not more. U.S. wind power plants are now capable of producing 31 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a year, enough juice to run three million homes and avoid the release of about 23 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This is quite encouraging, but still modest when viewed against the backdrop of the total U.S. energy market: 31 billion kWh represents only 1 percent of the nation's electricity needs...

Wind and solar power are governed by an opposing rule of thumb: 80 percent goes to costly, up-front infrastructure and 20 percent to upkeep. So yes, the wind is free, but catching it will cost you dearly: A three-blade, industrial-size turbine now costs about \$1 million.

At that price, we are no longer talking about wind power as a personal statement by off-the-grid homesteaders. (Residential wind power systems are still quite expensive for the average homeowner: about \$40,000 for a 10-kilowatt system.) Instead we're talking about multinational corporations sinking hundreds of millions, even billions, of dollars into wind on the safe bet that fossil fuels will someday run out. They're betting too that the world's governments -- not just the folks in Washington, D.C. -- will eventually cough up richer handouts that will make Big Wind an attractive proposition...

For Moore, 51 and a self-described child of the sixties, this project is part of a larger personal goal that goes back more than 25 years, when he wrote his undergraduate thesis on energy regulation. "I've wanted to do this for years, show people that renewables are real, that they are here and now," he says.



## Extinction is Forever

### Animal Extinction--The Greatest Threat to Mankind

by Julia Whitty, Part III, *Mother Jones magazine*

... The loss of even one species irrevocably changes the desert (or the tundra, rainforest, prairie, coastal estuary, coral reef, and so on) as we know it, just as the loss of each human being changes his or her family forever.

Nowhere is this better proven than in a 12-year study conducted in the Chihuahuan desert by James H. Brown and Edward Heske of the University of New Mexico. When a kangaroo-rat guild composed of three closely related species was removed, shrublands quickly converted to grasslands, which supported fewer annual plants, which in turn supported fewer birds. Even humble players mediate stability. So when you and I hear of this year's extinction of the Yangtze river dolphin, and think, "how sad," we're not calculating the deepest cost: that extinctions lead to co-extinctions because most living things on Earth support a few symbionts, while keystone species influence and support myriad plants and animals. Army ants, for example, are known to support 100 known species, from beetles to birds. A European study finds steep declines in honeybee diversity in the past 25 years but also significant attendant declines in plants that depend on bees for pollination—a job estimated to be worth over 100 billion dollars worldwide. Meanwhile, beekeepers in 24 American states report that perhaps 70 percent of their colonies have recently died off, threatening more than 14 billion dollars in U.S. agriculture. And bees are only a small part of the pollinator crisis.

One of the most alarming developments is the rapid decline not just of species but of higher taxa, such as the class of Amphibia, the 300-million-year-old group of frogs, salamanders, newts and toads hardy enough to have preceded and then outlived most dinosaurs. Biologists first noticed die-offs two decades ago, and, since then, have watched as seemingly robust amphibian species vanished in as little as six months. The causes cover the spectrum of human environmental assaults, including rising ultraviolet radiation from a thinning ozone layer, increases in pollutants and pesticides, habitat loss from agriculture and urbanization, invasions of exotic species, the wildlife trade, light pollution, and fungal diseases. Sometimes stressors merge

to form an unwholesome synergy; an African frog brought to the West in the 1950s for use in human pregnancy tests likely introduced a fungus deadly to native frogs. Meanwhile, a recent analysis in *Nature* estimated that, in the past 20 years, at least 70 species of South American frogs had gone extinct as a result of climate change.

In a 2004 analysis published in *Science*, Lian Pin Koh and his colleagues predict that an initially modest co-extinction rate will climb alarmingly as host extinctions rise in the near future. Graphed out, the forecast mirrors the rising curve of an infectious disease, with the human species acting all the parts: the pathogen, the vector, the Typhoid Mary who refuses culpability, and, ultimately, one of up to 100 million victims.

"Rewilding" is bigger, broader, and bolder than humans have thought before. Many conservation biologists believe it's our best hope for arresting the sixth great extinction. Wilson (E.O. Wilson, world-famous biodiversity specialist) calls it "mainstream conservation writ large for future generations." This is because more of what we've done until now—protecting pretty landscapes, attempts at sustainable development, community-based conservation and ecosystem management—will not preserve biodiversity through the critical next century. By then, **half** of all species

will be lost, by Wilson's calculation.

To save Earth's living membrane, we must put its shattered pieces back together. Only "megapreserves" modeled on a deep scientific understanding of continent-wide ecosystem needs hold that promise. "What I have been preparing to say is this," wrote Thoreau more than 150 years ago. "In wildness is the preservation of the world." This, science finally understands.

The Wildlands Project, the conservation group spearheading the drive to rewild North America—by reconnecting remaining wildernesses (parks, refuges, national forests, and local land trust holdings) through corridors—calls for reconnecting wild North America in four broad (continued on next page)



(*Extinction from page 9*) “megalinkages:” along the Rocky Mountain spine of the continent from Alaska to Mexico; across the arctic/boreal from Alaska to Labrador; along the Atlantic via the Appalachians; and along the Pacific via the Sierra Nevada into the Baja peninsula. Within each megalinkage, core protected areas would be connected by mosaics of public and private lands providing safe passage for wildlife to travel freely. Broad, vegetated overpasses would link wilderness areas split by roads. Private landowners would be enticed to either donate land or adopt policies of good stewardship along critical pathways.

It’s a radical vision, one the Wildlands Project expects will take 100 years or more to complete, and one that has won the project a special enmity from those who view environmentalists with suspicion. Yet the core brainchild of the Wildlands Project—that true conservation must happen on an ecosystem-wide scale—is now widely accepted. Many conservation organizations are already collaborating on the project, including international players such as Naturalia in Mexico, U.S. national heavyweights like Defenders of Wildlife, and regional experts from the Southern Rockies Ecosystem Project to the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council. Kim Vacariu, the South-west director of the U.S.’s Wildlands Project, reports that ranchers are coming round, one town meeting at a time, and that there is interest, if not yet support, from the insurance industry and others who “face the reality of car-wildlife collisions daily.”

At its heart, rewilding is based on living with the monster under the bed, since the big, scary animals that frightened us in childhood, and still do, are the fierce guardians of biodiversity. Without wolves, wolverines, grizzlies, black bears, mountain lions and jaguars, wild populations shift toward the herbivores, who proceed to eat plants into extinction, taking birds, bees, reptiles, amphibians and rodents with them. A tenet of ecology states that the world is green because carnivores eat herbivores. Yet the big carnivores continue to die out because we fear and hunt them and because they need more room than we preserve and connect. Male wolverines, for instance, can possess home ranges of 600 square miles. Translated, Greater London would have room for only one. (Part IV, the conclusion, will appear in our December issue.)

*This article is reprinted with permission from Mother Jones (©2007, Foundation for National Progress). You can subscribe to the print or online version for \$10 a year at [www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com). Julia Whitty’s latest book is *The Fragile Edge: Diving and Other Adventures in the South Pacific*.*

**Whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt  
the universe is unfolding as it should.**  
Max Ehrmann

## Majority of Americans Want Local Action on Global Warming 75% Want City and Local Governments to Take More Action to Reduce Greenhouse Gases

Excerpt reprinted with permission from CSR Wire  
NEW YORK, New York (CSR Wire, October 5, 2007)—GfK Public Affairs and Media, a division of GfK Custom Research North America and the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies today released the first installment of a new quarterly survey called the *GfK Roper/Yale Survey on Environmental Issues*.

The first of its kind to measure public opinion of local government-led green initiatives, the survey found that a majority of Americans support a variety of city and



local climate change policies to minimize the effects of global warming. According to the study, nearly three quarters of Americans (74%) would support local regulations requiring all newly constructed homes to be more energy

efficient, even when told that this policy would increase the initial cost of a new home by roughly \$7,500, while saving approximately \$17,500 in utility bills over 30 years.

Saving energy and money on utility bills is also one of the bonuses that motivated seven in ten Americans (72%) to support local subsidies to encourage homeowners to install electricity-generating solar panels on existing homes, even when told that this initiative would cost households an extra \$5 per month in increased property taxes.

A majority of Americans would also support the following local climate change policies:

- 71% would pay \$5 more a month in property taxes to support a local subsidy to encourage homeowners to replace old furnaces, water heaters, air conditioners, light bulbs and insulation;
- 69% would pay \$8.50 more a month for local regulations requiring electric utilities to produce at least 20% of their electricity from wind, solar and other renewable energy sources; (*to page 15*)

## How Clean is Our Water?

by Kim Stenley, Taneytown, Maryland

It's a reasonable question considering water is a finite resource that is reused again and again. What's taken out up stream and out of wells is typically treated after use and then put back down stream to be used by others.

In 2005, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientists sampled 139 streams in 30 states for 95 organic wastewater contaminants. According to *EWRI Currents*, a newsletter of the Environmental & Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers:

"Contaminants were found in 80 percent of the streams sampled – with many samples containing multiple contaminants. Contaminants detected include steroids, non-prescription drugs, insect repellent, detergent metabolites, fire retardants, antibiotics, hormones, prescription drugs and fragrances."

More alarming is "For most of the compounds detected, there is no basis for limiting potentially harmful effects – water quality standards, drinking water standards, maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and other standards do not exist."

Consider **that** the next time you take a sip of water. It's doubtful bottled water is much cleaner, as much of it originates in streams, too. The USGS study, among others, begs the question: How are our chemical-intensive lifestyles affecting animal and plant health daily?

One class of contaminants scientists tested for are pharmaceuticals and personal care products. Referred to as PPCPs, they are a "diverse group of chemicals comprising all human and veterinary drugs, diagnostic agents, 'nutraceuticals,' and other consumer chemicals such as fragrances, sunscreen agents and excipients," or "inert" ingredients.

The problem is none of these are inert: "Large numbers [of PPCPs] – by their very nature – are highly biologically active. In general, most are not regulated water pollutants." And domestic sewage happens to be a major source of this pollution, simply because our industrial and medical processes create contaminants we inhale, absorb or ingest and then pass into the environment.

I shake my head whenever I read a report in newspapers about sick or intersexual fish. Scientists are always working hard to understand the problem: the problem is our waters are oxygen-starved and toxic. "Any chemical that is introduced into aquatic ecosystems can lead to continual, multigenerational exposure for aquatic organisms."

I'm sure repeated exposure to contaminated water isn't good for us either.

The levels of contamination revealed by this study

reaffirm how much work is yet to be done in the areas of industrial regulation and public health.

Those who make the chemicals in our lives proclaim them to be necessary for an improved quality of life. Do polluted air, water and soils make for an improved quality of life? Perhaps smokestack emissions and effluent look cleaner today than in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. But they are no less toxic considering the chemical outputs of the day.

We don't know what most chemicals do to living organisms because our regulatory agencies are understaffed and underfunded and can't adequately screen or monitor most chemicals used by modern society.

But some scientists are starting to show us how we are sacrificing our personal and communal health for modern convenience. Is it worth it? Surely the surge in attention deficit and related disorders, cancer and autoimmune diseases, has something to do with our polluted land bases.

We can't solely place the burden on genes without recognizing the fact that in many cases scientists have proven various classes of chemicals can alter genes, and these mutations can assert themselves in subsequent generations. These aren't natural mutations; they're man made. How many of our physical ills are of our own making?

Knowledge about this level of contamination is not news; some scientists have suspected or known about it for decades. The news is the depth and breadth of this type of contamination has finally reached the public conscious.

In 2005, the Renewable Natural Resources Foundation brought together leaders from a variety of sectors for a national "Congress on Assessing and Mitigating Environmental Impacts of Emerging Contaminants." And the field of green chemistry is emerging. As the name implies, it challenges us to find more natural, benign alternatives to today's highly polluting, and sometimes carcinogenic and deadly, chemical slate.

These developments provide a glimmer of hope for cleaner resources and healthier people.



Kim Stenley has been studying the web of life, and humans' complex relationships in it, for as long as she can remember. She's a wife, mother and activist, currently working to promote sane, sustainable solid waste management practices in Carroll and Frederick Counties. She also has a fourth job and lives in Maryland. Email her at [kstenley@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:kstenley@mcdaniel.edu).

## Garden Ramblings

by Christine Maccabee

Early on in the history of our country, the European invaders were mostly friendly with the Native Americans. In part this was true due to the innate friendliness and curiosity of the natives themselves. Also, as long as they were useful to the Europeans, such as aiding them in their initial survival through difficult winters, or fighting with them in their wars, the natives were tolerated. However, as soon as they were no longer needed they became the victims of a terrible assault, a shameful holocaust if you will, of which we are all painfully aware. Totally misunderstood and unappreciated for the proud and spiritual people they were, Native Americans were pushed out, cut down, and otherwise fragmented and disoriented. Uninvited guests, Europeans came to their home, even sat down with them at the first Thanksgiving meal, and shortly thereafter rudely and ruthlessly began the process of expansionism which would wreck their lives.

Sad to say, the natives are still threatened and under an attack which has been going on for some time now. I speak of the attack on the botanical natives, an attack once again borne of misunderstanding and fear. For many people, the wild plant is the enemy and needs to be subdued, mowed down, pushed back, even obliterated to make way for the more refined, cultivated nursery-grown plants and large expanses of mowed grass.

Personally, I prefer the beautiful wild flowers and native grasses, and if you were ever to come to my property in the fall you would see a profusion of color and a wide variety of natives. My appreciation for them does not just come from some mindless sentimentality. Rather, it comes from a deep understanding and appreciation of their value and their contribution to the well-being of us all. For some reason, I have a special love of, and concern for, the late-bloomers, perhaps because I am one myself.

I speak here of the Aster and the Goldenrod in particular

growing slowly all summer long and looking “weedy” to the unknowing eye, if permitted to grow they will bloom profusely in late September and October, producing essential late-season food for our pollinators. These very insects are the ones which pollinate our fruit trees in the spring and which provide beekeepers with honey. How can we invite them to sup at our orchard trees, only to starve them later on by destroying their wild food source for winter survival?

*(Note: The pollen of Goldenrod, too large and heavy to affect most people, is not the allergy-producer people fear—that is ragweed. There are 15 species of Goldenrod in North America.)*



It is increasingly disturbing to see the parallels between our treatment of the Native Americans and our native plants. As I travel through Thurmont (Maryland), and all suburban settings, I see very little, if anything, resembling wild or native plants. I see new homes on large expanses of lawn that no one uses, where beautiful wildflowers and native grasses could grow. There are ways to begin to make a

change, but first it will take the will of the property owners to do so.

Unfortunately, and I really don't understand why, people have a peculiar fear of the natives. True, some of them are tall and gangly such as Evening Primrose and the Mullein, some of them take a while before they bloom, and I guess lack of familiarity is always a problem. That is why there are experts out there to help us..naturalists and botanists of the National Wildlife Federation, the Native Plant Society, Bayscapes, and the Windstar Institute. Most importantly, there is your own innate curiosity and concern. Let those unfamiliar-looking (*to page 14*)

**Christine Maccabee is a Master Wildlife Habitat Naturalist. She is available for telephone consultations about making your property more wildlife and wildflower friendly. Call her at 301-271-2307.**



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## Happy Veteran's Day: It's Time for Peaceful Highway Signs

by Iona

S – C – R – E – A – M ! I hate the growing trend to rename highways and bridges to honor war. I screamed aloud in my car the first time I drove past the latest addition to my long list of reminders of bloody combat: The Huntingdon County World War II Memorial Bridge. This one is on a small, country road out in the middle of nowhere (Route 522 in the hills of central, southern Pennsylvania). It's a road I travel daily as I drive to work. The vast destruction to eliminate a dangerous curve and build a new bridge was akin to war. Now we have the remains of a bloody battle against the Earth and a sign drawing our imaginations back to a grievous tragedy, a whole world at war. The plaque remained hidden until an unveiling ceremony last Columbus Day.

Route 83 North between Baltimore and Pennsylvania is "Dedicated to Veterans of Foreign Wars." A bridge to Route 476 running through Conshohocken, Pennsylvania is now known as Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge. Route 80 in New Jersey is called Christopher Columbus Highway. And the beautiful Catoctin Mountain Highway running through Frederick County in Maryland has been renamed the 115<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial Highway. Now people cruising along Scenic Highway Route 15 relaxing in a breathtaking landscape and embraced by the surrounding Catoctin Mountains are bluntly assaulted with a reminder of bloodshed.

My Quaker background makes me doubly sensitive to issues of war and peace. I cringe whenever I see these signs. I long for the world to be peaceful and for people to stop murdering each other no matter what their excuses.

Why can't officials foresee a more compassionate future and promote that vision in names such as "Peace Pilgrim Highway" or "Anti-War Protesters Expressway?" I'd like to see a "Phil Berrigan Memorial Bridge" and show those who don't know about his powerful and continuing efforts to halt the military machine that there once lived a man who was willing to get arrested and go to jail repeatedly to promote peace.

Many of us prefer peaceful ways. And those who think the United States is working for democracy need to read books that expose the lies, although fortunately, those lies are now being revealed as reporters delve into dishonesty in The White House and elsewhere. Regarding the current fiasco in Iraq, let's name a major highway after Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejia, the Florida Army National Guardsman who witnessed prison abuse

and the inhumanity of the occupation and refused to return to Iraq after his leave expired. He was one of the first Iraq war resisters imprisoned. He was released last February after spending nine months in jail.

When I did some tutoring last year, I was dismayed to find that high school texts still promote a distorted picture of history. Students continue to read the same male-warrior-dominated accounts that led me to despise history 45 years ago. Men and wars. Men and wars. It made me sick then. And it makes me sick now.

As a young suburban housewife [yes! :( ], I happened upon Taylor Caldwell's 1972 *New York Times* best-seller Captains and the Kings: The Story of an American Dynasty. This book showed me, in a way I was never taught, about the money-making incentives to promote and prolong war. It's a business. A business! People make war to make money. And more money. Thus wars continue. And the American public is numbed by nationalistic rhetoric and a false sense of superiority to other cultures and other peoples.

Caldwell dedicated her book "to the young people of America who are rebelling because they know something is very wrong in their country, but they do not know just what it is." Curl up with this 800-page story to learn what's likely to be going on behind the scenes. If you prefer non-fiction, read The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy and the End of the Republic by Chalmers Johnson.

Getting back to the present, my husband and I travel extensively for our work so I've had dozens of opportunities to see new battle-based road signs replace traditional ones.

What was simply "Route 70" in Maryland is now known to all who pass by as "Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway" and at the hubbub where Routes 27 and 18 intersect in New Brunswick near the New Jersey Turnpike entrance, there's a perpetual marker claiming it as "World War II Veterans Memorial Highway." In Ohio, Interstate 280 is also named "Korean War Veterans Memorial Highway." In West Virginia, Route 70 has been renamed World War II Veterans Memorial Highway." Those veterans have surely been hard at work lobbying.

The insidious implications of these bloody highway names being splashed throughout the countryside is similar to the branding done by corporations to force a point of view on people. The underlying message that it's alright to kill others, and you might even have a well-traveled highway named after you, is wrong. (*to page 19*)



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### ACTION ALERT

**Do you believe that children should be spending more time outside, learning and playing? Do you believe that children should be better prepared to address increasingly complex environmental issues? Do you believe that the nation's public schools have a critical role ensuring that both of these goals are met?**

The No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 will make that happen, improving children's health and contributing to a healthier, more sustainable society. You can support this bi-partisan effort by contacting your federal legislators immediately and asking them to co-sponsor the No Child Left Inside Act (H.R.3036 sponsored by Rep. John Sarbanes and S.1981 sponsored by Sen. Jack Reed).

**Please contact your representative and senators immediately to ask that they co-sponsor this important legislation.** If your representative has co-sponsored H.R.3036, thank her or him for supporting environmental education in public schools, then contact your senators and ask them to co-sponsor S.1981. The time to contact Congress is now, as final changes to the No Child Left Behind bills will be made in the next few weeks.

**Help us guarantee that no student is left inside when it comes to learning about her or his environment.** Fax or e-mail a letter urging your federal legislators to co-sponsor the No Child Left Inside Act of 2007 (H.R.3036; S.1981). Go to [www.eenclb.org](http://www.eenclb.org) to email a letter. Go to <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/directory/congdir.tt> for legislators' fax numbers. For more information about the No Child Left Inside Act and the No Child Left Inside<sup>SM</sup> Coalition, go to [www.eenclb.org](http://www.eenclb.org).

*(Ramblings continued from page 11)* wild offerings on your property, or in your garden grow and see what they become. You may be pleasantly surprised.

The Native Americans had something most of us are sorely lacking. They had an intimate relationship with the natural world. They innately understood the importance of this relationship, for without it everyone loses. Without this relationship, the natural world is seen in a utilitarian way and is abused. No longer is it seen as a healer and a teacher, but as a nuisance, something to be done away with. Sadly, we have created a world in which we spend most of our time abstracted from nature and very little of our time learning about its multitudinal mysteries. The ancient wisdom and the ancient seeds of all natives all over the world are a storehouse of infinite treasures. They are, in fact, a direct expression of the infinite nature and glory of God, the creator, who knows no limit to expression or creativity.

Perhaps the most important thing we can learn from our Native American friends is the profound importance of sharing in this glory, in this miracle of creation, Earth, our home, where all should be welcomed at the table of thanks.

***Did you know...world-wide there are 19,000 species of Aster; 3,500 species of Mint; 2,000 species of Milkweed (a requirement for Monarch butterflies); 3,000 of Rose; 13,000 of Pea; and 6,000 of Fern?***

**How many natives can you find in your neighborhood?**



## Where Does Hope Lie?

by John Conner, grassroots!@pa.net

For about 15 years, Iona and I spent virtually all of our time going to Catholic churches in the big cities of the Northeast and Midwest – rich churches, poor churches, city churches, suburban churches, rural churches, all kinds of churches.

We brought a message of economic justice for sweatshop workers who produce most of the clothing sold in the US. We invited people to switch their clothes-buying to clothes made in the US by workers who earned a decent living and used only organic cotton in making the clothes.

We made it very easy for the listeners on the days that we were in their churches. We brought along a car full of such clothing and displayed it on tables in the church for them to buy after the Masses. I had 4-5 minutes during the Mass to plead with the people to come to see the clothing and look for something they needed. And to come back to the church one night to meet with us to plan to continue this operation in our absence. And to visit our Website to buy more clothes after we departed.

About 10% of the people came to look at the clothes. Less than 1% returned to plan to continue the effort. Virtually no one ever bothered to visit our Website.

In short, practically no one really cared about the extreme exploitation and oppression of the young women who made their clothing. What did it matter as long as they themselves lived comfortable, middle class lives? As to the injunction of Christ to love one's neighbor as oneself, it went in one ear and out the other, with no effect on their lives.

But now along comes Climate Change. And again I'm going to churches with the message that great catastrophes are coming in the near future, with signs and portents everywhere, even here in the US. - catastrophes that will probably render most of the planet uninhabitable and eliminate most of the human race.

Surely, you would think, the response will be different this time. People will do everything possible to minimize these catastrophes, especially in light of their effect on their children and grandchildren, whom they love. Not to mention what will happen, and is now starting to happen, in the sight of all, to non-human life around the world.

Surely the leaders of the churches will lead by example, embracing hardship and sacrifice to protect life, which they proclaim their love for.

BUT guess again. The response this time is about the same as before. Some express concern, but when they are invited to actually do something, to give up some time from their lives, the answer is: Who Me? Are you kidding? Do you expect me to actually do something that would take me away from TV or golf or mowing the lawn? Or to read a book about Climate Change? Please--get real. Wake up. You're living in a dream world if you think that I'm going to respond to the call of Christ. Do you think I'm a Christian just because I go to a Christian church?

(continued from page 10)

- 68% would support changing their city or town's zoning rules to decrease suburban sprawl and concentrate new development near the town center;
- 65% would support changing their city or town's zoning rules to require neighborhoods to have a mix of housing, offices, industry, schools and stores close together; and
- 53% would back city or local fees added to electricity bills to encourage people to use less electricity.

Initiatives that received greater opposition than support from respondents include changing city zoning rules to promote apartment building construction rather than single-family homes (57% oppose, 38% support) and a ten-cent city or local fee added to each gallon of gas purchased to encourage people to use less fuel (64% oppose, 34% support).

"Seven in ten Americans want their local governments to do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," explains Dr. Anthony Leiserowitz of Yale University. "City and local leaders are critical players in the effort to reduce global warming and it's clear that their constituents want action. The public is on board and willing to help foot the bill. All that's left to do now is act."

*[Ed.: Thank you, Renate, for suggesting that I be more positive. I replaced a negative article with this one, thanks to you.]*



## PA Delegation Visits Legislators

Hello,

Attached please find notes from a meeting that 23 concerned citizens had with aides in Senator Arlen Specter's and Bob Casey's offices on September 28 concerning the escalating rhetoric (reminiscent of that before Iraq) about attacking Iran. Attached also find a statement that we left with the aides. Please consider sending the statement with your "e-signature" to the aides if you agree with it. It would be helpful if the aides were to hear from lots of people so please circulate to anyone that you think may be interested. Stan Caldwell's (Specter's aide) email is [stan\\_caldwell@specter.senate.gov](mailto:stan_caldwell@specter.senate.gov) and Jackie Erickson's (Casey's aide) email is [jackie\\_erickson@casey.senate.gov](mailto:jackie_erickson@casey.senate.gov). Helen Ortmann, Pittsburgh: [hortmann@libcom.com](mailto:hortmann@libcom.com)

### Statement on Iran

If the United States attacks Iran, it would be illegal under international law. The United Nations Charter prohibits a country from attacking another except in self-defense in response to an armed attack or an imminent threat of such an attack. Iran is not attacking the United States nor immediately threatening such an attack. The United States has already launched an illegal preventive war against Iraq which has failed miserably; it should not initiate another unlawful military action against Iran. The United Nations Charter does not permit such preventive military strikes. Indeed when Israel in 1981 launched a preemptive military attack on Iraq's nuclear reactor in Osirak, the attack was unanimously condemned as unlawful by the United Nations Security Council. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher denounced the raid as "a grave breach of international law" and the Reagan Administration also viewed the attack as unlawful. During the Cuban missile crisis President Kennedy rejected the recommendation of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and many of his civilian advisors for immediate air strikes to destroy the nuclear missile sites in Cuba and also rejected the concept of preventive self-defense. Perhaps the best statement against preventive war was made by President Truman in firing a general who openly counseled preventative war against the USSR. "We do not believe in aggressive or preventative war," Truman said. "Such a war is the weapon of dictators, not of free democratic countries like the United States."

—Jules Lobel, Professor of Law  
University of Pittsburgh

## New York City Is One of the Biggest Destroyers of the Amazon Rainforest

by Robert Jereski, excerpt

NEW YORK CITY, New York (*alternet.org* October 15, 2007)—If you're riding the "L" in Chicago or taking a stroll down the boardwalks of Greenport, Long Island, or Santa Monica, California, you are connected to an international movement away from the most destructive use of the world's remaining rainforests -- industrial timber extraction. Almost two decades of environmental advocacy has shown significant gains: the park benches in Los Angeles are made from locally sourced wood, the subway ties under Chicago's "L" train and the boardwalks at the Saw Mill River Audubon wetlands preserves are made from recycled plastic lumber. Millions of acres of pristine rain forests are no longer being felled so Americans can park our asses or wipe our feet on the world's trees.

But for New Yorkers, many pleasant experiences the city has to offer bring us unwittingly closer to the obliteration of the most ecologically dynamic part of the world -- the Amazonian rain forest.

Where do those miles and miles of wooden boardwalks, benches and handrails on Coney Island and Hudson River Park come from? What about the bench you lounge on, sipping coffee in a quiet corner of Central Park? According to environmental scientist Tim Keating, New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation is the biggest destroyer of rain forests in America and has been for years. So much for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's new "green" persona.

Biologists and climate scientists describe tropical rainforests as the lungs of the earth, a cooling band along the equator that converts carbon dioxide into oxygen, thereby preserving the world's delicate climate balance. These miracles of millions of years of evolution contain the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world.

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## Green Youth Corner



Dear Friends of Focus the Nation,

Focus the Nation **passed the 800 milestone** for schools and other institutions signed on last week, also winning major endorsements from the President of the University of Washington, and the Faculty Senate at the University of Central Florida —schools representing close to 100,000 students. Endorsements ([www.focusthenation.org/endorsers.php](http://www.focusthenation.org/endorsers.php)) from your student government, faculty senate and president help build buy-in. Get the endorsements and let us know when they happen!

Focus the Nation is on track to be the biggest national teach-in in US history—and the most important component is what we are calling **Green Democracy**. We are urging every Focus the Nation team to end their event the same way, in a round-table dialogue with political leaders facing questions by teams of Republican, Democrat and independent students.

**Imagine every U.S. congressman, U.S. senator, governor, mayor, and state representative** getting multiple invitations to sit down and talk with young people about their future. Imagine Speaker Nancy Pelosi declaring January 31, 2008 **Focus the Nation Day**—canceling business in the House of Representatives and urging members to get engaged. Imagine Governors from Maine doing the same. Imagine thousands of elected officials facing the optimism and energy and moral authority of more than a hundred thousand students, forcing these politicians out of complacency and fatalism, and helping them confront this challenge of our generation.

Engagement at this scale is what history demands of us. We are in a race against time to elevate global warming solutions to the top of the political agenda, and Focus the Nation is our best chance to do this. One of the most critical components of your organizing efforts is to invite federal-level political leaders. Even if you believe they won't come, it is absolutely essential that teams send along an invitation to them.

**They need to be invited again and again if we want them to engage and focus on clean energy solutions.** The best approach is to call their office and ask for "the scheduler." He or she will tell you the procedure for sending an official invite. And don't take no for an answer.

For members of Congress who cannot make it back to their districts on January 31, Focus the Nation's Green Democracy project is setting up "video-chat" options. Imagine hundreds of congresswomen and men and senators heading to their offices, opening up a laptop, and instantly appearing on campuses in their districts to **meet with students in a virtual round-table**. The technology (via Skype or iChat) is so good now that this option is easily available to any school with an Internet connection, a computer and a projector. On January 31st, Green Democracy will send a clear message from **campus to congress** and Focus the Nation.

The first weekend in November, thousands of students across the country are literally heading from campus to congress, joining the **Powershift** convergence ([www.powershift2007.org](http://www.powershift2007.org)). After a weekend of networking and training, students will fan out across the capital with demands for action. That same Saturday, across the country, civic, faith and campus groups are also calling out their congresspeople as part of **Step It Up 2**. ([www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org))

Focus the Nation organizing committees can participate, inviting their congresswoman or man to events on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Step It Up makes the invitation process very easy, with an e-mail option. Don't worry if they say no; that only ups the chances they will say yes for January 31<sup>st</sup>! Please do not let these opportunities for engagement pass.

Stay tuned for details at [www.focusthenation.org/comeingevents.php](http://www.focusthenation.org/comeingevents.php). And the Focus team will be joining thousands of student climate leaders in D.C. for **Powershift** the weekend of 11/2-4.

Thanks for the work you are doing!  
Eban Goodstein, Project Director  
Chungin Chung, Communications Director

### One Student Holds Out at California's Only Tribal College

by Shadi Rahimi, Indian Country, excerpt

([altnet.org](http://altnet.org) September 20, 2007)--Chris Yazzie lives alone on a quiet stretch of land where he tends to his modest corn crop, planted with blue corn seeds from his Arizona reservation. He left his Navajo family at 19 to attend the only tribal college in California, D-Q University, formed in 1971 after young Natives occupied a parcel of land in Davis. Yazzie, now 25, has chosen to join that tradition of resistance. As the only student left at the troubled college, which closed abruptly in January 2005 after its accreditation was revoked, he is now the unofficial caretaker of its 643 acres, living in a single dorm room and relying on food donations and visits from the local Native community...He awaits the return of Native students and faculty.



## **King Corn: New Film Dramatically Portrays the Impact of Corn on Our Bodies, the Economy, and Dwindling Family Farms**

**Submitted by Katherine Lukaszewicz, Frederick, Maryland**  
**strascom.com New York—September 12, 2007**—America has become one nation under corn, with each of us consuming more than a ton every year in the form of soda, fast food, and thousands of household food staples. As nearly 100 million acres of corn will be planted this year, a new film, *King Corn*, examines the serious consequences of corn overproduction in the U.S., including the rise in obesity and diabetes, the loss of family farms and the dramatic impact on rural communities across the Midwest. The film highlights these issues as Congress is set to debate the 2007 Farm Bill, a timely opportunity to change what our tax dollars subsidize and what we eat. *King Corn* is *SICKO* meets *Super Size Me*—an unexpected and entertaining ride through the American food system.

High fructose corn syrup (HFCS) makes America's sodas sweet, corn-fed beef makes our burgers fat, and corn oil crisps our fries. Before you drink another corn-sweetened soda, *King Corn* is food for thought. Director and producer Aaron Woolf follows best friends and co-producers Ian Cheney and Curt Ellis as they grow an acre of commercial corn in a tiny town in the heart of Iowa and attempt to trace its fate from seed to supermarket, only to find dismaying facts about the American fast-food empire's secret ingredient.

As Ian and Curt find out, their junk food generation has grown up eating so much corn that when they test their own hair, it's actually made of the stuff. Their journey uncovers commercial corn's disturbing path to our diet, from genetically modified seeds and chemically processed corn syrup to a bumper crop of obesity and diabetes—and how our tax dollars pay farmers to grow the crop that's making us sick. From their one acre, Ian and Curt harvest enough corn to make 57,348 sodas, 3,894 burgers or 6,726 boxes of corn flakes.

American consumption of HFCS has dramatically increased over the past forty years: In 1970, Americans consumed an average of 0.6 pounds of HFCS a year. This year, we will each gulp down an astonishing average of 73.5 pounds of HFCS per person; nearly 70 percent of it sweetens our soda, the number one beverage consumed by Americans. At the same time, fully two-thirds of us—66 percent of Americans—are classified as overweight or obese, up from 47.7 percent in 1971.

In addition, the nation's most planted, processed, and subsidized crop has serious implications for the health of America's family farms. Large corporate farms are eagerly snatching up small farms that can no longer compete in a subsidy-driven world of razor-thin margins, leading the total number of farms in the U.S. to plummet from approximately 5.5 million in 1947 to around 2 million today. The film clearly shows how the American food system is built on the abundance of corn, perpetuated by a subsidy system that pays huge industrial farms to maximize production: In 2005, federal subsidies spent \$9.4 billion in taxpayer money to promote corn far beyond market demand.

Join Ian and Curt as they attempt to make a home-cooked batch of sweetener from their own corn; visit a feedlot with 100,000 cows standing shoulder-to-shoulder in their own waste; and follow soda to its consumption in Brooklyn, where Type II diabetes is ravaging the community.



They talk to experts close to this...phenomenon:

- **McDonald's is King Corn:** "If you take a McDonald's meal, you don't realize it when you eat it, but you're eating corn. Beef has been corn-fed. Soda is corn. Even the French fries. Half the calories in the French fries come from the fat they're fried in, which is liable to be either corn oil or soy oil. So when you're at McDonald's, you're eating Iowa food," says journalist and author **Michael Pollan**.
  - **Explosion of Obesity & Diabetes:** "We have an explosion of obesity that's probably the most conspicuous symptom of the nutritional crisis occurring in America, but the obesity's only just part of it," says **Dr. Walter Willett**, Chair, Harvard Department of Nutrition. "In a recent analysis we found that drinking one soda per day on average almost doubled the risk of Type II diabetes compared to only occasionally having a soda beverage or not at all."
  - **Cheap Food Replaces Family Farms:** "Rural America has completely changed. The kind of farm that I grew up on doesn't exist today.... It used to be a family operation but it's not anymore. But as a consequence we feed ourselves very cheaply now. You see those tremendous fields of corn out there, corn as far as you can see. That's the age of plenty.... Well, it's the basis of our affluence now, the fact that we spend less on food. It's America's best-kept secret," says **Dr. Earl Butz**, Secretary of Agriculture under Nixon and Ford, who invented the modern subsidies system.
- For more information, please visit: [www.kingcorn.net](http://www.kingcorn.net)**

(Highways from page 13) Dead wrong.

People in our proud nation need to be presented with more life-sustaining language and imagery. I'd rather see "Ban the Bomb Boulevard" or "No More War Memorial Highway."

The signs I have noted cover only five states of the union. Who knows what's roadways have new war names in Wyoming or Kansas. I wonder how many American thoroughfares carry the weight of war in their titles.

It's time to rename the highways once more. Helen and Scott Nearing deserve a road named after them. So do people like Rachel Corrie, Michael Moore, Dorothy Day and Pete Seeger.

I have driven over the Peace Bridge into Canada. That felt so good!

It's time now for peace-based highway names; don't you agree?

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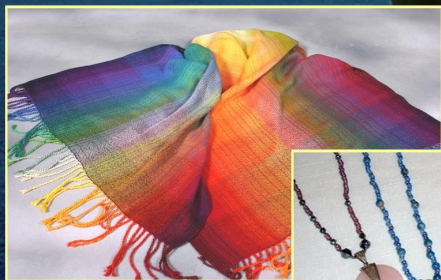
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## Grassroots Power

### Power Plant Rejected Over Carbon Dioxide for First Time

KANSAS (*washingtonpost.com* October 19, 2007)—The Kansas Department of Health and Environment yesterday became the first government agency in the United States to cite carbon dioxide emissions as the reason for rejecting an air permit for a proposed coal-fired electricity generating plant, saying that greenhouse gas threatens public health and the environment...

The proposed Holcomb plants had become the center of a political dispute in Kansas, inflaming traditional tensions between the eastern and western parts of the state, dividing labor unions and posing a test for the energy policies of Governor Kathleen Sebelius, who is head of the Democratic Governors Association and is believed to harbor aspirations for federal office.

### Los Angeles School Gardens Take Root, Get Funding



LOS ANGELES, California (*Environmental News Network* October 2, 2007)—Some California school kids are going to have the opportunity to grow their lunch, and many more plants. California

Secretary of Agriculture, A.G. Kawamura, is scheduled to address the teachers and principals this week on the important role school gardens play on campus as "learning laboratories." LA schools will be receiving more than \$1.7 million in CISGP grant funds to be used for supplies, professional development and technical assistance for school gardens at more than 500 sites this school year. More than 30,000 seedlings will be available for teachers who are interested in launching or enhancing their own school garden.

Recipients of California Instructional School Garden Program funds will receive valuable information about their grants and be introduced to the various programs available to promote their school gardening efforts, professional development opportunities for staff and volunteers and information on all of the resources available in the Los Angeles area to help and support their gardens -- including nutrition education programs from Network for a Healthy California.

### Judge Orders Protection of Public Lands From Increased Cattle Grazing in Desert Tortoise Habitat

BARSTOW, California (*Environmental News Network* October 3, 2007)—A judge agreed with conservation groups October 1 and ordered the Bureau of Land Management to hold off on its decision to increase cattle grazing on 136,167 acres of public land. This desert region, known as the Ord Mountain Allotment, includes 101,033 acres of federally protected critical habitat for the desert tortoise within a Desert Wildlife Management Area that the Bureau is supposed to manage to protect threatened desert tortoises and other imperiled animals and plants.

### Pope to Make Climate Action a Moral Obligation

by James Macintyre

Submitted by Sylvia Diss, Potomac, MD

VATICAN CITY, Italy (*The Independent UK* September 22, 2007)—The Pope is expected to use his first address to the United Nations to deliver a powerful warning over climate change in a move to adopt protection of the environment as a "moral" cause for the Catholic Church and its billion-strong following.

The New York speech is likely to contain an appeal for sustainable development, and it will follow an unprecedented Encyclical (a message to the wider church) on the subject, senior diplomatic sources have told *The Independent*.

It will act as the centerpiece of a U.S. visit scheduled for next April - the first by Benedict XVI, and the first Papal visit since 1999 - and round off an environmental blitz at the Vatican, in which the Pope has personally led moves to emphasize green issues based on the belief that climate change is affecting the poorest people on the planet, and the principle that believers have a duty to "protect creation".



## Grassroots Power

### Fight Against Coal Plants Is Creating Diverse Partnerships

by Susan Moran

GREAT FALLS, Montana (*The New York Times* October 20, 2007)—Richard D. Liebert turned his back against a hard wind the other day, adjusted his black cap and gazed across golden fields of hay. Explaining why he is against construction of a big coal-burning power plant east of town, Liebert sounded like one more voice from the green movement.

"The more I learn about global warming and watch the drought affect ranchers and farmers, I see that it's wind energy, not coal plants, that can help with rural economic development..."

### Just Like Old Times—Skipjack Hauls Grapes

by Mary Gail Hare



ST. MICHAELS, Maryland (*Baltimore Sun Paper* September 21, 2007)—Peter Ianniello gathered the first harvest of grapes from his Harford County vineyard and trucked them to a dock in Havre de Grace. To get the two-ton load of fruit to a winemaker in St. Michaels, workers spent an hour putting them on a skipjack for the nine-hour trip to the Eastern Shore.

"It took a lot more time to pick than it did to load," Ianniello said, as the captain and crew of the *Martha Lewis* handled more than 130 crates.

Though intended as a historic re-creation of sorts, yesterday's operation presented a contrast to the classic imagery of the skipjack as an oyster dredging vessel. But cargo hauling was a vital function of the sloops, maritime historians say, as operators hauled all manner of cargo to bay ports after the September-to-April oyster season.

### Strengthened Ozone Treaty Provides Five Times

### Kyoto Treaty in Climate Mitigation

MONTREAL, Quebec (Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development, September 25, 2007)—The 191 Parties to the Montreal Protocol reached a historic agreement late Friday night to strengthen the ozone treaty to address reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 25 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent-five times more than the Kyoto Protocol will do during its initial reduction period from 2008 to 2012.

"Five times Kyoto's initial climate reductions is an extraordinary accomplishment," said Durwood Zaelke, the President of the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, which coordinated a year-long effort to educate the Parties about the climate potential of the Montreal Protocol. He added that "This historic decision marks the first time both developed and developing countries have agreed to mandatory climate reductions. This is a big boost for the post-2012 climate negotiations." Friday night's decision, reached after seven days of negotiations, also will advance the recovery of the ozone layer by several years.

### More Amish Put Farms into Preservation

LANCASTER, Pennsylvania (*Chambersburg Public Opinion* October 15, 2007)—After years of resistance, a growing number of Amish families are putting their farms into land-preservation programs. Amish farmers traditionally spurn government programs. But younger Amish bishops have started to realize that selling development rights is a way to preserve both their land and their culture, according to officials in Lancaster and Chester counties, the heart of Amish country.

Henry Beiler, an Amish farmer in Lancaster County, has preached the value of the programs to others since donating development rights to his three farms in 1987.

Officials credit the increase in Amish participation to years of patient outreach, as well as an infusion of private money.

## Grassroots Power

### World Energy Revolution Needed For Climate, Says Condoleezza Rice

by Timothy Gardner, Reuters, excerpt



UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Monday the world needs a revolution on energy that transcends oil, gas and coal to prevent problems from climate change.

"Ultimately, we must develop and bring to market new energy technologies that transcend the current system of fossil fuels, carbon emissions and economic activity. Put simply, the world needs a technological revolution," Rice told delegates at a special U.N. conference on climate change...

Rice will host a two-day meeting this week for the world's biggest greenhouse-gas emitters. President George W. Bush opposes mandatory caps on greenhouse emissions, preferring voluntary goals.

### Court Reinstates Grace Charge

SAN FRANCISCO, California (*Baltimore Sun Paper* September 21, 2007)—A U.S. appeals court reinstated yesterday a conspiracy charge against Columbia, Maryland-based W.R. Grace & Co. and six former executives in a case involving residents of a Montana town who suffered serious health problems after being exposed to asbestos from a former Grace mine in Libby, Montana.

### Funds Help Preserve Wetlands

by Roscoe Barnes III

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania (*Chambersburg Public Opinion* October 18, 2007)—The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources sent its secretary and a \$187,400 check to Washington Township Wednesday in a commitment to preserve Happel's Meadows Wetlands. Some of the money will be used for improvements at the Mont Alto Recreational Area.

### Acid Rain Settlement to Cost American Electric Power Over \$4.6 Billion

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Reuters via *Environmental News Network* October 9, 2007) - It will cost giant utility American Electric Power more than \$4.6 billion to comply with a settlement with the U.S. government to reduce harmful air pollution from 16 coal-burning power plants, the Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday. In what the EPA called the single biggest environmental enforcement settlement in U.S. history, Ohio-based AEP agreed to end an 8-year lawsuit brought by the federal government. AEP also agreed to pay \$15 million in civil penalties and \$60 million in pollution cleanup costs to end the "new source review" case brought by the feds in 1999.

### UPS Expands "Green Fleet" With 306 Alternative Fuel Vehicles

(CSR Wire via *Environmental News Network* October 9, 2007)--UPS (NYSE:UPS) today announced it was adding 306 alternative fuel vehicles to its "green fleet" by placing an order for 167 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) delivery trucks while taking delivery of 139 new propane delivery trucks in North America. Additionally, the company has launched an initiative to use biodiesel fuel in its ground support vehicles at the UPS Worldport® air hub in Louisville. The CNG trucks will be deployed early next year in Dallas, Atlanta and four California cities -- Los Angeles, Ontario, San Ramon and Fresno. They will join more than 800 such vehicles already in use in the United States. The propane vehicles are joining nearly 600 propane trucks already operating in Canada and Mexico.

### Clean Water Victory!!

(Food & Water Watch, October 19, 2007)—Thanks to your phone calls during last week's National Call-in Day for Clean Water, last night Congress overwhelmingly voted to make clean water a national priority by passing a resolution recognizing the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. A big thank you to everyone who called, who wrote in, and who passed the word along to friends and family. Your calls made the difference!



The Order of the Earth Volume 7, Number 11, Issue 68: November 2007

## Support Whistleblower Defense



Glen Ith is currently being investigated for his scientific analysis of the Scott Peak Timber Sale.

A year ago, Forest Service wildlife biologist Glen Ith asked you to help the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) hold the Forest Service accountable under our nation’s environmental laws. Glen and FSEEE won that lawsuit stopping illegal logging road construction leading to four old-growth forest timber sales. Glen’s victory, however, earned him little praise within the Forest Service. He is now the target of a “misconduct” investigation by the Forest Service Washington Office. It is a wide-ranging fishing expedition to discover how Glen figured out the Forest Service was building the illegal logging roads. Who did he talk to? What documents did he have access to? To whom did he give the information? Who took the photographs of the illegal road building? Whose camera did that person use? **Glen is cooperating with the investigation; he has nothing to hide. He also knows the real purpose of the interrogations..is to intimidate and silence him.**

But Glen won’t be silenced and he’s far from being intimidated. Glen and FSEEE are preparing a second federal lawsuit against the Forest Service. This case will challenge the Scott Peak timber sale, slated to log 347 acres (8.3 million board feet) of temperate old-growth rainforest on Kupreanof Island.

Kupreanof is a part of the Tongass National Forest—the most intact, temperate rainforest in the world. At 16.8 million acres, the Tongass is our largest National Forest, encompassing two national monuments, one national park, and seventeen wilderness areas.

The Tongass loses more money per year on subsidized logging than any other National Forest. Since 1980, the cost to you and other U.S. taxpayers has been more than **one billion dollars**.

Glen knows more about the Scott Peak timber sale and the damage it will cause to wildlife and its habitat than any other person. In fact, he was the wildlife biologist assigned to the Scott Peak planning team to assess the impacts from logging. But after he wrote his wildlife report and filed it in the formal administrative record, the Forest Service removed Glen from the planning team... Glen’s report concluded that the Forest Service’s existing old-growth protection “does not meet the intent of the old-growth conservation strategy” required by the Forest Service’s land management plan. He also concluded that the minimal goshawk nesting area “does little to protect the majority of important foraging and nesting habitat remaining in the project area for this Forest Service Sensitive Species.”

***What was the Forest Service’s response to these warnings? It shredded Glen’s report and removed it from the public record. In its place, the Forest Service directed the team leader, who is not a wildlife biologist, to prepare a substitute report that omits Glen’s key findings.***

The second time around, when Glen re-appealed the Scott Peak timber sale and again relied upon his wildlife report, the regional forester reversed course 180 degrees. This time, the Forest Service dismissed Glen’s appeal without a decision...

Glen Ith is unique among all the government scientists who have been silenced, intimidated, or harassed. He has sued his government employer and won. Now he wants to go to court again to protect the public interest. This second case will challenge the Scott Peak timber sale because the Forest Service has misrepresented to the public the true damage to wildlife habitat from this old-growth forest logging and suppressed the critical scientific analysis in Glen’s censored wildlife report.

To bring suit, Glen and FSEEE need your help. A case like this will cost at least \$50,000 to prosecute. **Your donation will help us raise these critical funds.** Thank you.



# STOP THE TOWERS

[WWW.STOPTHETOWERS.ORG](http://WWW.STOPTHETOWERS.ORG)

## What you can do to stop the Allegheny Power High-Voltage Lines

1. PLEASE CALL, EMAIL, WRITE OR VISIT YOUR LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY. YOU CAN ALSO GO TO THE FOLLOWING WEB SITES TO SUBMIT EMAIL COMMENTS TO YOUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. [WWW.SENATE.GOV](http://WWW.SENATE.GOV) AND [WWW.HOUSE.GOV](http://WWW.HOUSE.GOV).
2. PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY PUBLIC MEETINGS AS YOU CAN. WE WILL TRY TO POST DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HERE.
3. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS, RADIO AND TV STATIONS SO THAT THE PUBLIC IS AWARE OF THIS PROJECT AND THE COSTS TO WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.
4. VOLUNTEER TO HELP US FIGHT THE TOWERS.

(from page 2) according to a four-page staff request released Wednesday. The staff asked that the Richmond hearing be delayed until February 25. In addition, staff members said they want additional time to consider whether a high-voltage line proposed for Maryland would affect whether the Virginia power line is needed.

The Piedmont Environmental Council, a nonprofit organization that is leading opposition to the line, said it is pleased with the staff's request. "They recognize it's not as simple as the scare tactics of, 'Your lights are going to go out if you don't get this line,'" council spokesman Robert W. Lazaro Jr. said. "It's very significant."

The **270-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line**, a joint project of Dominion and Pennsylvania-based Allegheny power, would carry electricity from coal-fired plants in the Midwest to fast-growing Northern Virginia...

### Feds Push Power Line Corridors, Huntingdon County Included

by Devlin Barrett, Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*The Huntingdon Daily News* October 3, 2007)--After sweating through another summer without a major blackout, the bush administration moved Tuesday to ensure non-stop electricity by designating large swaths of the South-west and mid-Atlantic regions as critical to the nation's energy grid. The government announced two so-called "national interest electric transmission corridors," which encompass all or part of Pennsylvania and nine other states where officials say aging high-voltage lines are not capable of handling growing power demand. It is the first use of a new federal power to approve construction of electric lines in some places where state officials have stymied them. Some lawmakers and community groups argue the government corridors wrongly expand the potential use of eminent domain power...

Senator Bob Casey, D-PA, said the plan would turn three-quarters of the counties in his state "into a superhighway of power lines and transmission towers." **The mid-Atlantic power corridor runs from Virginia and Washington, D.C. north to include most of Maryland, all of New Jersey and Delaware, and large sections of New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia...**

...The corridors were designed to be wide enough to accommodate several possible paths for power lines. One such proposed line in New York would be around 100 feet tall, with a foot-print about a quarter-mile wide. In New York, local community activists, preservationists, and environmentalists are fighting a proposal to run a power line nearly 200 miles from the center of the state toward populous New York City suburbs. Representative Maurice Hinchey, D-N.Y., who has lobbied against that line, called Tuesday's decision "just ridiculous. We're going to fight them both in Congress and in the courts."...

Energy Department officials said they have not yet decided if they will designate more such corridors before a new president takes office in January 2009. **A report last year identified sections of New England, the Phoenix-Tuscon area in Arizona, the Seattle-Portland area in the Pacific Northwest, and the San Francisco Bay area as potential corridors.**