

The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Sick About the BP Oil Calamity?

DO SOMETHING — REALLY!

Stop Driving; Stay Home; Plant a Garden; Get a Bike



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Criss Cefus tends to plants on her and her husband's land in Ohio.



Photos by John Hamill

Bikers round the bend of the Roanoke River Greenway near Roanoke Memorial Hospital during the May Day celebration of all the hard work cycling enthusiasts have done to promote and enable safe biking in their home town.

A Gardener's Dream Comes True

By Criss Cefus
Suffield, Ohio

"Backyard Habitat"

Buying an old farm was the perfect setting for all my passions and visions of planting gardens on the land and welcoming nature and wildlife to move in and take up roots.

What used to be 60 acres is now reduced to 2-1/2 with the original barn and several outbuildings (outhouse included) and a nice stand of woods behind the house. There are nearly 20 separate raised-bed gardens.

There was a large Apple orchard that stood in the 1800's and all is gone now, save for a couple of old friends that managed to hang on into the 21st century. The previous owners made their own Apple Butter and Cider here on the farm and grew vegetables to sell.

After 24 years of living here, my visions of what it could all be have finally come full circle. The outbuildings are great backdrops for several of the gardens as is an old 1830s log cabin we moved here in the '90s and attached to the house, which I immediately surrounded with several gardens.

After many years I decided to get certified with the National Wildlife Federation for the Backyard Habitat program. I have a sign out front now to show that I am doing my part for Mother Nature and Wildlife (see page 2).

It's important! Anyone having a large or small garden should get certified as all you need is to have Water, Shelter, Food and nesting areas for the birds and wildlife.

I have fulfilled my dream on my property of using every bit of space for gardens and now I have run out of room . . . but, in reality, I will never be done and the

fingernails will never be without the earth dirt in them.

The property now has several varieties of trees such as Hemlocks, various Pines and Viburnums, Dawn Redwood (an ancient old man from prehistoric days), Birch — and many berry bushes (lots were here on the property such as raspberries, blackberries and now blueberries and winterberry).

I now have 10 different Arbors and I've always had a love affair with them since childhood on old family farms, two of which are Grape and one is Hops. The others are ornamental vine arbors.

There is now a greenhouse in the East yard and a small water garden in the West yard. The original Vegetable garden in the East yard is the one we use today.

In closing I would make a suggestion to anyone to look into
Continued on next page

Citizens Celebrate Mayor Leads

By Mark Petersen
Roanoke, Virginia

ROANOKE, Virginia — One-hundred-twenty cyclists celebrated National Bike Month on May 1st by riding their bicycles with Roanoke Mayor David Bowers. It was an effort to encourage more bicycling as a

means of recreation and transportation. Momentum is growing for greenways as the Roanoke Valley residents see more miles added to the Roanoke River Trail. Mayor Bowers feels that strong neighborhoods are essential to the growth and success of Roanoke City.

A key factor of the green-

ways is that they connect to several parts of the City: schools, employment and entertainment. So Mayor Bowers led the two-mile ride to show that more bicycle traffic on Roanoke streets creates healthier people and cleaner air.

The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club sponsored the event. The pur-
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Want to Prevent Oil Spill Disasters? Stop Driving



An all-too-common sight. Who wants to live this way? Photo supplied by Creative Commons

By Jason Henderson
AlterNet, May 1, 2010

An ecological disaster of enormous magnitude is unfolding in the Gulf of Mexico.

The BP Horizon rig blew up, listed through Earth Day, sank, and now a submerged oil well is spewing a river of oil toward Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. Birds and fish will die, wetlands and beaches will be ruined. People will be outraged and people will cry. Offshore drilling — "drill, baby drill" — is front and center once again. But this time environmental destruction dominates the storyline.

In response to this situation

political progressives need to ramp it up a notch. The emphasis by many progressives on "green cars" has been a distraction. Progressives need to get over it. Green cars need oil. Too much oil. Instead, now is the time for progressives to reflect upon the relationship between oil and driving and to question the way in which driving perpetuates the ecological destruction now underway in the Gulf.

To be sure, oil is fascinating. It is one of the most utilitarian natural resources known to humans. Oil stores a tremendous amount of energy, is easy to transport long distances by pipeline, rail, ship and truck, and can sit for a

very long time without spoiling or degrading. It can be refined and distilled easily and has many uses. Its petroleum by-products are used in plastics and pharmaceuticals and are part of the energy system for agriculture and the transport of food. Before there was Silicon Valley and the Internet there was Houston and New Orleans and innovations in oil. Oil is in the laptops and servers that belong to all the progressives who balk at oil and oil companies. Oil undergirds the organization of everyday life in America. And we'll need to keep drilling for it.

But we do not need to keep
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Join Criss Cefus for a Walk through Her Gardens



Photos by Criss Cefus
 To the left is the West Side entrance to my gardens. To the right is the back of the property, the woods are far ahead. We can walk all the way around to the other side of the property here. We have paths everywhere through the woods. On the hill in the foreground this has been my latest venture. I am filling in this hill with bushes and trees so in time it will be full of all good things for nature



Here is the pond behind the house. I've counted up to 30 frogs at one time and we have one huge one that comes back every year. We have several goldfish and I've seen snakes and a turtle in the pond, too. Lots of birds use the pond and chipmunks drink from it.



An out-building next to the barn. Directly in front of it is a corncrib. I grow gourds and one of my loves is to grow different ones every year.



Here is one of the raised herb-garden beds with a fence. There is a cobblestone circle with thyme growing and a walkway leading to the garden.

Gardener's Dream Comes True

Continued from page 1

getting some trees from the National Arbor Day Foundation and putting them into your landscape, as it will help to give the birds and other wildlife some protection and provide places for them to make their homes — and not to forget they bring beauty to the landscape and clean the air we breathe.

If you don't already have a garden, then consider a small one to start. It's the best "Stress-Free Therapy for the Soul" and it's great for the Environment and Mother Earth will thank you — and besides "It's good for your healthy."

I've changed to more woodland beds to make up for having so much maintenance . . . I think it will keep me young and it's a true passion. One of my mottos is:

DON'T CREATE WHAT YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF.

I think it tends to overwhelm people when they see all this here. The first question to me usually is, "How do you keep up with it?" And I tell them that I am home most days and everyday I am out there keeping up with it — it's a pleasure.

I am doing my ancestry right now and I looked through several old, old pictures yesterday and I found some wonderful ones of my great grandmother's gardens . . . and they looked just like mine. It's in the blood no doubt . . . she has arbors and raised beds and vines everywhere . . . ah-ha . . . I thought to myself, "Wish I could have picked her brain about her gardening and what she did and some old tales about how to keep diseases out etc." I was born too late.

Well, it's time for me to head back outside and get my hands in the dirt again.

Happy Gardening!!!



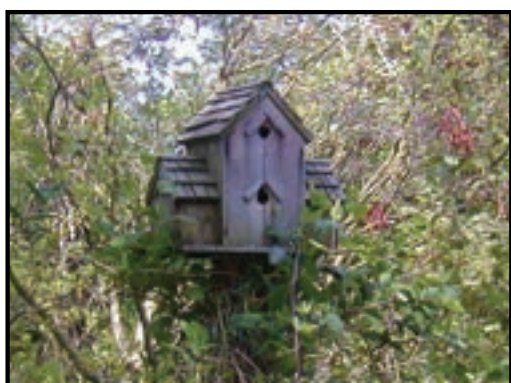
This bed sits in front of the Viburnum and Redtwig dogwood. The tall trees (bushes actually) are Smoke Bushes that got enormous. I couldn't believe they would get that huge.



Here is a picture of the walkway to our house, which was built in 1876. [Ed.: Criss let us use a similar picture last year when her lilac bushes were in full bloom.]



This is the Cabin on the West side.



This birdhouse is next to the cabin.



My potting shed sits next to the garage . . . it was originally a produce stand built in the early 1950's . . . it's the latest building as all the others were built in the 1800s. This building sits on the East side . . . you would walk past it to get to the East side gardens



Now we are leaving the West Yard and going toward the East Yard.

Think and Act

Overshooting Carrying Capacity

From Endgame by Derrick Jensen (2006)

For at least the past ten years there has been a lot of talk, primarily among those whose alleged concern for sustainability is a cover for exploitation, but also among those who should know better, of something called sustainable development. In this phrase, development is essentially a synonym for industrialization, for destruction, as in the development of natural resources. Under this rubric, sustainable development is an obvious oxymoron. Industrialized people consume more resources and cause more damage than nonindustrialized people. The "development" of the industrialized nations has been and continues to be unsustainable for the industrialized nations and for the world at large and the further "development" of the world will only make things worse.

Sometimes activists complain — sometimes I complain — that the United States spends boatloads of money on weapons, but gives comparatively little to the poor. I've grown to understand, however, that the best thing Americans could do for the poor is not to hand them crumbs nor to give (or worse, loan) their government money for dams, factories, roads and (of course) weapons. But instead to stop stealing their resources. I recently asked Anuradha Mittal, former co-director of Food First, if she thought the poor of her native India would be better off if the United States economy disappeared tomorrow. She laughed and said, "Of course. All the poor would be." She told me that former granaries in India now export dog food and tulips to Europe.

There's another way to look at population which is, I think, as useless and harmful as the others. Even when people do accept the existence of carrying capacity and

aren't trying to use their talk of overshoot to maintain the rich's current stranglehold over the lives of the poor — and to extend this stranglehold into the most intimate aspects and decisions (sexuality and child-rearing) of their lives — they more often than not talk of population in terms of mathematics, in terms of exponential increase, in terms of some "natural rate of population growth."

It's very simple: turn on your computer, plug the appropriate numbers into your handy-dandy formula — X number of people on Y amount of land containing Z amount of resources, where W represents the industrial educational level of women — and watch the little black and brown dots representing people fill your screen. But this formulation carries with it many dangerous premises, including the essential premise of mathematics itself: those to be studied and described are not individuals who make choices but instead are objects who — or rather which — act with no great measure of volition. It presumes people do not make rational short, mid- and long-term family-planning decisions based on their circumstances, experiences and the social values into which they've been acculturated. Nor do they give any thought to the personal, social or environmental consequences of their decisions. Heck, it presumes people — especially poor, brown, uneducated people — breed with no thought whatsoever: where does thought, or choice, fit into these or any equations? It presumes they breed like rabbits. But that's nonsense. I'm not even sure rabbits breed like rabbits.

Sure, we can make probabilistic predictions of what certain per-



centages of people (or rabbits) will do under certain social and ecological conditions but to talk of any "natural rate of population growth" without talking about the culture that causes — acculturates, inculcates, coerces, rewards — people to not only ignore environmental limits but to perceive, accurately, that their larger social fabric would collapse without incessant growth is to naturalize — make normal, make invisible, make seem as inevitable as gravity — something that is not natural but cultural.

Non-linear — cyclical — cultures, those not predicated on growth but on dynamic equilibrium, maintain stable populations. Having reached the limits of what their landbase willingly supports, indeed — and this is well-nigh inconceivable to those of us raised in a culture where we are taught to perceive all life as horrific competition and humans as the bloody victors — having reached a population level that best serves the needs not only of their human community but of their nonhuman neighbors, they (believe it or not) reduce the number of children. They do

this by breast-feeding their existing children for many years, by abstinence, by taboos, by the use of herbal contraceptives and abortions.

Prior to conquest, American Indian women, for example, used more than two hundred plants, roots and other medicines as means of birth control, making the decisions themselves as to whether to use them. When all else fails, some cultures, and I'm not promoting this, practice infanticide. This infanticide is often not gender-based.

Beneath these techniques is the real point, which is an intimate and mutually beneficial relationship with their landbase.

"What nonsense!" I can hear you say, "Humans exploit their surroundings! Human needs are in opposition to the natural world, otherwise why would politicians say we need to balance the economy versus the environment? Balance implies opposition. Whether it's a God-given right or an evolutionarily ordained mandate,

humans chop down trees, deprive all others of their habitat. It's what we do." But to believe this is to mistake civilization for humanity, an unforgivable and fatal, if flattering, error.

One of the central myths of this culture concerns the desirability of growth, a parasitic expansion to fill and consume its host. This was manifest from the beginning, as we were told in Genesis, "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the Earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the Earth."

Of course we see the same absurd mythology of growth and exploitation today. Just last night I read, in language less theological yet expressing the same damn thing, a sentence by Joseph Chilton Pearce, an author well-respected for his attempts to change this culture's destructive path: "The amount [of gray matter] we have is just what we need for certain goals nature has in mind, such as our dominion over the Earth." From its opening to its endgame, civilization has been nothing if not consistently narcissistic, domineering and exploitative. And it is consistent in its attempts to make these attributes seem natural, to make them seem as though nature itself is to blame for our exploitation of it. ("She was asking for it," we can say with clean conscience as we pull up our pants and leave the darkened alley.)

We can see the myth of growth at work in the Catholic church's continued hostility toward birth control, attempting to get us to believe, as the ironic bumper sticker so eloquently puts it, that "every ejaculation deserves a name."

We can see it in the concern over falling birthrates in industrialized nations such as Greece and Russia. And we can see it in the commonplace acceptance of the very real fact that without constant economic expansion capitalism will collapse almost immediately.

This mythology is grounded in reality — cultural reality, that is — because from the beginning the very existence of city-states has required the importation of resources from ever-expanding regions of increasingly exploited countryside. It has required growth.

Well, that's going to stop someday. At some point, probably in the not-too-distant future, there will be far fewer people on this planet. There will be far fewer than the planet could have supported — and did support — prior to us overshooting carrying capacity because the great stocks of wild foods are gone (or poisoned), the top soil lost in the wind.

My saying this doesn't mean I hate people. Far from it. A few weeks ago I received an email in response to my statement that the only sustainable level of technology is the Stone Age. The person said, "I don't think the stone-age will support anything near the current world population. [Of course I agree.] So to return to this level implies either killing a lot of people or not having many children and waiting for the population to diminish. Or do we allow war or other pestilence to do the job? Is this what you are proposing?"

I responded that what I'm proposing, startlingly enough, is that we look honestly at our situation. And our situation is that we have overshot carrying capacity.

The question becomes: What are we going to do about it?

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The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

Our Goal: To provide people with news to help bring their hearts and lives back into harmony with Nature and with Most High God and his Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, Most High's Council of Elders as found below. We are also a community of activists, writers, poets and others who care about the future of the planet and we work together to nurture each other in various ways.

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

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

Masthead: We say "Volume 10" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name ten years ago. In 1995 she wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion of that work. The photo in our masthead is pea plants in John and Iona's garden last Summer at their home in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Most High's Council of Elders

LOVE	PATIENCE	COMFORT
TRUTH	TOLERANCE	HONESTY
WISDOM	JUSTICE	THANKS
COUNSEL	FAIRNESS	TRUST
UNDERSTANDING	JOY	CONFIDENCE
KINDNESS	CHARITY	HOPE
COMPASSION	GENEROSITY	SECURITY
PEACE	HONOR	MERCY
MODESTY	FRIENDSHIP	CHIVALRY
HUMILITY	GIVING	RESPECT
INNOCENCE	RECEIVING	GENTLENESS
FORGIVENESS	RESPONSIBILITY	GOODNESS
RIGHTEOUSNESS	SHARING	CHOICE...etc.

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS: 10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

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

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I no longer believe we can use the system to change the system. Let it all fall apart. I no longer want to live in their world so I must create/find my own.

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

Our Readers Take Action Three Things We All Can Do

By Len Frenkel
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Now that all the blogs, videos, media commentaries and news articles are finished with Earth Day 2010, the 40th anniversary of its inception, it's time to get real. If we are to stop and reverse the increasing levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, we must take drastic steps. Given the emergency that we face, as many scientists claim, then radical actions must be taken. None of the groups that I know of are proposing how we, as individuals, can make massive reductions in our carbon footprint. We have a choice: either take the steps now and face the consequences or wait until it's too late and we face the horrors later this century when they fall on our children and grandchildren.

Yes, it's great that people are purchasing low-energy washers and dryers as well as changing light bulbs and recycling but these are minor steps that will not put much of a dent in the release of carbon dioxide and methane. For all the talk about green buildings, green jobs, green energy, cap-and-trade, not much is happening on a nation-

al level. We still don't have anyone proposing specific steps to solve the problem. Solar panels are terrific but they won't be extensive enough or soon enough to thwart the climate crisis. Nor will wind turbines.

On a personal level, there are significant actions that each of us can take. Our gasoline consumption results in enormous amounts of carbon dioxide release. I wonder how many of us have reduced our shopping trips. How many of us have lessened our local visits to friends, family and entertainment venues? Have we lessened our travel vacations to Europe, Asia or across the U.S.? Do we travel only when necessary? For those of us fortunate enough to own second homes, are we willing to sell them so as not to have to travel to them?

A second theme for personal contribution has to do with our consumptive habits. Everything that's made — whether wood, metal, glass, ceramic, fiber, concrete or plastic — requires energy to manufacture. Drastically reducing our demand for these products will go a long way to solving the problem. Do we need a big car or truck? Do we need 10 pairs of shoes or a

dozen pairs of pants, just to name a few. Can we get by with a lot less 'stuff' and still have a satisfying life? I hope so.

Little known to the public is a subject that releases more carbon into the atmosphere than all of our cars, trucks, planes and buses. Animal foods. According to researchers at the University of Chicago, more greenhouse gases are produced as a result of raising animals for food than are produced from all forms of transportation combined. So how many people are going veg to help save the planet? How many restaurants will lessen their meat entrees and offer a large number of vegetarian dinners? Will folks quit their bacon and eggs, hamburgers, chicken wings, steaks and fast food to reduce their carbon footprint?

These are just three steps that individuals can take to bring about dramatic reductions in the gases that contribute so strongly to the climate crisis. I can only hope that millions of people will act accordingly and spread the word.

Len Frenkel is President of the Lehigh Valley Vegetarians and founder of Initiatives for the Climate Emergency; 610-709-8984.



Cartoon by Khalil Bendib Courtesy www.OtherWords.org

Want to Prevent Oil Spill Disasters? Stop Driving

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drilling everywhere we can. We do not need to keep searching further offshore or push into remote, wild areas or burn nasty tar sands. We need to conserve. We need to reduce. Most importantly, we need to stop driving.

The most profound way in which America needs oil is through the system of automobility — the combined impact on the built environment of the motor vehicle (cars, trucks), the automobile industry, the highway and street networks and corollary services like gas stations, and the coordination of everyday life around the car and its spaces.

America consumes 25 percent of the world's oil and roughly 70 percent of that enables automobility. Much of this is for driving cars relatively short distances on a routine, daily basis. This adds up to over 21,000 miles driven a year per car. Ninety-two percent of American households own one car and 62 percent own two cars.

No source of energy can replicate this level of hyper-automobility. The equivalent of hundreds of huge coal or nuclear powerplants would be needed to mimic this level of automobility if replaced with electric or hydrogen cars.

Where are we going to build all of those powerplants? How much CO₂ would come from building all of those powerplants and is it worth it simply to keep on routinely driving? Retrofitting entire cities with new plug-in outlets will require new power grids and new power plants — to keep the level of automobility as we know it going. How can this be justified while we can't even "afford" as a nation to provide basic upkeep to bridges and highways, much less sustain a working public transit system? Meanwhile, wind turbines and solar panels are made from polymers that come from oil. The new "smart grid" and alternative energy future will be made from oil. Growing crops that are burned to drive cars also requires oil.

We need oil to make the "shift" to other energy paths. Yet the vast majority of oil that Americans consume is squandered for short drive-thru trips. We are seeking to expand drilling offshore and in remote areas to keep this system of automobility afloat. At the same time we as a nation expect to make a great leap to new energy systems but that will require lots of oil to build them. We cannot do both.

To any rational, thinking person this should be an alarming state of affairs. But to people who identify themselves as political progressives and yet continue to own and drive cars on a routine basis, this should be an embarrassment. Any progressive-leftist-liberal-"green"-environmentalist cannot, with a clear conscience, drive his or her children to school and expect those children to find a planet they'll thrive on. He or she cannot smugly shrug that the transit system does not go where he or she wants to go or that the dis-

stances are too far to ride a bicycle. Any able-bodied progressive who regularly exclaims, "But I need to drive!" is in need of some deep reflection on his or her values and especially the idea of a green car.

The "green car" movement has been around since the rise in environmental awareness and recognition of resource scarcity. It reflects how American progressives have held a great discomfort in trying to balance the convenient automobile lifestyle (enabled by oil) against the messy work of extracting and refining oil. The Prius will not cut it. Engaging in some sort of medieval offset-indulgence scheme won't either. You are driving an oil-consuming machine made from polymers derived from oil and designed to carry you under 30 miles a day in an urban configuration.

Some progressives do this, admittedly, because they are lazy. Others feel "special" and thus entitled to live in scattered sprawl, drive across town to work in less than 20 minutes and then to a dentist on another side of town in another 20 minutes. Many progressive Americans, particularly in coastal "blue" states, expect to be able to drive to the beach and NOT see any signs of oil extraction. That is not progressive. That is imperialism. Those cars are fueled and built with oil from Nigeria, Iraq, Louisiana and Alaska — places laid to waste by unfettered oil extraction.

Nowhere is this cognitive dissonance more pronounced than in the Bay Area — capital of progressive environmentalism. In places like San Francisco, Berkeley and Marin County, oil drilling (especially offshore) is anathema. Despite its hyper-utilitarian aspects (and the fact that it still fuels the Prius), inevitable oil spills would endanger marine ecosystems and threaten the seafood and tourist industries. Offshore drilling would also obstruct sunsets and spoil vistas. So drilling in California, as well as on the Atlantic Seaboard, is wisely forbidden.

If the BP Horizon spill was off the California coast it would surely be the end of days. Property values might drop. There would be eco-riots. Hundreds of thousands of do-gooder volunteers would no doubt assemble on the beaches waiting for dead birds to wash up. Some sort of feel-good community spirit might coalesce for a moment, as with the Cosco Busan spill in November 2007. And many would arrive by Prius or biodiesel cars.

Many of you "progressive" motorists are probably seething in defensive, self-righteous posture if you managed to read this far. You drive a Prius, so you're doing your part. Or you don't drive much. Or your groceries are too heavy — you need a car. In the Bay Area and many parts of California, a common refrain is that there are too many hills, so "I have to drive." Populists will shout that the working poor need their cars to get to work on time and that child care and household chores all but require a car.

But comrades, seriously, consider how you could make modest changes toward a lifestyle centered on walking, bicycling and transit. Imagine if we used less oil and used it more wisely. Even in the lowest density suburbs in America, 40 percent of car trips are under five miles, within a comfortable spatial range of bicycling. Grocery shopping does not require a car. One can simply walk, bike or take transit and either come up with creative ways to carry the load or have a jitney service take care of the delivery. Consider the physical activity and health benefits for your children from walking and bicycling. And consider how un-progressive it is to use oil to make short trips or to waste billions of barrels to make disposable plastic bags or other throwaway commodities when we need to save it.

Imagine if we used less and used it more wisely. We could set most oil aside for the switch to other energy sources, which will require a huge infrastructure program — high speed rail, transmission systems, urban infill projects, new bicycle networks, light rail systems, new electric or hybrid buses and new ways of organizing work and shopping spaces.

Those progressives who are still unwilling to give up driving should at least give up complaining and obstructing change. You need to accept that in American cities we need to make it more difficult to drive everywhere, for everything, all of the time. It needs to be far less convenient for the affluent to drive down from their exclusive enclaves to have a meal and see an opera. We need change like ending "free parking" in cities. We charge the poor to ride transit but progressives expect free parking. The sense of entitlement to speed across the city needs to be restricted. Most importantly, progressive motorists need to slow down so those of us willing to make the change can do so safely.

I see you progressives every day — the Prius in the bike lane, the speeding, honking Subaru and the hybrid SUVs careening at pedestrians and cyclists with fashionable Obama stickers or Save This/Save That bumper stickers on the cars. Honking, hoarding, fighting for a parking space at Trader Joe's and Whole Foods. It is madness.

Progressives need to lead by example and stop driving so we can keep drilling in a thoughtful and reasonable way. So we can drill in a cautious way that minimizes expansion but enables the shifts needed. Otherwise progressive outcries about the spill in the Gulf are a joke.

There is a car-free movement in America. Join us.

Jason Henderson is a geography professor at San Francisco State University and is writing a book on the politics of mobility in cities. He grew up in New Orleans and spent much time in the coastal wetlands of Louisiana. He has never owned a car.



Image from Office Publisher

What a University Can Do

Special Report from Korea
New Climate Course
Draws 150 Students

By Pyong Roh
Daegu, South Korea

Nowadays we have experienced natural and man-made disasters all over the world. Earthquakes cost a lot of lives and destroyed many houses and buildings and many people lost their shelters. The ashes of volcano grounded many airplanes and many people were stranded in airports. The oil slick has been spreading in the Gulf of Mexico and threatening coastal areas and polluting the ocean.

We are so dependent on fossil fuel and oil industries are trying to explore off-shore oil resources. Of course the technology of pumping oil from the sea bed has

been developed but still small mistakes can make a huge disaster. Now is the time we have to try to use alternative energy sources. Otherwise the only Earth will be in danger.

Many countries have been trying to use alternative energy such as wind power, solar energy, geothermal, and so on. In some part, we have succeeded in these areas. At the same token we have to educate people about the importance of energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

Dr. Byun, president of Daegu Haany University created an Energy and Industry Task Force of professors to develop a text book and course materials and run the new course for the university's students. The course of Energy and Industry includes the following contents:

- Sources of energy,

- Fossil energy,
- Energy and environmental problems on Earth,
- Acid rain,
- Smog,
- Greenhouse effects and Climate change,
- Nuclear energy,
- Alternative energy,
- Carbon dioxide emissions,
- Carbon dioxide fund, and
- Active energy management.

Two credits are given to the students who take this course. Now 150 students are taking the course with Professors Park and Kim in charge. They expect more students will be interested in this course and they plan to organize a voluntary student organization for energy and industry. The students will be the grassroots leaders for prevention of global warming.

What an Activist Can Do

Keep Informed,
Keep Others Informed
and Keep Working

Iona,

Thanks for staying on top of environmental issues and preparing for your July publication during your June break. *The Order* is too valuable to lose and we appreciate the difficulty you have in keeping up with it all on a one-person basis, despite the difficulties, financial and otherwise.

Anyway, the one issue that keeps pricking my interest the most is the one surrounding the gas well development heading our way as the "Marcellus Shale

Development." It is being worshipped as a financial salvation by our citizens and our state government and it is already disfiguring our landscape and poisoning our water as it is "developed," meaning exploited. The word needs to be spread any way possible to make sure that we get some sort of environmental protection or the state will be devastated.

It will be impossible to stop the advance of this mineral exploitation unless there is a miraculous revelation to the entire state. Not going to happen. So we must do what we can to keep ourselves and other Pennsylvanians aware of what is happening as the march of the gas wells draws nearer. Arti-

cles in *The Order of the Earth* will be an important part of that.

Right now we are tied up with making sure Tom Conners votes are all counted properly and planning a Single-Payer Healthcare rally this summer in Harrisburg. We are glad YOU are in charge of the Environment!

We will watch the Chemtrails video before 7 tomorrow morning, when we can use our Internet connection without paying a penalty for video watching, which runs five bucks an hour. We never got excited about the trails before but that can change. Keep up the good work,
Jack and Kathie Hendricks
McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania



Boom In Pensacola, Florida June 5. Photo by Iona

Pensacola: Twilight Vigil As the Oil Hit the Shore



By Iona
On the scene in Pensacola, Florida
June 5, 2010

He was the only one to show up for the candlelight vigil in Pensacola, Florida the day after the tar balls started hitting the pristine beaches. The tiny notice in the paper had said 6:30 to 8:30 but it was a rainy, drizzly evening. He and I got there early and, as I was searching for other people who were there to participate (none), Ben Nguyen Tu Posey quietly and with no fanfare started the vigil on his own. By the time I realized what he was doing and grabbed my camera, he was deep into his meditation. I quietly asked for permission to take his picture and he nodded but kept chanting softly. I was spellbound. I slipped into the mood. I had anticipated capturing hundreds of upset Floridians or tourists with lighted candles and maybe even angry signs but, no, one solitary man, with a deeper message than many could have contributed together.



He rang his bell, chanting and turning slowly. The words were unfamiliar to me. Next to his flowers, candle and umbrella on a nearby picnic table, I left him a copy of *The Order of the Earth* with a note asking him to contact me and then I slipped away.

When Ben did call back, I had the chance to ask, "What brought you here?" He replied that it was his own spiritual sense that persuaded him to present himself to acknowledge the suffering we are all feeling. He said he is not one to go to a BP station and protest because he knows some of those people and they are not the ones who caused the problem.

Ben has lived in Pensacola since 1989 but visited it for the first time in 1983. "Once you get the white sand in your shoes, you never get it out," he explained that this is a common expression in that area — or was. He was grateful that our little paper is doing this story because he said the people down there are going to need "all the continued awareness we can get."

Another unexpected "interview" happened as the visiting nurse (Pam Booker) bandaged my cousin's wounds. "I'm eighth generation and this is our life," she said. She wanted to see BP kicked out and the government take over the work. My astute cousin (Pat Banzul) chimed in, "I want to see the CEO of BP on the beach cleaning it up. Let him eat the shrimp — all you can eat." To which Pam added, "Let him have his kids and grandkids swim in that water."

"I've been on these waters my whole life," continued Pam. "You watch, it's going to get in the Gulf Stream and when it gets there it's going to destroy the whole Florida Keys and Northeast. When it hits D.C. and New York beaches, that's when they'll do something."

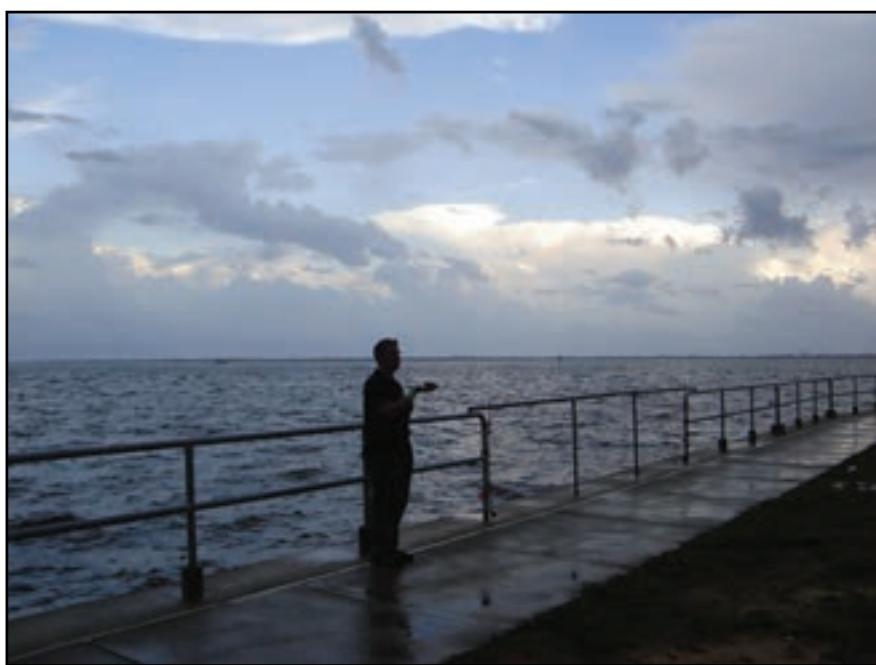
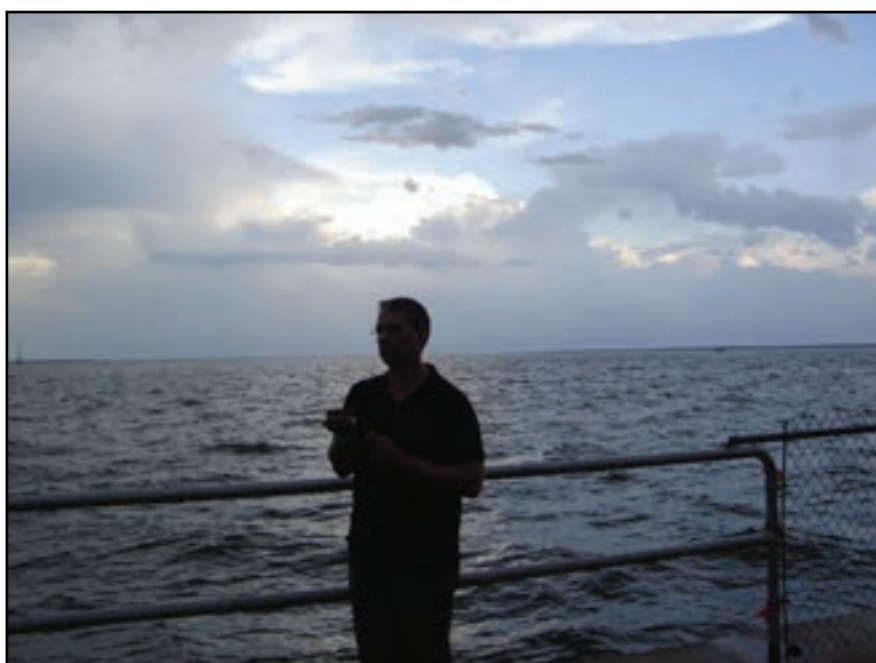
"I saw the dolphin dead and that just broke my heart," Pat said.

"We've had our heads in the sand like ostriches," Pam admitted.

"We've been lied to, we have been scammed. I'm sick from whatever they burned," summarized Pat. And, indeed, she was sick while I was there, coughing with runny eyes. We could smell the oil from her back porch. "When 11 men die, it's criminal negligence," said Pat. I agreed.

Then the two women switched to talk of renewable energy and using the jet stream to get lots of clean energy, all while the bandaging was going on.

And that, OE friends, was part of my June "break."



Photos by Iona

Ben Nguyen Tu Posey chants, turns slowly and rings his bell during the candlelight vigil held in drizzle in Pensacola, Florida after oil started arriving on the beaches he loves.



Photos by Genesis Farm Staff *Dr. Fuhrman's Nutrient Top 30 Super Foods Score

Transition Movement: Response to Unavoidable Energy Descent

By Seanna Ashburn
Genesis Farm, New Jersey

"We are entering a period of unavoidable energy descent," according to Michael Brownlee, co-founder of Transition Colorado in Boulder.

A recent three-day program at Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey offered an introduction to the Transition movement which has emerged in the last few years to address the necessity of adapting to energy descent.

A network of locally-focused initiatives, the Transition movement supports community leadership efforts for taking the far-reaching actions required at the local level to mitigate effects of peak oil, climate change and economic instability. This re-localization approach is different from widespread 'sustainability' efforts which assume that our current lifestyle of high-energy use can be maintained.

Instead, the basis for the Transition model is to design ways of living locally that use less energy and also result in a higher quality of life with greater social connections, vibrancy, equity and fulfillment. The goal is community resilience — the capacity to continue functioning, even to thrive, as the impacts of climate change and declining energy resources become increasingly apparent.

This community-wide process for creating 'energy descent pathways' to achieve community resilience has spread around the world. Over 300 officially designated Transition Initiatives now exist in 15 countries; there are 69 in the U.S. Four Transition Initiatives have been officially recognized in Pennsylvania: Bald Eagle Valley, Media, Pittsburgh and State College.

Attending the April program at Genesis Farm were people from eight states — Texas, Illinois, Massachusetts, Colorado, New York, Kansas, Pennsylvania and New Jersey — as well as Toronto, Canada. This was the third Introduction to Transition program at Genesis Farm with over 85 people attending to date.



Studying Transition from left to right: Roman Osadka and Peter Tischler both from New Jersey, Sr. Miriam MacGillis of Genesis Farm fame and Sr. Carol Coston from Texas.

Prior to the program, participants are asked to read *The Transition Handbook* by Rob Hopkins, founder of the movement in England. The program focuses on helping people to grasp the enormous 'predicament' of peak oil, climate change and economic instability. It also provides information about the growth of the Transition movement in response to this predicament and a comprehensive overview of the Transition model for decreasing oil dependency and building local resilience.

At the April program, Skype video technology enabled an online conversation with two members of Transition Whatcom about their recent success stories in Bellingham, Washington. As always, the rich exchanges among those attending were a satisfying experience for everyone. "It's knowing and being around people that care that gives me hope that things can change," said one person. Another participant summed up her experience by saying that, "Overall, this was a wonderful course — I am glad I came and would recommend it highly to others." And another said she was leaving the workshop "renewed and invigorated, with a sense of excitement and purpose and the feeling of support."

In addition to Michael Brownlee, leaders for the program were Transition Colorado co-founder Lynette Marie Hanthorn and Genesis Farm's Transition coordinator, Seanna Ashburn. All three are certified as Transition Trainers by the international Transition Network. The Transition movement makes "no claim to have all the answers," states Lynette Marie, "but by building on the wisdom of the past and accessing the pool of ingenuity, skills and determination in our communities, the next steps can readily emerge."

A Pennsylvanian who attended the first Transition program at the Farm last year wrote a message to "Fellow seekers of a sustainable and fulfilling future:

"This Transition Training workshop with these specific leaders is the best thing I've experienced, even if I had no interest in the Transition movement. It is about people and community, about commitment and love, about vision and wholeness. If you can possibly spare the time and scrape up the funds, go. It will be hard work and you will leave tired but you will never regret it."

On July 14 at Genesis Farm, there will be a public presentation by Michael Brownlee on *The Transition Movement*. Another Introduction to Transition program will be held on September 16-19. It is already one-third full, register now at www.genesis-farm.org. For more on the Transition movement, see www.transitionus.org, www.transitionculture.org and www.transition-towns.org.

Australia Hauls Japan into International Court Over Whaling

CANBERRA, Australia, May 28, 2010 (ENS, excerpt) — Australia will initiate legal action in the International Court of Justice in The Hague against Japan's so-called "scientific" whaling in the Southern Ocean, three Rudd government ministers announced today.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith, Environment Minister Peter Garrett and Attorney General Robert McClelland said in a joint statement, "The Government has always been firm in our resolve that if we could not find a diplomatic resolution to our differences over this issue, we would pursue legal action. The Government's action fulfils that commitment."

A formal application will be lodged in The Hague early next week, they said. The ministers said the decision underlines the government's commitment to bring Japan's whaling program to an end and "demonstrates our commitment to do what it takes to end whaling globally."

The Australian government has not taken this decision lightly, the ministers said. "We have been patient and committed in our

efforts to find a diplomatic resolution to this issue. We have engaged in intensive discussions in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and bilaterally with Japan." But to date, the ministers said, "The response of the whaling countries has not been positive."

"Recent statements by whaling countries in the Commission have provided Australia with little cause for hope that our serious commitment to conservation of the world's whales will be reflected in any potential IWC compromise agreement," the ministers said.

On April 27, the International Whaling Commission released a draft compromise proposal resulting from several years of discussions about changing the IWC's whaling management regime by a Small Working Group that includes the whaling nations.

Under the proposal, the world's only three whaling nations — Japan, Norway and Iceland — could continue whaling for another 10 years, even while the current global whaling moratorium is retained. The proposal was to be presented at the IWC annual meeting in June in Agadir, Morocco.

A minke whale is taken by a Japanese whaling vessel in the Southern Ocean. January 2006. Photo Courtesy Greenpeace



News

Could You Live in a 12' x 12' Cabin With No Water or Electricity?

By William Powers
New World Library

*Note from the Book's Editor: Why would a successful American physician choose to live in a twelve-foot-by-twelve-foot cabin without running water or electricity? To find out, writer and activist William Powers visited Dr. Jackie Benton in rural North Carolina. No Name Creek gurgled through Benton's permaculture farm and she stroked honeybees' wings as she shared her wildcrafter philosophy of living on a planet in crisis. Powers, just back from a decade of international aid work, then accepted Benton's offer to stay at the cabin for a season while she traveled. There, he befriended her eclectic neighbors — organic farmers, biofuel brewers, eco-developers — and discovered a sustainable but imperiled way of life. In this excerpt from *Twelve by Twelve: A One-Room Cabin off the Grid and Beyond the American Dream*, Powers first arrives at the cabin in the cold of early spring.*

It was dark when I drove up to Jackie's place. Toting a backpack, I groped my way along paths through a pitch black Zone 2 and into Zone 1, finally making it to the unlocked 12' x 12'. I fumbled around for a light switch; naturally there was none. I managed to find matches and light candles. After exploring Jackie's bookshelves and the tiny loft that held her (now my) single mattress, I wrapped up in a couple of blankets and sat in her great-grandmother's goosehead chair for one hour, then two. I listened to the slight murmur of the creek, not completely sure of what else to do. As the quiet and darkness pressed in, so too did a mix of joy and trepidation.

Jackie told me how astonished she sometimes was to wake up in a Garden of Eden. I felt no such thing my first mornings there. I rose at dawn, climbed out of the loft and made a strong cup of tea. Cocooned in a handmade quilt in the rocking chair, I stared out into the cold gray light: the steam from my tea fogging my glasses and the windows, No Name Creek hardly stirring beneath a partial sheet of ice, the new moon cold and hidden beyond the horizon someplace, the stark 12' x 12' slab of frigid concrete pretending to be a floor.

Without Jackie there, the place seemed completely different. Instead of her contagious enthusiasm and intelligence, there was only me. Me and a bunch of plants, barely breathing. A late frost hit on my third night, causing hundreds of farmers throughout the county to lose their strawberries and tomatoes but the diversity and native-plant focus of Jackie's farm hedged against the suddenly frozen soil. Some of her plants froze to a crisp and died but most of them held on.

Whereas I'd seen only the nourishing-of-it-all in the light of Jackie's charisma, I soon realized that, aside from the garden beds in Zone 1, the earth around me was mostly slumbering. Stick season, they call it, with the skeletons of birch and oak and the sticky buds of leaves to come. Stalks of winter wheat, hoary vines on the trellises and last year's asparagus. And silence.

I walked down to the creek, listened to it murmur, stuck a finger in. Frigid. I yanked my frozen finger out. Beyond the creek, a rolling terrain with more late-winter woods, pasture and a higher forest beyond the pasture, all of the landscape edged with a crisp gray sky. I stopped for a moment to pick an empty cocoon from a branch, noticing a crack where the butterfly had emerged and flown out into life.

As the lifeless shell crunched between my cold fingers, turning to a dry, useless powder, I wondered what in the world I was doing here. Should I have come at all? I could be helping Liberian refugees, I thought, saving rainforests in Bolivia or distributing malaria-preventing bednets. The things I was trained to do. Or, if I was to be in America, I should be making myself useful, work-



Photos Courtesy New World Library

Author William Powers lives in a more ecologically sensible way than ever before by occupying the home of a woman who created this way of life for herself but had to leave for three months.



The lay of the land where the eco-cabin is situated.

ing twelve-hour days at the UN pressing for better refugee policies or sending out scathing op-eds and speaking at conferences.

But this, pardon me, dead place just made me feel the deadness of the society around me even more. That dead pond in the industrial park; the technological's fast food. Trapped in a looping mind, I reasoned that coming to the 12' x 12' had been a mistake.

At night I'd sometimes light a little bonfire outside and listen to the hiss and sizzle, look into the orange coals and stare at the stars, as cold up there as I was down below. The fire would die out and I'd climb the 12' x 12's ladder to Jackie's loft and try to get cozy in her bed. I'd have no dreams at all. It was as if the non-life, the frigidity of the place, was mirrored in my dreams. In that tiny house, snuggled in a vast forest, secluded in its upper loft, my spirit felt as fallow as the scene around me.

A warm pile of eggs is what would begin to thaw me out. My eleven-year-old neighbor, Kyle Thompson, beckoned to me one

morning as I walked up Jackie's dirt road toward Old Highway 117 South.

He asked me if I was living at Jackie's and I nodded. Without further introductions, he took my sleeve and led me over to the important business at hand: a disheveled woodpile, where a Muscovy duck squatted over her nest. With a stick, Kyle prodded the duck gently to reveal a large pile of eggs beneath her in a bed of hay and feathers. "We're going to have fourteen ducklings," he said, a little proudly.

I looked at Kyle. His thick, dun-brown hair flopped above a pair of blue eyes. He had a couple of freckles under each eye and a slight tilt to his head. Though I later found out he wanted to be an engineer and I had already discovered his love of animal husbandry, his facial expression suggested how I pictured the young James Joyce in *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man*. I looked back down at the eggs. Kyle spoke excitedly about the ducklings to come but I was doubtful. Amid the frost-covered wood and gray background, they looked like

cold marble, fossilized.

Kyle was practically the only person I saw during those frigid first days at the 12' x 12'. The colorful cast of neighbors Jackie had described, Mexican furniture makers, permaculture pioneers and even Kyle's parents, the Thompsons, all seemed to be in hibernation. Even Kyle I didn't see much; sometimes I'd spot him a football-field's length away, across the field and pond, looking expectantly into his woodpile, talking to the mother duck, trying to persuade life to happen.

I was otherwise alone. I felt bare to the point of barren, just another skeleton, like the plants or the dark new moon.

What was I to do? Not do, be, Jackie had told me. In her invitation note, she mentioned that she was not asking me to house-sit or farm-sit. Her guidance was clear: I was simply to sit. It would become apparent that, for all the variety and fruitfulness of her gardens, they were mostly on autopilot. She planted and arranged in ways that minimized weeds by not having rows and she used

plants that needed little water.

Permaculture, to Jackie, was to be a blessing, not a burden. Her motto for her gardens was the same as the motto of her house: Think small. No, not labor in her fields but rather labor with her fields and also observe the fields.

I realized how fortunate I was to be able to take this leisure time; I'd been frugal during years of work abroad and had savings. So now, like much of nature, so still, just sitting, the minerals, the trees, the water in the pond, I too began to feel my anxious mind slow down as the days passed and I tuned into nature, slipping into what the Chinese call *wu wei*, an alert inactivity. This is not considered sloth but a kind of waiting in the esoteric sense of the word: present, attentive, as when Jesus said to be like a servant who does not know at what hour the master will return. An outward non-doing, an inner readiness.

The world was numb; I was numb. But numb isn't dead. Kyle called me over to the woodpile, pointing out the very first hairline crack in one of the fourteen duck eggs. I finally felt that something might actually happen. That if I waited patiently enough, the world might reveal itself to me.

All the surprises at Jackie's helped to gradually thaw me out. Perhaps there's a cure in the practice of curiosity. With no electricity, piped water or any of the conveniences we are so accustomed to, I was forced to see everything anew. The first puzzle: How in the world was I to bathe?

Jackie didn't leave an instruction manual, an *Idiot's Guide* to living in a 12' x 12'. There was no shower, of course, and the creek was still too darn cold. But so was the rainwater Jackie harvested from the two gutters running off the 12' x 12's roof. I took one bucket shower, cursing as I cupped freezing rainwater over my head before I discovered a five-gallon rubber diaphragm on her back porch labeled Sun Shower. The directions were on the side of it and I followed them, filling up the rubber bag and letting the morning sun heat it. Midday or evening, I strung it up in a tree beside the 12' x 12' and felt the positively hot water stream over my body, which became a sensuous daily pleasure. I appreciated every bit of that hot water and it was all the lovelier knowing that its energy came directly from that day's sun, producing no dangerous greenhouse gasses. And the runoff watered the gardens — nothing wasted down a drain.

I began to appreciate water. It felt so immediate. Instead of being invisibly piped into my home from some deep aquifer or distant reservoir, it fell from the sky into the pair of fifty-five-gallon tanks beside the house. When I arrived they were full; when I left, ditto. All of my dish washing, laundry (I followed Jackie's lead and used only biodegradable soaps), bathing and cooking water simply came out of the sky, passed through my hands and then went directly back into the earth to water the food I ate.

Less appealing was the dilemma of the toilet. Instead of a flush toilet, I discovered that Jackie used a five-gallon composting toilet under the porch out back. It featured a regular toilet seat but there was no chemical-filled cesspool below ground just a standard white bucket. Throw some fresh-smelling cedar chips in after every use and there was absolutely no foul odor. The conundrum occurred when the bucket started to fill. And fill. How to dispose of it?

I fingered along the spines of Jackie's scientific books until I came to one with a rather non-threatening title: *The Humanure Handbook*. For 21st-century homesteaders like Jackie, it's the bible of composting toilets. So many designs! True to her simplicity, Jackie'd chosen the simplest model, the concealed five-gallon bucket, the contents of which, *The Humanure Handbook* informed me, I was to simply compost. Yes, in fourteen weeks human feces are soil just

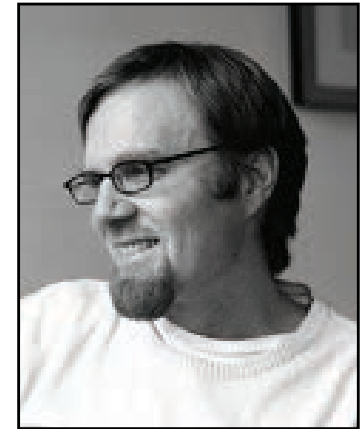
like any other soil and can be plowed back into your garden.

So I carried the bucket over to the compost pile, intending to follow *The Handbook* and dump it right over my eggshells and carrot peels. But at the last minute I couldn't go through with it. The science notwithstanding, I felt queasy over the aesthetics; I grabbed a shovel and buried the contents deep in the woods.

Adjusting to life without electricity was relatively painless. I've worked in subsistence economies around the world and have gone for short stints without electricity. The only oddity was that I was in the heart of the world's richest nation but living a subsistence life. No humming refrigerator, no ringing phones (I decided to go cell-phone-free in the 12' x 12') and none of the ubiquitous standby lights on appliances, those false promises of life inside the machines. Instead: the whip-poorwill's nocturnal call, branches scraping quiet rhythms in the breeze and groggy No Name Creek.

Looking East from the 12' x 12' toward the creek into the ink-black night, without the slightest glimmer of industrial society, I thought, "Could I really be inside the borders of a high-tech superpower?" To the West, I could barely make out the Thompsons' porch light and Jose's and Graciela's lights cast a glow on the trees above their homes.

Fire replaced electric light. Sparks from outdoor fires would briefly escape gravity and reflect off the creek before disappearing into the massive dark sky and the flaming white points of the stars above. Most luxurious of all, each night was blessed with the glow of candles. On the eleventh night, I noted in my journal, "I lit the candles without even thinking about it. I simply came in after a hike, struck a match, lit them and began cooking, candle lighting having become as automatic as switch flipping. The house glowed from the inside like a jack-o-lantern. Sometimes I'd step outside and look in through the windows, a dozen or so candles inside, as cheery as a birthday cake, the 12' x 12's point lit with primordial fire amid dark woods and I'd feel this smile spreading across not just my face but my spirit as well, lifting me with a feeling of emotional weightlessness."



William Powers has led development aid and environmental initiatives in Latin America, Africa and Washington, D.C. The author of the memoirs *Blue Clay People* and *Whispering in the Giant's Ear*, his essays on global issues have appeared in *The New York Times*, *the Washington Post*, *the Atlantic* and *Slate*. His Web site is www.williampowers-books.com. Copyright © 2010 by William Powers. Reprinted with permission of New World Library, Novato, California.

Anti-Climate 'Science,' Anti-Action, Do-Nothing Insurgency Prevent Needed Action

It's Not
the Weather;
It's a
Fossil-Fuel,
Climate-Denying
Machine

By Stacy Clark
DailyClimate.org; April 19, 2009

DALLAS, Texas — The climate-denying machine had scored yet another undeserved point in what has become a strangely combative and, quite frankly, unbalanced public debate over what most experts believe is now confirmed: Specifically, our planet is under unsustainable stress and its recovery can only begin when public attitudes toward energy generation, consumption and conservation advance.

The latest distraction came after researchers at George Mason University and the University of Texas at Austin found that only about half of the 571 television weathercasters surveyed believed that global warming was occurring and fewer than a third believed that climate change was caused "mostly by human activities."

I see in this the results of a carefully executed campaign by fossil-fuel executives to dissuade the public appetite for energy reform. By shrewdly peddling deceptive information to confound and confuse the public's understanding of what is already a complicated subject, the intellectual exchange of ideas has been compromised and Americans' tentativeness toward climate action has, regrettably, increased.

Granted, there is a big difference between forecasting weather on the evening news and projecting long-term planetary conditions. But shouldn't we be trying to connect some dots?

"Although the American Meteorological Society accepts climate change is real, their recommended undergraduate curriculum for broadcast meteorologists does not require a course on climate science," said National Wildlife Federation climate scientist Amanda Staudt. "Weathercasters often really do not have the academic background to speak as credible climate scientists."

So, what exactly do credible climate scientists know that the average local weather reporter and the average American may not? Data collected by NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellite system inform our current understanding of just how climate change is affecting Earth. "GRACE uses gravity to measure mass changes in, among other things, the Greenland ice sheet," said Compton Tucker, senior Earth scientist at the Goddard Space Flight Center. "It can track what the ice is doing day to day and month to month."

Since 2003, GRACE satellites have rotated around Earth 14 times a day, documenting a dramatic decrease in the volume of the Greenland ice sheet. The science is solid. "What amuses me,"

Compton said, "is that the sophistication of the GRACE system now consigns climate skeptics to the weird crowd that must confess to denying gravity!"

In other words, the same gravitational force that keeps Earth revolving in its orbit confirms what climate experts have been saying. "What we do know," remarked MIT Professor of Physical Oceanography, Carl Wunsch, who also studies GRACE's global measurements, "is that the changes in the Arctic are probably the most conspicuous indicators of the changes taking place in our climate system."

It's apparent from media coverage of the so-called "Climategate" email release and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Himalaya glacier snafu that attitudes toward climate change have not kept pace with what leading climate scientists and physicists concur is largely undisputed science. "People are creatures of habit. It takes a big event to change behavior," said Cliff Davidson, founding director of Carnegie Mellon University's Center for Sustainable Engineering. "Although climate change is difficult to internalize, the large majority of professional papers written on climate change nevertheless agree that it is real, that it is happening and that it is a threat." Davidson explained that the tendency of some media to balance each climate study with an oppositional viewpoint gives the impression that the science of climate change is uncertain. "It gives the public an easy excuse to not become invested in the problem," he added.

SueEllen Campbell, author and environmental literature professor at Colorado State University, agrees. Campbell cited a *New Yorker* column last summer by James Surowiecki entitled *Status-Quo Anxiety*. (http://www.newyorker.com/talk/financial/2009/08/31/090831ta_talk_surowiecki) In it, Surowiecki argues that people tend to want to hold onto what they already have, even when presented with something better. Surowiecki writes: "Our hesitancy to change is also driven by our aversion to loss. Behavioral economists have established that we feel the pain of losses more than we enjoy the pleasure of gains."

So perhaps the anti-climate science, anti-action, do-nothing insurgency preys on this quirky aspect of human nature. If status-quo defenders convince society that the lifestyle changes required to adapt to a changing climate will impart significant discomfort, they succeed at keeping modern society addicted to the bituminous fuels they wholesale. Simultaneously, and perhaps unintentionally, they script the eventual demise of contemporary human existence.

Robert Pollin, co-founder of the Political Economy Research Institute and a Professor of Economics at UMASS Amherst, enjoys challenging audiences to consider what he sees as the opportunities and benefits of adapting to a changing climate. At a recent gathering hosted by the American Enterprise Institute, Pollin opened with the following statement, "There are

some outstanding researchers who think climate change presents such overwhelming ecological challenges for the next generation that we face the very non-trivial prospect of destroying life on Earth and, as an economist, an ecological disaster of this scale demands that we purchase insurance to guard against the risk."

It's not hard to see where Pollin is headed. By investing in alternative forms of energy now, Pollin argues that we can create more sustainable models for economic growth and prosperity. Mainstream media can take a valuable lesson from Pollin. If he can present change and adaptation in a positive light to a group of conservative-minded executives, imagine how his approach and experience could unleash society's innovative, problem-solving, adaptive skills. Perhaps the same community cohesion that unified American factory workers and volunteers during World War II could be reignited to engineer, build and install the renewable energy systems that will reduce our carbon footprint and lead to a more sustainable relationship with the planet.

How do we get there? For guidance I turn to my 14-year-old son. He can describe how electrons spontaneously jump to different energy levels on an atom, how black holes absorb light and bend time and how radioactive elements can sterilize land for thousands of years. Of these issues, I know relatively little but I welcome the perspective provided by a teen who easily communicates "big" concepts with ease and aplomb.

A teenager's ability to relate to science in relevant and meaningful ways is convincing evidence that reporters and news editors must at least be held to an equal standard. In covering the weathercaster story for *The New York Times*, reporter Leslie Kaufman made climate conflict the centerpiece of her discussion, rather than climate consensus. She buttressed her argument with a quote from Robert Henson, author of *The Rough Guide to Climate Change* (Penguin, 2008): "And the level of tension has really spiked in recent months."

But when I called Henson, I received quite a different message: "There may be debate about localized issues like hurricanes," Henson said, "but the larger changes taking place are not debated These small-scale disagreements confuse people and the opponents take full advantage."

The key phrase is "small scale."

The science calls for a paradigm shift in energy policy. Americans must learn that energy reform delivers far-reaching benefits that easily outweigh the discomfort of adjusting to a new intellectual, behavioral and economic landscape.

Executives are starting to understand and articulate the rewards of this transition.

We just need the media to get the story straight.

Stacy Clark is an environmental writer, activist and educator who lives in Texas. DailyClimate.org is a nonprofit news service that covers climate change.



Photo by Andrew Feicht

Canada geese in Fredricton, New Brunswick, March 25, 2010.

MARCH GLOBAL TEMPERATURES BROKE HEAT RECORDS

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 16, 2010 (ENS) — The world's combined global land and ocean surface temperature made last month the warmest March on record, according to federal government scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA.

Taken separately, average ocean temperatures were the warmest for any March and the global land surface was the fourth warmest for any March on record.

Additionally, the planet has seen the fourth warmest January through March period on record, NOAA analysts conclude.

The monthly National Climatic Data Center analysis, based on records going back to 1880, is part of the suite of climate services NOAA provides government, business and community leaders so they can make informed decisions.

The combined global land and ocean average surface temperature in March was 1.39 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average.

NOAA's finding for March was confirmed by NASA's Goddard Institute, which found the combined average global land-surface air temperature in March was a record-breaking 1.9 degrees Fahrenheit above the 20th century average.

The National Climatic Data Center observed that the El Nino warming trend in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Ocean weakened to moderate strength in March but it "contributed sig-

nificantly to the warmth in the tropical belt and the overall ocean temperature."

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center says El Nino is expected to continue its influence in the Northern Hemisphere at least through the spring.

Elsewhere around the world, record-high temperatures were recorded in March. According to the Beijing Climate Center, Tibet experienced its second warmest March since historical records began in 1951.

In China, the Xinjiang province had its wettest March since records began in 1951, while Jilin and Shanghai had their second wettest March on record. Meanwhile, Guangxi and Hainan provinces in southern China experienced their driest March on record, according to the Beijing Climate Center.

Delhi, India also had its second warmest March since records began in 1901, according to the India Meteorological Department.

Arctic sea ice covered an average of 5.8 million square miles (15.1 million square kilometers) during March. This is 4.1 percent below the 1979-2000 average and the fifth-smallest March coverage since records began in 1979.

Ice coverage traditionally reaches its maximum in March and NOAA scientists observed that this was the 17th consecutive March with below-average Arctic sea ice coverage.

This year the Arctic sea ice reached its maximum size on

March 31, the latest date for the maximum Arctic sea ice extent since satellite records began in 1979.

The Antarctic sea ice expanse in March was 6.9 percent below the 1979-2000 average, resulting in the eighth smallest March ice coverage on record.

Many locations across Ontario, Canada received no snow or traces of snow in March, which set new low-snowfall records, according to Environment Canada.

Melanie Fitzpatrick, a climate scientist with the Union of Concerned Scientists, says the recent data are part of an overarching trend.

"The continuing warming trend of temperatures worldwide explodes the global cooling myth contrarians have been peddling for the past several years," Fitzpatrick said.

"While we can't draw strong conclusions from a single month, we know that global warming will bring more record-breaking temperatures in the future. Hot months are just a harbinger of a future that could include more heat waves, more droughts and species extinctions as animals attempt to migrate to colder areas and run out of habitat," she said.

"The good news is that the degree to which global warming affects our economy and environment is ultimately up to us," Fitzpatrick said. "If we significantly reduce emissions, we can avoid the worst effects of climate change."

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Surprising Common Ground Emerges in Climate Policy

Groups with divergent political and social agendas find room to agree on climate and energy policy.

By Douglas Fischer
DailyClimate.org, May 3, 2010

The ad was ominous: A stern portrait of Iran President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, with a missile launching skyward behind his right shoulder. Below were the logos of the entire continuum of Jewish organizations in the United States, 17 in all, including all four major denominations.

The message was clear — national security and Israel's safety are at risk. The threat? U.S. energy policy.

The full-page advertisement in Friday's *New York Times* was simply the latest example of diverse groups rallying together for and against climate policy. Organizations from across the American political spectrum, from hunters to retirees to evangelical Hispanic clergy, are finding common ground on an issue that has left the Capitol — and many state legislatures — polarized and paralyzed.

Last week, Politico.com published a joint call by the heads of the Christian Coalition and the National Wildlife Foundation (NWF) to break energy gridlock in Congress, saying the two groups share "common interest" in building a bipartisan energy plan.

This past summer, 30 national "hook and bullet" groups — representing hunters and anglers of all political stripes — sent a letter to House members urging action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Congress of Racial Equality — one of the oldest civil rights groups — has partnered with evangelical Christian groups and seniors' organizations to decry the harmful economic impacts of pending cap-and-trade legislation.

"For some reason we've had a struggle getting the environmental message out of the environmental frame," said Larry Schweiger, president of the National Wildlife Foundation. "That's what we're trying to do here — get people to think in a different frame."

Those building these coalitions say that climate and energy policy is an easy sell once they connect the dots from climate change or energy reform to self-interest for different constituents. The effort requires some tight-rope walking, they acknowledge, and risks resulting in a watered-down appeal to the least-common denominator.

But sometimes the results are surprisingly assertive and cohesive. The *New York Times* ad, for instance, links America's fossil fuel addiction to Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

Domestic dependence on foreign oil drives up prices worldwide, it notes, enriching the treasuries of foreign regimes that hold "anti-American and anti-Israel sentiments." It is mute on pending climate legislation. But it calls for a comprehensive energy policy to avoid the destabilizing effects of fossil fuel use and climate change.

"There would be different

positions (within the coalition) on any climate change bill," said Rabbi Steve Gutow, president of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, which spearheaded the ad. "There is no differing position on the idea that anything that comes forth needs to have energy policy consideration at the highest levels."

NWF's collaboration with the Christian Coalition started with a meeting several years ago in former Vice President Al Gore's home, said Schweiger, the group's head.

Gore and Christian Coalition president Roberta Combs were concerned about the inability of the political right and left to come together to solve common problems. "We began to pursue this idea that as Christians there is a moral obligation to take care of the creation for the benefit of future generations," Schweiger said.

Schweiger said he hasn't seen any push-back from members concerned about a partnership with the socially conservative religious group. On the contrary, feedback has been positive: "Many Americans are not teabaggers or extremists," he said. "They're simply people saying, 'Can't we work together?'"

For Niger Innis, spokesman for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and co-chairman of the Affordable Power Alliance, climate policy boils down to hard economics. Emissions limits will bring higher energy costs — essentially a regressive tax unfairly hitting senior citizens on fixed incomes and the poor, he said. A cap-and-trade program, he added, will undermine progress on "the last frontier of the civil rights movement: economic empowerment."

Building a coalition was easy, Innis said. He regularly works with evangelical groups on other issues; CORE's efforts on behalf of African American senior citizens makes collaboration with seniors' groups a natural. The climate nexus wasn't immediately obvious to some, he said, but as he made links between climate policy and the nascent coalition's core issues it became a no-brainer.

"At first, yes, they said, 'I'm not an oil producer. I don't have any coal mines in my church.' But then I connect the dots between economic well-being and economic liberty . . . and energy and energy costs," Innis said. "Then they get it. It crystallizes and it crystallizes like a ton of bricks on the head."

Innis sees tremendous potential to sway the climate debate. Having evangelicals, Hispanics, senior citizens and the civil rights movement lined up against a cap-and-trade program sends a "powerful, formidable" coalition into the fray against environmental groups pushing for it, he said.

If the debate simply pitted environmental groups against energy companies, he said, environmental groups win "nine times out of 10."

But stack the environmental lobby against the civil rights movement and seniors, Innis predicted, and the odds change. "If it is a David-and-Goliath (battle), the Goliaths in this case are the very well-funded environmental lobby, versus the rank-and-file working class Americans."

DailyClimate.org is a nonprofit news service that covers climate change. Douglas Fischer is the editor.



Cap-and-Dividend Policy Update

Introduction from the Publisher: Mike Tidwell is the one who first got me interested in global warming/climate change about six years ago and I trust him implicitly so I am delighted that he and Ted Glick (whom I also trust) are compiling this information for us all.

From the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)
Mike Tidwell, Director
Compiled and edited by Ted Glick, CCAN Policy Director

(June 7, 2010) — The Chesapeake Climate Action Network has launched a weekly policy update about efforts to advance "cap-and-dividend" legislation in the U.S. Congress. The fight for this climate policy is currently being led on Capitol Hill by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Susan Collins (R-ME), S. 2877. Last December these Senators introduced the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal Act, or CLEAR Act. Learn more at <http://www.supportclearact.org>.

Week of May 30-June 6

As the Senate prepares for an important vote on June 10th on the seriously flawed Murkowski proposal (vetoed, 53 to 47), the continuing BP oil blowout has clearly had an impact on Capitol Hill and in the White House. Obama and Harry Reid strengthened their public language last week about the importance of passing climate legislation, as George Lakoff called upon Obama to support the CLEAR Act. On the other side of the country, another California town endorsed the CLEAR Act and newspapers in Seattle and Flathead, Montana carried stories that included expressed support for the bill. And a just-released MIT study analyzes the "distributional impact" of Waxman-

Markey, the Kerry-Boxer bill and the CLEAR Act.

Obama Declares He Will Find The Votes for a Clean-Energy Bill

During a major speech on June 2nd in Pittsburgh, President Obama, "seizing on a disastrous oil spill to advance a cause" called on Congress to roll back billions of dollars in tax breaks for oil and pass a clean-energy bill that he says would help the nation end its dependence on fossil fuels. Obama predicted that he would find the political support for legislation that would dramatically alter the way Americans fuel their homes and cars, including placing a price on carbon pollution, even though such legislation is politically divisive and remains bogged down in the Senate. "The votes may not be there right now but I intend to find them in the coming months," Obama told an audience at Carnegie Mellon University. "I will continue to make the case for a clean energy future wherever and whenever I can and I will work with anyone to get this done. And we will get it done."

For the full Associated Press article go to:
http://www.ohio.com/news/break_news/95441379.html.

Reid Pushes to Move Energy Bill in July

On the day after Obama's Pittsburgh speech, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid "alerted Senate committee chairmen that he plans to move comprehensive energy legislation in July. Reid asked the chairmen to recommend legislation to deal with the Gulf oil spill before July 4 so that leaders can include those ideas in the comprehensive energy package. Reid has said he would meet with his committee chairmen next week to discuss how to proceed on energy reform. He has said he would then convene a meeting of the entire caucus dur-

ing the week of June 14 to talk about it."

For the full article go to:
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/101307-reid-pushes-to-move-energy-bill-in-july>.

Seattle "Moms in Tennis Shoes 'On It' Day In and Day Out"

In a letter published in the *West Seattle Herald*, Beth Doglio and Terri Glaberson explain that, "We are two moms in tennis shoes beating the pavement to reduce our community's carbon footprint with a fierce determination to leave a healthier planet for our children. Whether it be working to encourage other moms to find less energy intensive ways to cart kids around, run a household or pass policies aimed at curbing global warming, we're on it day in and day out. The debate in the U.S. Senate is finally in full swing about the policy we need — a cap on carbon. Senator Cantwell has introduced the CLEAR Act and Senator Kerry has introduced the American Power Act. For our children's sake, we're counting on our Senators Murray and Cantwell to continue their relentless work in pressing their colleagues to pass a comprehensive climate bill this year."

For the full letter go to:
<http://www.westseattleherald.com/2010/06/01/letters-editor/beat-pavement>.

Flathead, Montana Residents Press Their Senators on Climate Change Bill

In an article in the May 23rd *Flathead Beacon* about local residents traveling to Washington to lobby their Senators, Kyla Wiens is quoted in support of the cap-and-dividend approach: "The Montana Environmental Information Center [does not] see the Kerry-Lieberman bill as the best climate change legislation

in Congress at present. We definitely agree with the goals in the bill, which is to reduce carbon emissions," said Kyla Wiens, who tracks federal climate bills for Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC). "Beyond that, we don't like the way that it's structured. The MEIC has long favored a 'cap-and-dividend' approach, where a price is set on carbon emissions and all proceeds go back to the public."

For the full article go to:
http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/in_d.c._flat-head_residents_press_senators_on_climate_change_bill/17798.

MIT Study Analyzes "Distributional Implications of Alternative U.S. Greenhouse Gas Control Measures"

A just-released, 48-page study by the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change looks at the impacts of "recently proposed legislation includ[ing] the Waxman-Markey House bill, the similar Kerry-Boxer bill in the Senate that has been replaced by a Kerry-Lieberman draft bill, and the Cantwell-Collins Senate bill that takes a different approach to revenue allocation. We consider allocation schemes motivated by these recent proposals applied to a comprehensive national cap-and-trade system."

For the full study go to:
<http://globalchange.mit.edu/files/document/MITJSPGCRpt185.pdf>.

CCAN encourages readers of the *Cap-and-Dividend Policy Update* to distribute it to others who might be interested. We welcome input on the contents of this publication and ideas for what could be included. Send to Ted Glick at ted@chesapeakeclimate.org. To find out more about CCAN go to <http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org>.

HAITIAN FARMERS COMMIT TO BURNING MONSANTO HYBRID SEEDS

By Beverly Bell, excerpt
truthout.org, May 18, 2010

Submitted by Kermit Leibensperger, Sykesville, Maryland with this note from the man who sent it to him, Vic Sadot (a singer-songwriter based in Berkeley, California, best known for his tribute song to the late-great Phil Ochs, *Broadside Balladeer*): Ahhh!!!! You gotta love grassroots people's intelligent resistance like this! Bravo Chavannes Jean-Baptiste and the Peasant Movement of Papay, Haiti!!! Read on! Pass it on! And carry it on!

"A new earthquake" is what peasant farmer leader Chavannes Jean-Baptiste of the Peasant Movement of Papay (MPP) called the news that Monsanto will be donating 60,000 seed sacks (475 tons) of hybrid corn seeds and vegetable seeds, some of them treated with highly toxic pesticides. The MPP has committed to burning Monsanto's seeds and called for a march to protest the corporation's presence in Haiti on June 4, for World Environment Day.

In an open letter sent May 14, Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the executive director of MPP and the spokesperson for the National Peasant Movement of the Congress of Papay (MPNKP), called the entry of Monsanto seeds into Haiti "a very strong attack on small agriculture, on farmers, on biodiversity, on Creole seeds . . . and on what is left of our environment in Haiti." Haitian social movements have been vocal in their opposition to agribusiness imports of seeds and food, which

undermines local production with local seed stocks. They have expressed special concern about the import of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

For now, without a law regulating the use of GMOs in Haiti, the Ministry of Agriculture rejected Monsanto's offer of Roundup Ready GMOs seeds. In an email exchange, a Monsanto representative assured the Ministry of Agriculture that the seeds being donated are not GMOs.

Elizabeth Vancil, Monsanto's director of development initiatives, called the news that the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture approved the donation "a fabulous Easter gift" in an April email.

Monsanto is known for aggressively pushing seeds, especially GMOs seeds, in both the global North and South, including through highly restrictive technology agreements with farmers who are not always made fully aware of what they are signing.

According to interviews by this writer with representatives of Mexican small farmer organizations, they then find themselves forced to buy Monsanto seeds each year, under conditions they find onerous and at costs they sometimes cannot afford.

The hybrid corn seeds Monsanto has donated to Haiti are treated with the fungicide Maxim XO, and the calypso tomato seeds are treated with thiram. Thiram belongs to a highly toxic class of chemicals called ethylene bisdithiocarbamates (EBDCs). Results of tests of EBDCs on mice and rats caused concern to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which then ordered a special review. The EPA deter-



Photo from Creative Commons
"People in the U.S need to help us produce, not give us food and seeds. They're ruining our chance to support ourselves," said farmer Jonas Deronzil of a peasant cooperative in Haiti.

mined that EBDC-treated plants are so dangerous to agricultural workers that they must wear special protective clothing when handling them. Pesticides containing thiram must contain a special warning label, the EPA ruled. The EPA also barred marketing of the chemicals for many home garden products because it assumes that most gardeners do not have adequately protective clothing. Monsanto's passing mention of thiram to Ministry of Agriculture officials in an email contained no explanation of the dangers, nor any offer of special clothing or training for those who will be farming with the toxic seeds.

Haitian social movements' concern is not just about the dangers of the chemicals and the

possibility of future GMOs imports. They claim that the future of Haiti depends on local production with local food for local consumption, in what is called food sovereignty. Monsanto's arrival in Haiti, they say, is a further threat to this.

Monsanto's history has long drawn ire from environmentalists, health advocates and small farmers going back to its production of Agent Orange during the Vietnam war. Exposure to Agent Orange has caused cancer in an untold number of U.S. veterans and the Vietnamese government claims that 400,000 Vietnamese people were killed or disabled by Agent Orange and 500,000 children were born with birth defects as a result of their exposure . . .

Klamath River Deal Not Perfect

By Sean Stevens, Communications Associate, Oregon Wild
Portland, Oregon (Letter to *Earth Island Journal*, Summer 2010), excerpt

All that was missing from Jacques Lelie's report on the recent Klamath River settlement ("Rough Water," reprinted in OE April and May,) was a chorus of Kumbaya. Leslie weaves a story of former bitter enemies — Native Americans, farmers, ranchers — coming together to find solutions after years of fighting and calamity. The love-fest is so complete that not a single voice of opposition is allowed into the discussion.

Those of us who have worked in the Klamath Basin know that he story is more complex and that the deal signed in February has major flaws. While most stakeholders want dam removal, local environmentalists and the Hoopa Valley Tribe wouldn't sign the deal because of troubling provisions that would lock in commercial agriculture on Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges and leave too little water in the river for threatened salmon.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF MOTHER EARTH

Introduction from Community and Environmental Legal Defense Fund, Chambersburg PA:

We wanted to share an update with you from Bolivia where Associate Director Mari Margil just returned from speaking at the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth. The Conference was hosted by Bolivia in response to the failed talks at Copenhagen as a way to set a new stage for the climate negotiations with the developing nations playing a stronger and larger role. Bolivian President Evo Morales has also begun talking about the Rights of Mother Earth — *los derechos de la Madre Tierra* — and proposed that the Conference produce a **Declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth** for presentation to the U.N. General Assembly for its consideration. Building on our work in the U.S. and in Ecuador, and now in other parts of the world, helping to draft and adopt the first Rights of Nature laws, we went to the Conference to help draft the Declaration. The final version follows. Here is a link to an interview from the Conference: <http://friendfeed.com/oneworldtv/990dc8ae/margil-celdf-at-world-people-climate>.

Preamble

We, the peoples and nations of Earth:

- Considering that we are all part of Mother Earth, an indivisible, living community of interrelated and interdependent beings with a common destiny;
- Gratefully acknowledging that Mother Earth is the source of life, nourishment and learning and provides everything we need to live well;
- Recognizing that the capitalist system and all forms of depredation, exploitation, abuse and contamination have caused great destruction, degradation and disruption of Mother Earth, putting life as we know it today at risk through phenomena such as climate change;
- Convinced that in an interdependent living community it is not possible to recognize the rights of only human beings without causing an imbalance within Mother Earth;
- Affirming that to guarantee human rights it is necessary to recognize and defend the rights of Mother Earth and all beings in her and that there are existing cultures, practices and laws that do so;
- Conscious of the urgency of taking decisive, collective action to transform structures and systems that cause climate change and other threats to Mother Earth;
- **Proclaim this Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth** and call on the General Assembly of the United Nation to adopt it, as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations of the world, and to the end that every individual and institution takes responsibility for promoting through teaching, education and consciousness-raising, respect for the rights recognized in this Declaration and ensure through prompt and progressive measures and mechanisms, national and international, their universal and effective recognition and observance among all peoples and States in the world.

Article 1. Mother Earth

- (1) Mother Earth is a living being.
- (2) Mother Earth is a unique, indivisible, self-regulating community of interrelated beings that sustains, contains and reproduces all beings.
- (3) Each being is defined by its relationships as an integral part of Mother Earth.
- (4) The inherent rights of Mother Earth are inalienable in that they arise from the same source as existence.

- (5) Mother Earth and all beings are entitled to all the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration without distinction of any kind, such as may be made between organic and inorganic beings, species, origin, use to human beings or any other status.
- (6) Just as human beings have human rights, all other beings also have rights which are specific to their species or kind and appropriate for their role and function within the communities within which they exist.
- (7) The rights of each being are limited by the rights of other beings and any conflict between their rights must be resolved in a way that maintains the integrity, balance and health of Mother Earth.

Article 2. Inherent Rights of Mother Earth

- (1) Mother Earth and all beings of which she is composed have the following inherent rights:
 - (a) the right to life and to exist;
 - (b) the right to be respected;
 - (c) the right to continue their vital cycles and processes free from human disruptions;
 - (d) the right to maintain their identity and integrity as a distinct, self-regulating and interrelated being;
 - (e) the right to (clean) water as a source of life;
 - (f) the right to clean air;
 - (g) the right to integral health;
 - (h) the right to be free from contamination, pollution and toxic or radioactive waste;
 - (i) the right to not have its genetic structure modified or disrupted in a manner that threatens its integrity or vitality and healthy functioning; and
 - (j) the right to full and prompt restoration the violation of the rights recognized in this Declaration caused by human activities.
- (2) Each being has the right to a place and to play its role in Mother Earth for her harmonious functioning.
- (3) Every being has the right to wellbeing and to live free from torture or cruel treatment by human beings.

Article 3. Obligations of Human Beings to Mother Earth

- (1) Every human being is responsible for respecting and living in harmony with Mother Earth.
- (2) Human beings, all States and all public and private institutions must:
 - (a) Act in accordance with the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
 - (b) Recognize and promote the full implementation and enforcement of the rights and obligations recognized in this Declaration;
 - (c) Promote and participate in learning, analysis, interpretation and communication about how to live in harmony with Mother Earth in accordance with this Declaration;
 - (d) Ensure that the pursuit of human wellbeing contributes to the wellbeing of Mother Earth, now and in the future;
 - (e) Establish and apply effective norms and laws for the defense, protection and conservation of the rights of Mother Earth;
 - (f) Respect, protect, conserve and, where necessary, restore the integrity of the vital ecological cycles, processes and balances of Mother Earth;
 - (g) Guarantee that the damages caused by human violations of the inherent rights recognized in this Declaration are rectified and that those responsible are held accountable for restoring the integrity and health of Mother Earth;
 - (h) Empower human beings and institutions to defend the rights of Mother Earth and of all beings;
 - (i) Establish precautionary and restrictive measures to prevent human activities from causing species extinction, the destruction of ecosystems or the disruption of ecological cycles;
 - (j) Guarantee peace and eliminate nuclear, chemical and biological weapons;
 - (k) Promote and support practices of respect for Mother Earth and all beings in accordance with their own cultures, traditions and customs; and
 - (l) Promote economic systems that are in harmony with Mother Earth and in accordance with the rights recognized in this Declaration.

Article 4. Definitions

- (1) The term "being" includes ecosystems, natural communities, species and all other natural entities which exist as part of Mother Earth.
- (2) Nothing in this Declaration restricts the recognition of other inherent rights of all beings or specified beings.

Municipality Rejects State Preemption

Pennsylvania Community Rights Network, May 5, 2010

PACKER TOWNSHIP, Pennsylvania — The Board of Supervisors for Packer Township voted unanimously on May 4th to adopt an ordinance that enables the municipality to enact and enforce environmental protection standards exceeding those set by the State legislature. Passage of the ordinance follows in the wake of Pennsylvania Attorney General Thomas Corbett's lawsuit to overturn an ordinance adopted in 2008 which bans corporate sewage sludge dumping within the Township.

The new Ordinance asserts that the, "Passage of laws overriding local zoning and land use planning through the Municipalities Planning Code, laws preempting local control over water withdrawals, laws prohibiting communities from regulating or controlling genetically modified seeds and crops, laws eliminating local control over agricultural operations and laws eliminating local control over the land application of sewage sludge, have violated the right of Packer Township residents to govern their own community. The people of Packer Township declare that the building of a sustainable Packer Township requires not only the outright nullification of the doctrine of preemption when it prohibits the people of Packer Township from adopting higher standards than those set forth in state law, but also requires the

people of Packer Township to refuse to recognize the authority of the Attorney General or the courts when those entities attempt to enforce the legislature's illegitimate acts."

The Board voted to implement the Ordinance following a ruling by the Commonwealth Court on March 17th that let stand all but one provision of the Packer Township Sludge Ordinance, adopted in 2008. Packer Township had amended their sludge ordinance to refuse to recognize the authority of the attorney general to enforce state laws that violate community self-governing rights.

It was this provision that the court chose to overturn. Tom Gerhard, Chair of the Packer Township Board of Supervisors, said that, "We know we're pulling the tiger's tail but it's not a question of which branch of government is more powerful; it's a matter of right and wrong. It's about justice and the denial of justice by the state, the legislature, the courts and the attorney general."

In another municipal sludge ordinance case, Corbett's office had argued that, "There is no inalienable right to local self-government." (Corbett vs. East Brunswick, January 31, 2008) Claiming authority to sue to overturn the entire Packer Township Sludge Ordinance, Attorney General Thomas Corbett filed suit against Packer and on behalf of corporate waste haulers in August of 2009. The attorney general requested the court nullify the Ordinance without going to trial and that the panel of judges find the Ordinance

void as a matter of law.

The opinion filed on March 17th of this year stated that, "Corbett's Motion for Summary Relief is granted with respect to the amendment removing the authority of the Attorney General to enforce state law. The Motion for Summary Relief is denied with respect to all remaining issues."

How quickly the sewage sludge ordinance lawsuit moves forward in a politically packed year is up to the office of the attorney general. The state's claim that dumping sewage sludge in rural communities is a "normal agricultural activity" protected by the state's "Right to Farm" law will be one of the questions of fact before the court, as will the question of who has the right to govern in the municipalities of Pennsylvania — corporate Boards of Directors and state regulatory agencies or the people who live and raise families in those communities.

The case is Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Packer Township, 432 MD 2009.

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, located in Chambersburg, PA has been working with people in Pennsylvania since 1995 to assert their fundamental rights to democratic local self-governance and to enact laws which end destructive and rights-denying corporate action aided and abetted by state and federal governments.

CONTACT: Ben Price, 717-254-3233 or BenGPrice@aol.com.



Photo from SeaShellWorld.com

Alabaster Murex sea shell.

This is a poem about the disappearance of beautiful things and yet the need for insight that their loss gives us.

the frivolity of logs and sticks in the river
flashing towards Boom-siding
cut out and tossed from the wilderness
to become writing paper in a world
that is eyeless, but where meaning is
hidden in the windings of murex shells

By Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada

Make Everyday an Earth Day ... and Fight Like Hell

By Frank Joseph Smecker
Richmond, Vermont

Forty times now, Earth Day has come and gone. Four decades of enviro-stewarding celebration and still a damn mess, this dominant culture has marched closer to planetary collapse ever so stridently over the last 40 years. This year, E-Day was rung in with an oil platform off the coast of New Orleans, ablaze like a birthday candle out of control, oil sloshing into the Gulf; and a diffused chemical rainbow displacing the pelagic blue of the Atlantic waters. This is far from irony — a malefic boner ascribed to the inherent destructiveness of the dominant culture and its insanely irrational operating instructions.

Over all these years, the voracity of civilization's appetite has remained insatiate, devouring cultures of people; animal species aplenty; densely contiguous forests; ancient coral reefs; entire oceans; ranges of mountains; masses of majestic glaciers; systems of rivers, brooks, streams and other watersheds; hundreds of feet of topsoil; earthworm populations ... the list is long and expanding.

Unless we finally put forth a threshold at which point we turn every day into an Earth Day and begin fighting back in defense against the very system of violence that is invariably destroying the natural places we rely on for our very survival — i.e. our sources of food, water, air and relationships — the dominant culture will devour this planet whole, along with

everyone on it (human and non-human). You can count on that.

It is impossible to provide substantiating evidence proving differently. Year after successive year, analysis shows more species gone, more preventable cancer rates ascending, more ecological and climatic havoc caused to the planet, etc etc.

Here in Vermont one could drink from the mountain streams no more than fifty years ago. These days you'd be a fool to attempt it without some kind of water-purifying mechanism. Unless action is taken to reverse the démodé trend of globalization and latter's ensuing planetary destruction, the next generations may not even have running water to purify. Apparently.

In this postmodern era of globalization (which is really the extenuation of colonialism or better yet, the management of postcolonial assets perpetrated and secured by the violence of Empire and its omniscient program euphemized as "civilization"), it's important to see the concessions for what they really are.

Let's start with the Internet. For example, Google's search engine isn't some benevolent ethereal wish-granter. Server plants require tremendous amounts of energy to allow search engines to function. Every Google search, every Yahoo! search — at the click of a mouse — requires the burning of fossil fuels. The amount of CO₂ released into the atmosphere by server plants rivals that of the car-manufacturing

Continued on next page

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Views

Earth Psalms: Song 37

By Angela Magara ©
www.angelamagara.com



Don't worry.
Envy no one until the end is seen.
For the pride of grass drops into the hay mows.
All the power of life falls to the next surging forth.

Trust to the goodness of your life.
Listen to your longings for prophecy.
Commit to the clear lake and
Truth riding the wind.
And the Sun will speak — the Moon will sing for renewal.
Sit before beauty and ugliness until their alchemy makes gold.

Cease waging anger, forsake hatred, release revenge.
For fruit will be borne upon the branch.
Yet a while we wait and grow,
Yet a while until love is understood in the bones.

For the path of anger can lead only to torment.
Plotting will not avail against Peace.
Her mouth is open and song spirals forth.
Know joy, know release.
Peace is singing now and nothing will stand that does not bend.

Once young, now old;
Never have I seen rage yield rest,
Nor the caress of death not blossom into joy.
There is no end to the patience of Life to be.
Wait this moment, and this, until recompense comes.

Little is enough.
And more waits to flow from Her breast.
Inherit the Earth.

Earth Psalms is full of familiar words spoken in a new voice based on the Biblical Psalms but with the heart of Earth-based spirituality. Printed with the author's permission.

in the sun
hot on the porch
blue wicker
looks like the warm summer sky

By Sandy Chilcote, Newfoundland, Canada



Image from Office Publisher

ENCOUNTERS WITH WONDER *Bay Betrothal*

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

Ocean waves are horses with foaming mouths, ridden by witches wielding reins of seaweed. So say the Mapuche people of Chile and who should know better? On a map, their land looks like a long thin blade of seagrass flung shoreward by the vast Pacific. Waves could be an angry Na-maka-o-kaha'i, Hawaiian goddess of the sea. Or a capricious Neptune, prodding at the surface with his trident to make a spot of trouble for some sailors.

Such stories came to me yesterday as I paced a shell-strewn beach, plucking at words, trying to describe to myself the look of sunlight on the Chesapeake Bay's wind-ruffled water. Gleam, glitter, sparkle? No, jewels are too inert. Dance, laugh, play? That's better, more alive, but what about awe and reverence for something totally beyond, utterly other? Something I can never hope to possess or control, can only aspire to meet, greet, encounter.

That's when I felt it, a primal need to populate those mysterious waves with beings divine or demonic and, like the surf so sibilant at my feet, half-remembered legends lapped the edges of my mind.

Later, I perched atop a wild spume of silvering driftwood. Amidst a flurry of screeches and clicks, a tern had coaxed its fledgling to a piling just off shore. She would skim the glistening ripples, swoop up, fall down straight as a plumb bob, disap-

pear with a splash then reappear in an skyward zoom, fish secured in her beak.

With a flurry of shrieks and screams, a young girl ran to, then from, to and from, to and from the water where it shimmied onto sand. Her father grabbed her, hoisted her up onto his back, then the mother took a snapshot of the pair. A white-haired couple plodded along, their white-haired dog racing ahead in a flurry of barks and yips, chasing a lone, white gull.

Zest of Chesapeake, above and below? From my sea-sculpted seat I pictured some of the bay's more exotic denizens. The exuberant bristles and paddle-shaped feet of the clam worm. The prickly bumps of starfish skeleton, poking out through the skin of radiating starfish arms. And, needing neither witch rider nor seaweed reins, our very own hippocampus erectus, the lined seahorse.

Could a more improbable creature be imagined? A horse's head, a kangaroo's pouch, a fish's fins, a lizard's eyes, a dinosaur's bony plates, a monkey's prehensile tail, a chameleon's wardrobe and wafting, skin-like appendages that imitate algae to fool predators. They have no teeth, no stomach, and scarf up four thousand brine shrimp a day. Seahorses mate for life and only males get pregnant. Every morning of their wedded life, the blissful couple greets each other by linking tails, twirling around, changing colors, then dancing off in opposite directions.

A friend just gave me a maga-

zine that is celebrating the beginning of summer by offering a guide to the pleasures of the season. I looked the word up in the dictionary. 'Pleasure' means 'the enjoyment of what is good' and I thought, "Wow, those seahorses are onto something." How about getting up every morning and meeting the day with a zestful swirl, a colorful, impassioned twirl? We are, after all, improbable creatures, spirits wed to clay, divine sparks flung on the wood of this world in hopes of a fine, bright conflagration or maybe it's a joyous dance our maker had in mind?

As I left the beach yesterday, a pair of swans alighted on the tidal pool. Partners for life, they say, although sometimes swans cheat, reneging on their commitment to each other. I said a little prayer to bolster my own commitment to fishing terns and shrieking children, old folks, dogs, gulls. Light playing tag with the sparkling water. Waves laughing themselves onto shore. All the sweet and, yes, the sour this day, this life shall offer.

We are very, very good together.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of Know the Way and Writing the Wave, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWritingCenter.com). Her essay collection, Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons, is forthcoming in September from Veriditas Books. "Bay Betrothal" first appeared in the 6/21/07 issue of Bay Weekly.

Make Everyday an Earth Day ... and Fight Like Hell

Continued from page 9

industry. Too, there are riparian server plants along the Colombia River. Chinook salmon are disappearing from this river. And what about computers? These gadgets use 1500 kg of water and 10 times their own mass in fossil fuels and other chemicals and then some in their manufacturing process. To go paperless is not to 'Go Green.'

Then there's coltan (columbite tantalite) that, refined to tantalum, is necessary for capacitors, which store an electrical charge in every electronic device imaginable (e.g. laptops, DVD players, cellular telephones [yes, even your iPhone boyz'ngalz], Playstations and so on). The mining of coltan along the "Democratic" Republic of Congo/Rwandan border has been behind seemingly endless civil war between tribes, claiming more than five million lives. Prepubescent children are handed guns and forced to partake in the raping and murdering of entire village communities. Mining for this mineral is also erasing the Eastern Lowland Gorilla from the planet. All this beautiful life is being lost in exchange for a

cheap handset, for another pixel-in-motion PS3 RPG, or for that stupid iPad or something...

The construction of undersea cables disrupts the benthic ecosystems of ocean floors. Cell towers and their wacky electromagnetic waves are killing migratory songbirds. Technological advancement requires cheap energy. We are running out of cheap energy. Besides, cheap energy may be a bargain in the pecuniary sense but it's costing us real physical life on a grand scale.

It's true that globalization is "making it easy for anyone to do remote development," rejoices the imbecile Thomas Friedman. But what that really means is corporate CEOs can now manage their industrial plants in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, China, Indonesia, India, Nicaragua, et al from the comforts of their own homes, offices and conference rooms without having to witness first-hand the environmental degradation they are causing or the abject living conditions they are creating: the despoliation of water and air quality, the acidification of ocean waters, the lengthening of the endangered species list, the birth defects of children, the civil unrest and hunger, the wars

being fought, women being raped, subsistence and small-scale farmers crying, thousand-year-old trees toppled, chopped — vanished. They don't see the polar bears drowning in gelid waters, a tragic end to the search for food in an area rapidly melting on account of this culture's negligent indulgence in fossil fuels and industrial production.

Or, on a more domestic front, King Coal doesn't notice the tops of mountains missing in Appalachia — its CEO's too busy teeing-off on the golf courses that replace them. These f**kers only notice the large subsidies the U.S. supplies them; they don't hear the heavy sobs of distressed mothers piercing the darkest hours of the night as they cradle in their laps children who are coughing incessantly and choking violently on their own spittle, suffering from blue-baby syndrome caused from inhaled coal ash. King Coal execs don't care about the more than 750 miles of watershed choking on the detritus of mountaintops, scarring the miraculous matrix of organic processes and symbiotic relationships synecdochically known as the "web-of-life."

Meanwhile, when inundating floods aren't shuffling toxic

coal-slurry everywhere, drought continues to plague the surrounding Appalachian regions and the water-bottle industry persists in extracting copious amounts of groundwater faster than can be replaced by the hydrologic cycle. The bottled water is then sold to exploited miners who work all day, who live in abject poverty, while Texas burns all the coal to power death row, where they hold the record in executions of mentally ill prisoners.

Globalization has affluenced the upper hierarchy, while below, people and forests die and disappear. Ninety-five percent of North America's original forests have been clear-cut. Gone. And every stream and river in the continental U.S. contains carcinogenic material. What once was a population of 60 million "genetically pure" buffalo grazing the Great Plains has been decimated to a federally-controlled population of less than 15,000. The rate of species extinction is presumably 10,000 times faster than what has historically been recorded as normal and there is a trash-vortex the size of the continental U.S. drifting in the Pacific.

Essayist and novelist Arundhati Roy reveals that overseas,

the Indian government let 63 million tons of grain rot while twelve million tons were "exported and sold at a subsidized price the Indian government was not willing to offer the Indian poor." Since 1989, police and security forces have killed approximately 80,000 people in Kashmir. Women have been gang-raped by security forces; Muslims and Sikhs have been beaten and murdered and in the police stations it isn't rare to see: "people being forced to drink urine to being stripped, humiliated, given electric shocks, burned with cigarette butts, having iron rods put up their anuses to being beaten and kicked to death," writes A. Roy.

The abovementioned atrocities, all of them, have been employed under the auspices of ambiguous and dubious anti-terrorism acts such as POTA (Prevention of Terrorism Act), the Armed Forces Powers Act and more (similar to the domestic PATRIOT Act and the Homeland Security Act).

To paraphrase Roy, such acts allow security forces to charge individuals as "terrorists" (while corporate private enterprises and governments back the removal of people by force to dismantle intact fecund land-

bases, mind you) for: acting out civil disobedience; speaking out against and/or petitioning the establishment; opposition to free trade, privatization and globalization; alongside other varieties of dissent against the establishment, capitalism, Western ethics and/or for just being poor. Even young children have been imprisoned and held without bail under POTA.

Meanwhile, CEOs, shareholders, developers and (obviously) private and national security forces inflict massive violence on citizens and land without any accountability. (Think back to the horrific 1984 incident in Bhopal when poisonous gas leaked from a U.S.-owned pesticide company — Union Carbide, now DOW — killing thousands of people, perseverating in the psychopathy of hyper-exploitation to funnel resources back to the epicenters of "culture" and growth.)

Where's the justice? It is found in resistance to global corporate privatization and in defense of a rekindled love for the natural world we are a part of. Make every day an Earth Day and fight like hell for the future of this planet.

Step 1: Start deglobalizing and begin relocalizing.

Backlash to Palin's Nature TV

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 18, 2010 (ENS) — Discovery Communications has acquired the global rights to "Sarah Palin's Alaska," a new eight-part documentary series about the controversial former Alaska Governor and Republican vice-presidential candidate and the natural resources of her home state.

Slated to run on the cable TV network TLC, according to the March 25 announcement, the series will be executive produced by Emmy-award winner Mark Burnett, who produced the programs "Survivor" and "Eco-Challenge."

"Compelling" is the buzzword being used to promote the Palin shows.

"We are confident "Sarah Palin's Alaska" will be another compelling television event," said TLC's president and general manager, Eileen O'Neill.

Burnett said, "With a dynamic personality that has captivated millions, I can't think of anyone more compelling than Sarah Palin to tell the story of Alaska."

But before a single episode is aired, there was negative backlash from environmental groups.

Many are outraged that Palin would do a "nature" documentary about the state of Alaska when as governor she supported Alaska's policy of allowing people to shoot wolves from airplanes and sued the federal government for listing polar bears as threatened by climate change.

Palin has said she is concerned that the 2008 listing will block oil and gas development in environmentally fragile areas. She supports oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and calls concerns over global warming "doomsday scare tactics pushed by an environmental priesthood."

The U.S. branch of the international non-profit Friends of the Earth felt compelled to respond to the announcement of the series "by sending a message to Discovery — that it is alienating much of its potential audience by giving Palin a show — and to send that message in an unconventional way, through haiku poetry."

Haiku is a Japanese form of brief and simple poetry expressing a new view of situations through natural and seasonal images.

Friends of the Earth members and supporters from around the world submitted more than 3,600 haiku. Friends of the Earth staff selected 10 of those haiku and asked members and Web site visitors to vote for the best one.

The winning haiku will top the pile of all the haiku submissions that Friends of the Earth will deliver to Discovery Channel's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Here are the top 10 haiku as selected by Friends of the Earth staff.

Winner: Lee Rowan (Columbus, Ohio)

Palin's Alaska:
Oil spills, animal corpses
Naught to Discover

Other Finalists:

Honor Alaska
Let the wolf in sheep's clothing
Represent it not
By Angellah Petruso (San Pedro, California)

Oil road to nowhere
Striking down wolves from the sky
Dark Discovery
By Emily Vitori (Cincinnati, Ohio)

Sarah Palin's mud
Discovery, clear water
Why blacken good things?
By Anonymous

Red drops on white snow
A thousand howling deaths reaps
A million dollars
By Craig Nazor (Austin, Texas)

Unholy marriage
Discovery and Palin
Perhaps annulment?
By David Powell (Edmonds, Washington)

See the pretty bear?
Alaska's precious wildlife!
Now kids, lock and load
By Patricia (Jupiter, Florida)

Her fiery voice
Melts the Earth's icy glaciers
Sugar-dipped poison
By Laura Koulish (New York, New York)

I can see Russia
A nice view from my Hummer!
What global warming?
By Stacy Ehrlich (Arlington, Virginia)

Oh, Sarah Palin
No environmentalist
Get off my TV
By Anonymous (Tucson, Arizona)

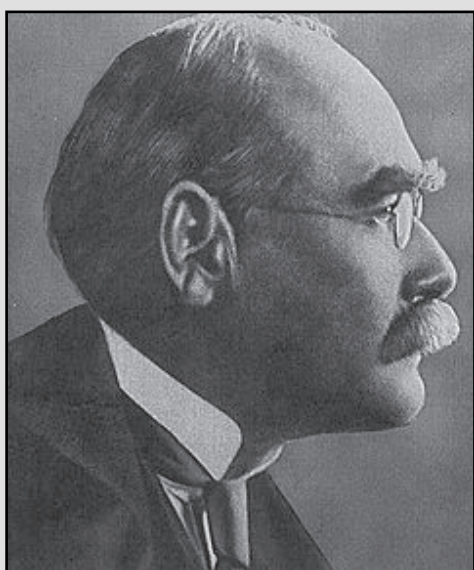


Photo from Wikipedia
Rudyard Kipling (1865 to 1936) won the Nobel Prize in 1907.

If

Note from the Publisher: *Al Fry sent this from Good Old Days, March 2008. It was at the end of an article Grace Thompson had written in which she says, "No matter that the poem ended with the line, 'You'll be a man, my son.' I was sure the author also intended his poetic advice for women." She then added this thought: "I wonder how many readers of Good Old Days remember reading it in school. And I wonder if they, like me, wish it could be required reading for students today."*

By Rudyard Kipling
Submitted by Al Fry
Garden Valley, Idaho

If you can keep you head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowances for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream
—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think
—and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet the triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!";

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings — nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With 60 seconds' worth of distance run —
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And — which is more — you'll be a Man my son!



*Everybody is on a path.
What you think about the
most tells you which path
you are on. The best path
is the spiritual one.
It's the only one
that helps you
become a Human Being.*



From Earthbridge Newsletter
May 2010

Monkey Business: Better Business Practices Learned Through Monkeys

One Thing

By Heather Wandell
Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary
Woodstock, Maryland

This day was like just about any other day at Frisky's. As a Wildlife Rehabilitator and caregiver to 23 pet primates, Colleen was rushing around, filling water bottles and passing out fruit. She had a couple of volunteers stuffing envelopes for her on the front porch for an upcoming mailing.

Spring and summer are particularly busy seasons for a Wildlife Rehabilitator due to the amount of motherless baby rabbits, squirrels and birds that come in daily. It would not be unusual to get in 14 babies that need care in a single day. Often they are so young that they still need bowel and bladder encouragement, which is usually the job of the mother.

Colleen's able and quick hands were moving at record pace to replace Babe's water bottle. Babe, a 12-year-old female Weeper Capuchin Monkey, weighing 9 1/2 pounds, was even quicker. Wanting Colleen to slow down and visit with her a while, she reached out and grabbed hold of the spaghetti strap on the summer top she was wearing. As Colleen pulled away in surprise, Babe pulled harder on the strap; within seconds, Babe was holding the entire shredded top inside of her enclosure and was looking quite pleased with her accomplishment.

Now Colleen is one of the most selfless, hardworking and giving people I know — but never had I actually seen her "give the shirt off her back."

As the stars, the moon and the sun would have it at that moment, a car pulled up on the other side of the fence to drop off some donations. All that was between Colleen and the generous person on the other side of the fence were some privacy slats; but if one really wanted to peek in, there are some definite gaps to do so. Colleen grabbed two paper towels that were within reach and yelled, "I'll be there in a moment!"

Reflecting on this event and expecting some sympathy from me, she realized what lesson Babe had taught her. Rushing often ends up slowing us down in the end.

What Colleen did not know, was that I had asked the Universe for a good laugh that day!

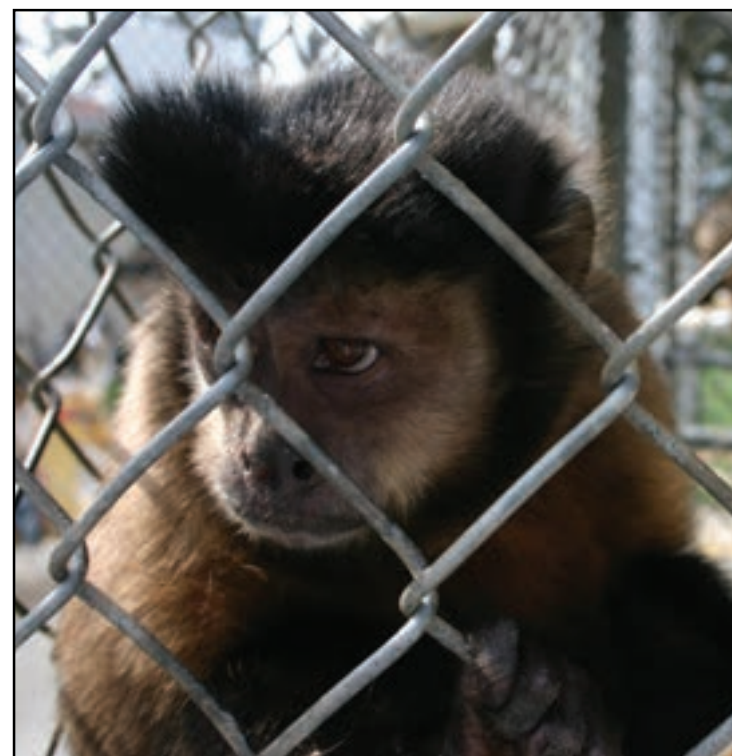


Photo by Colleen Layton-Robbins
Babe, a 12-year-old Capuchin monkey, helps her caretakers learn how to slow down and do one thing at a time.

Even if I am only doing one thing, my mind is often onto what it is I have to do next. I do not think Colleen and I are the only ones to try doing several things at once. Thich Naht Hanh, in his book *Peace Is Every Step*, offers daily mindfulness practices. Here is one way that he offers of practicing being fully present in all that you do:

If I am incapable of washing dishes joyfully, if I want to finish them quickly so that I can go have dessert, I will not feel the warmth of the water on my hands or each movement of my hands. And I will be equally incapable of enjoying my dessert. With fork in hand, I will be thinking about what to do next and the texture and the flavor of the dessert, together with the pleasure of eating it, will be lost. I will always be dragged into the future, never able to live in the present moment.

I once had to journal around the practice of Doing One Thing At a Time for a class on Stillness at the Tai Sophia Acupuncture Institute. At first it was extremely painful. I was catching myself doing things like eating breakfast and writing my To Do list at the same time. Oops! That is two things! By the end of a couple of days of allowing myself to do just one thing at a time, I was still accomplishing everything that needed to be done and I was

much less overwhelmed.

So try this at work (or at home). Do not answer or read emails while you are on hold on the phone. Notice your breathing instead. Do not make copies while you are making coffee; do not answer your cell phone while you are in conversation with someone else; do not eat lunch while you are working on a report; do not sit and stuff envelopes while you are in a meeting.

I recommend trying this for a couple of days. The first day may have you on the brink of insanity. If you can get through that, you can eventually relax into it (or because of it!).

If you are still having a hard time, we will let you replace Babe's water bottle.

Heather Wandell is a Certified Laughter Leader with the World Laughter Tour and is the CEO of her own company, Another Way To See It (www.anotherwaytoseeit.com). Heather is also the Director of Community Outreach at Frisky's Wildlife and Primate Sanctuary in Woodstock, Maryland (www.friskys.org). She can be reached at haw@anotherwaytoseeit.com. Please e-mail Heather if you would like to receive this column monthly by e-mail. Copyright © Another Way To See It 2009.

All truths are easy to understand
once they are discovered;
the point is to discover them.

Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

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Image from Office Publisher

Will the Happy Apple Blossom Co-op be co-opted by big oil? Our ongoing series to give our readers a laugh in this otherwise not-so-funny world these days.

Mark's Green Party Saving the Co-Op: Part VI Will Latonya Foil the Big Oil Takeover?

By Mark Lautman
Rockville, Maryland

Sugar Spike pulled up in front of the Happy Apple Blossom Co-Op. He gazed at the unpaved parking lot, the broken windows, the noisy refrigerator compressor and the unhinged door.

"This place is worth \$300 million?" he wondered to himself.

Sugar Spike belonged to the civilized world where people are content to drive 45 minutes each way to work, and sit in a cubicle hypnotized by blinking fluorescent light bulbs. Spike felt very comfortable in that world, as most people do. It's a convenient lifestyle. Putting two quarters into a vending machine gets you a power bar with enough daily vitamins to sustain an elephant. That's much easier than hunting, gathering or getting relatives to vote for green candidates.

Sugar Spike's day had started with a call from his boss. "Spike, a wealthy oil heiress called and said that she thinks there is a reservoir under the Happy Apple Blossom Co-Op off Interstate 76. It's your job to buy them out at the lowest price possible. Don't let them know that we're going to turn around and drill the place into honeycomb. It's a co-op, so they might live by principles or something like that."

Sugar Spike was his boss's best salesman. Like a chameleon, he changed his demeanor to match that of his interlocutors, effusing congeniality and confidence. During his last assignment, he grew his hair into a ponytail, bought old jeans and unloaded 20 pallets of high-sugar energy drink at the annual Myerstown Vegan Convention. For this job, he figured he'd act like a buyer from a large organic food distributor, close the deal with the oblivious co-op members and be back at a donut shop by lunchtime.

He walked through the creaky front door and came across Tincture Alice.

"Excuse me, may I talk to the person in charge here?" he asked.

"Well," said Tincture Alice, "there's nobody really in charge here. We work together, without rank or ego. We respect each other as people, as equal children of God. In our store, we are all buds on the same broccoli crown."

"Who tells you what to do every day?" asked Sugar Spike firmly.

"That would be Latonya Rotterdam. I'll go get her."

Tincture Alice retreated from Sugar Spike, sensing something in his aura that meant trouble. She returned a minute later with Latonya Rotterdam.

"I'm Latonya, the manager of this co-op. What can I do for you?"

"Good morning, Ms. Rotterdam. My name is Spike. I'm a buyer for a large organic outfit in Baltimore. I've been studying your operation here for several months. I'd like to buy it to take it to the next level."

"Thank you for the offer, Spike, but this establishment isn't for sale. As you can see, we barely make enough money to keep up the building."

"Not to mention the telecom infrastructure," blurted Tincture Alice. "The dial on the rotary phone has been broken for months!"

"That's why I'm here," said Sugar Spike. "My partners and I are willing to take this entire headache off your hands for one-hundred-thousand dollars."

"Latonya," whispered Tincture Alice, "how many rotary dials can we buy for a hundred-thousand dollars?"

What Sugar Spike didn't know was that Latonya Rotterdam was herself a recent

refugee from the civilized world. She had managed a large sales organization, traveled the world in first-class airplane seats and slept in five-star hotels, drunk gallons of exotic coffees — and had the fatigued nervous system to prove it. Since taking over at the Happy Apple Blossom Co-Op, she worked fewer hours, got along with people better and she felt her body move with the natural rhythm of the seasons instead of the natural rhythm of interstate traffic jams. Nevertheless, substituting Aunt Chloe's Apple Cider for caffeinated drinks didn't dull her memories of the business world. When a buyer came around using words like "next level," "partners" and "one-hundred-thousand dollars," she knew something was up.

"Spike, what exactly is your background in organic produce?" she asked.

"I have lots of experience with ... uh ... carrots," he replied. "I like them best when they're washed in soapy water, peeled, chopped, boiled, salted and diluted in a 1:100 solution of chocolate sauce."

"Someone like yourself with all that carrot experience is probably hungry. Why don't we step into the corporate dining room?"

"Ms. Rotterdam," whispered Tincture Alice, "we don't have a corporate dining room."

"Alice, I'll take Spike to the corporate dining room that we opened twenty seconds ago behind the fruit juices and you go bring a sample of those nice fresh vegetables that Kim Anderson delivered this morning. I'd like Sugar Spike to have some refreshments while we negotiate."

Rotterdam turned to Sugar Spike. "Spike, I'd be happy to sell you our co-op but it has to be to the right organization. We're very loyal to our customers who have certain expectations about what they buy and how a business is run. Pardon me for asking but would you replace our locally grown produce with stuff grown farther than 100 miles away?"

"Ms. Rotterdam, I can assure you that we won't be selling any produce grown more than 100 miles away."

"Would you continue to pay a living wage to the employees?"

"You have my word that if things work out as I expect, everyone involved will be making quite a bit more than a living wage."

Rotterdam took a long hard look at Sugar Spike. His demeanor, tone and promises allayed her initial suspicions. "Maybe he really is honest," she thought to herself.

There was another consideration — while her tenure at the co-op had helped her physical and mental well being, she was getting tired of the daily struggle being the co-op's manager. With \$100,000 she could pay off the co-op's loan, buy a more energy-efficient building in a better location, hire more workers and enjoy running a co-op.

"Spike, it's a deal," she said as they sat down at a table in the dining room. "Let's draw up the terms and I'll bring it to the co-op's board for approval. They almost always follow my recommendations so we should be able to finalize the deal in a few days."

Will Latonya discover who Sugar Spike really is? Will she unwittingly sell the co-op to an oil exploration firm? Do power bars really have enough vitamins to sustain an elephant?

Find out in the next issue of *The Order of the Earth!*

Mark Lautman writes humorous articles on technology and the holistic lifestyle.

Let Us Hear it for Lettuce!

By Valerie Stanley
Laurel, Maryland

Lettuce gets a very bad rap from people who think it is a boring, tasteless, nutritionless vegetable. They just don't understand! (At this point, I will concede that iceberg lettuce does fit this description.) Look at a growing lettuce plant and one sees God's handiwork and amazing beauty. But lettuce isn't just beautiful — it's a powerhouse of nutrition. Have a lettuce salad for lunch or add a few whole leaves of leaf lettuce on a sandwich and see what kind of energy you have to get you through the afternoon and evening!

The most common types of lettuce are: iceberg, butter, romaine, Oak leaf (red, green or bronze colored leaves) and watercress. Less well-known lettuces include: mesclun, mizuma and lamb's lettuce.

While visiting the salad bar at Whole Foods recently, I came across the ANDI scoring system. ANDI stands for Aggregate Nutrient Density Index. Patented by Eat Right America senior medical advisor and author of *Eat for Life*, Dr. Joel Fuhrman, the ANDI scoring system measures an "extensive range of food factors including vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals and antioxidant capacities based on an equal number of calories for each food." See www.eatrightamerica.com/andi-superfoods/full-andi-scoring.

Two different lettuces appear on Dr. Fuhrman's "Top Thirty Superfoods" — romaine and watercress. One can easily make a yummy salad by adding the following items from the Top Thirty list: spinach broccoli, red pepper, tomato, strawberries, beans, seeds, pistachio nuts, tofu and walnuts.

For many people, lettuce salads are synonymous with Ranch Dressing. However, Ranch Dressing is high in fat and dairy. Here is a recipe for a vegan Ranch Dressing — you needn't use tofu, soy milk or a soy mayonnaise starter for this one. So, enjoy your nutrient-dense lettuce salad with a healthier dressing!



Photo by Kathryn Susman

Red Leaf Lettuce in author's garden.

Vegan Ranch Dressing

From the Sunny Raw Kitchen Web site.

Soak time: 1-2 hours
Preparation time: 5 Minutes
Number of Servings: 24 (or 3 cups)

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups nuts (cashew or macadamia or combo) soak them for a creamier dressing (1-2 hours is fine, then drain)
3/4 - 1 cup filtered water for blending
3 tablespoons lemon juice (translates into approximately 1/2 lemon)
1/3 cup cider vinegar
1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons agave* (or 3 soaked dates)
2 cloves garlic
1 teaspoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 teaspoon dill
1 tablespoon sea salt
1/2 teaspoon fresh basil

Add after it's done:

1/4 cup finely minced parsley and another 1/2 teaspoon dill, minced

Directions:

Blend all ingredients till creamy and smooth except the last two, then once blended, stir in the parsley and dill. Thickens in fridge. Thin to desired consistency if using as a dressing or toss into wet lettuce leaves as is.

*Agave is a tropical plant used as a sweetener.

Four Demands the Green Party is Making to Halt Natural Gas Drilling in Pennsylvania

By Jay Sweeney
Green Party of Pennsylvania newsletter
Spring 2010

On Earth Day, April 22, activists from the Green Party of Pennsylvania and other groups gathered outside each of the regional offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to call as one for the following demands:

- An immediate moratorium on all horizontal hydrofracturing ("fracking") in the Commonwealth, including our state forests and floodplains,
- An immediate freeze on all new

Marcellus Shale drilling permits throughout Pennsylvania,

- The immediate suspension of the authority of the Delaware River Basin Commission and Susquehanna River Basin Commission to approve drilling-related water withdrawals anywhere in Pennsylvania, and, if necessary,
- The unconditional resignation of DEP Secretary John Hanger.

The 1970s saw passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency. Beginning in the 1980s, however, large Earth Day events have been dominated by cor-

porations with little grassroots input and limited citizen involvement.

Today, gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale utilizing horizontal hydrofracturing is a serious and growing threat to the precious clean waters and majestic state forests of our Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania's Constitution states that, "All power is inherent in the people." It is time to come together as one to protect our Commonwealth's public natural resources and to renew the promise of the first Earth Day.

To learn more about actions in your part of the state, contact Jay Sweeney, jnin@epix.net or 570-587-3603.



Photo: Flickr User danielfoster437)
A natural gas drill in Shreveport, Louisiana. From 4/20 ProPublica article by Abrahm Lustgarten.

Watch the Horrors of Natural Gas Drilling For Yourself

From: tillman4council@aol.com
Sent: Friday, June 11, 2010
To: Tillman4council@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: VIDEO: Water contaminated by Devon Energy Hydraulic Fracturing

See link below regarding contaminated water from a DISH, Texas resident. We officially have seen the absolute worst that this industry is capable of.

Calvin Tillman
Mayor, DISH, Texas
(940) 453-3640

VIDEO: Water contaminated by Devon Energy hydraulic fracturing. This is the Smith's well in DISH, Texas. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KqFsR4HQpk>

Filmy water vexes family Yesterday I went over there and took the video.

Sharon Wilson, Blog <http://txsharon.blogspot.com/>
(In North Texas on top of the Barnett Shale)

"Those who say it can not be done, should get out of the way of those that are doing it."

Grassroots Power

Arranging My Own Burial

"Bury me on my farm" sounds easy, right? Think again. Not easy but possible.

Women's Breakfast Talk May 20, 2010

By Barbara Knox
Sandy Spring, Maryland

I often talk about my farm in Pennsylvania. I bought it in 1991 for my retirement years and retired there two years later. I lived there full time until I went to Friends House Community in Maryland four years ago. I was so happy at my farm and loved it so much, with its acres of wooded hills, its streams, valleys and meadows, that I couldn't imagine ever leaving it. I planned to die and be buried there.

Some seven or eight years ago I wrote a poem about being buried there. When it was finished it won a prize in a small, local writing contest. It's called "Grave Tree."

When friends ask me why not cremation, I say, "I'd rather be compost than air pollution. I want to be a tree."

I found out that the local authorities would have to approve a private-property burial so I went to the township supervisors' meeting and asked for their permission. They were skeptical, shaking their heads. "What if everyone wants to do that? Won't it spread diseases?"

I said, "Everyone won't want to do it. They like the formal viewing in a beautiful casket at Browns Funeral Home and the procession to their church cemetery or to Cemetery Hill. And Pennsylvania law says that if you die of an infectious disease, you have to be embalmed." They were still skeptical. So I said, "You're all farmers. What do you do when your animals die? You bury them on your farm, right?" After a long pause, Clyde Cisney, the head supervisor said, "Well, you can do it until we pass an ordinance regulating burials."

Later the township solicitor, Charlie Bierbach, told me that he had drawn up an ordinance for them about home burials but that they hadn't passed it yet. I decided to wait and hope they forgot about it.

Charlie was one of the few Democrats in the county. I'd met him as guest speaker at a Friends of the Library meeting. He was quite a tease and would tell me my township had passed the ordinance requiring a cement vault. I would then check with the township secretary and he would say they hadn't passed it yet. Sometimes I'd see Charlie having lunch in Boxers, a popular sandwich shop and pub in downtown Hunt-

ingdon that was near his law office. He'd invite me to his table and buy me lunch.

My Green Party friend, Tom Linzey, a lawyer in the next county, was getting ordinances passed prohibiting large, corporate farms ("factory farms") in several other counties. I thought these ordinances were great. I opposed "factory farms" and was glad to see them being outlawed.

Charlie would argue with me about whether Tom's ordinances were legal. Charlie said they weren't. He said, "They won't stand up in court. Tom's crazy."

I said, "Tom thinks you're the crazy one." It was friendly banter and teasing and Charlie became my friend. He would tell other friends of mine that he "loved" me — yeah, loved to tease me! So I would call his secretary now and then to check on the status of the burial ordinance. No action so far.

A year ago in January my adult children's father died. I watched our children struggle with problems their father left behind after he died. For example, they couldn't find the key to his safe deposit box and his bank wanted \$600 to open it. He had named an executor who claimed he didn't know he was to serve in that capacity and refused to do it. The alternate he had named did do it but was very unhappy about it. He had not been asked first, either.

I decided to do everything I possibly could to make my own death easier for my kids. It took weeks but I updated my powers of attorney, completed an advanced directive, wrote a new will and deposited it with the County Register of Wills. I gave copies of these documents to the necessary people. I gave my daughter, Margaret, who lives near me now and will be my executor, the power to handle my bank account and finances before I die if I can't do these things any longer for myself.

Then I made lists: lists of people to be notified of my death, of who is to get some of my special belongings not included in my will, subscriptions to cancel, my assets, liabilities and medical information, who my doctors and lawyers are, where everything they could need is located — insurance information, investments, information for the death certificate and obituary, suggestions for a graveside service at the farm and a memorial service at Friends House if they wished to have them. My handyman and good friend, Keith, volunteered to build a wood coffin for me to be buried in on my farm. He has measured me and bought the lumber. He plans to rent a backhoe to dig my grave when the time comes.

But the most difficult part has been arranging for a home burial at my farm. Funeral directors insist



The Grave Tree

She wanted to become a tree gradually, have tree roots absorb her decomposing body. So they buried her like a fish in a hill of corn, a seedling oak to mark her grave. Her neighbors explained,

"She didn't want proper burial. Wanted to be compost. Wasn't from around here." They bought cemetery plots.

She imagined seedlings she had planted foresting hills, leaves filtering hawk-patrolled skies, freshwater mussels restored to the creek. She had planted warmer climate trees, too.

They said, "World warming? I like warm winters. Summers I just turn the AC colder."

Possible Outcomes?

I. Heat suffocates once lush valleys. Parching winds strip her oak. Skeleton tree roots cease probing for water.

"Our deepest wells are goin' dry. Never did that before," they say.

II. It thunders like great buildings collapsing; a deafening bolt streaks down her oak. Sap boils, exploding branches, exposing white wood. Forced to the forest floor, its roots claw the air.

They say, "Worst storm in memory. But always had crazy weather here."

III. When her hills are timbered, her tree is spared as a grave marker. "You should respect the dead," they agree. Another flood plunges down clear-cut slopes; mud rivers surge, pick up brush and boulders. The little lone tree is battered, then buried alive.

"Folks need places to live." They build a new development.

IV. Bulldozers gouge a road. Whining chainsaws tag after. Chickadee scolds as the saw cuts through her tree, harvesting timber.

"It was just an old woman's dream." They get paid for the sale. The money blows green in the hot, dry wind.

that they are the only ones who can get a death certificate and a burial transit permit with it. The complete death certificate is four pages and includes the burial transit permit. I called several funeral homes in this area and one in the nearest town to my farm. They wanted from two to three thousand dollars to take my body on a three-hour drive to my farm!! I finally got in writing from the Maryland Depart-

ment of Health, with backup legal papers, the assurance that a family member may get the complete death certificate from the doctor and transport the body themselves for burial. We have two pickup trucks in my family locally and my handyman has one, too. I got copies for my children of a book on home burials by Lisa Carlson that includes relevant laws in all of the states and I showed my children a

I Never Expected . . .

I never expected my dead self to feel being washed, being dressed, being wound in a sheet, then placed in the earth in a box made of wood, with a tree at my head and a stone at my feet.

I thought that one's consciousness ended with death. So I hoped for my body to nourish a tree. For me it was good to be buried right here, in this permanent place I had chosen to be.

For a time I was sleeping while being absorbed. I was slowly becoming the seedling white oak. I felt sunshine and breezes that ruffled my leaves; felt my roots deeply anchored as soon as I woke.

My own children, their children, great-grandchildren came. They all marveled to see such a fine, handsome oak. My son and his friends would bring offerings to me; and daughters laid flowers and cried when they spoke.

I endured bitter winds, savored soft falling snows. As the years fell away my old friends came less often. There were times when they talked of the deaths of my children, and one day they brought a great grandchild's small coffin.

After eons I noticed my bark had grown rough. Dead branches blew down; I kept losing my balance when storm winds blew hard. I no longer could stretch to reach down for my food, with my roots in abeyance.

After hundreds of years as a sentient tree I now know I will never be permanent here. Will I know I'm the termite a woodpecker eats, or the hawk that's digesting a bird that was near?

Will memories come back of the lives I have led as a chipmunk or river or firestorm in space, all I've been since the wondrous beginning of time? Will I ever engage the divine face to face?

video on the topic called A Family Undertaking and listed Web sites where they can get more information.

I called Charlie and asked him to please send me a copy of the ordinance about home burials that he had drawn up those few years ago for the township that they still hadn't passed. He did. There was nothing in the proposed ordinance, just reasonable things like the distance from water and property lines and marking it as a grave and family cemetery.

When it was clear to me that I really had to have official permission, I wrote the township, asking them to authorize my burial on my farm, assuring them that my family will follow the ordinance whether they pass it or not. I persuaded Charlie to deliver the letter to them — a smart move because, although he made it clear that he was neutral, he didn't advise them against it. It was his job to advise them against it if he saw a problem. In response they approved my home burial, then passed a new ordi-

nance requiring burial in a vault but exempted me, in writing, from that new requirement.

I think my end of life preparations are finally complete, except for revisions as needed. Well, and then there is the job of getting rid of a lot of my junk, both at my retirement apartment and at my farm.

Soon after I moved to Maryland I wrote another poem, a poem about a different kind of reincarnation that I wish for myself. I can't say I believe that it will happen the way I imagine in my poem. This is the poem that will be in the summer issue of *The Little Patuxent Review*, an issue with the theme Spirituality.

I wrote "I Never Expected" in the poetry form called anapestic tetrameter. This form is ordinarily used for light, even comic subjects, not about death. A common example that you know is the form of "Twas The Night Before Christmas."

You can be the judge of whether it works in my poem for you.

Funeral and Cemetery Industry Challenged To Do More Environmentally

YORK, U.K./NANAIMO, B.C., Canada, June 1, 2010 — WORLD-WIRE — Two colleagues have taken an international approach to reducing the environmental risks associated with disposing of human remains.

John Cossham of York, UK and Rory Rickwood of Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada have launched a new Web site that identifies problems and argues that society is not working hard enough to find solutions to the relatively taboo subject of an impending ecological disaster involving the practice of cremation and traditional burials.

Their new Web site, www.novaterium.com, presents a worldwide directory of green burial sites and green funeral information. Symbolizing the need to find new methods for disposing of human remains is the newly created word, "Novaterium" from the Latin "nova," meaning "new," and "cometerium," a tract of land for burials.

"We are not working hard enough to reduce the risks associated with cremation and traditional burials," said Rickwood. "We developed the Novaterium Web site to expose the ecological issue facing us and to challenge the funeral and cemetery indus-

try to provide environmentally sound services."

Wikipedia reports that roughly 150,000 people die each day across the globe, 54 million each year. There is evidence that cremation and traditional burial practices can cause ecological damage.

In 1988, *The New York Times* forewarned that cemeteries were running out of space. In the UK about 70% of funerals are cremations due to a growing lack of space in church graveyards and urban cemeteries. The cremation process uses between 50 to 120 cubic meters of natural gas to incinerate the coffin with the

body inside. It has been estimated that there are 400 kg (882 pounds) of CO₂ emissions released into the atmosphere with one cremation event and crematoria can release other pollutants when incinerating surgical implants and mercury from tooth fillings.

Traditional burials use valuable, often urban, land and have their own air pollution footprint due to the depth of burial, creating anaerobic conditions meaning the corpse decays to methane, another greenhouse gas. Additionally, wooden caskets may be imported rainforest timber or may be reconstituted

boards using glues and varnishes, which may pollute groundwater or add to crematoria emissions.

According to Cossham, the funeral and cemetery industries are in the best position to move to greener methods when providing services to the public. "New technology could make funerals less polluting and some greener alternatives are already available, although not yet widely used," said Cossham. "Our Novaterium Web site tries to answer the question, 'What are the alternatives to traditional burial and cremation?'"

The Novaterium Web site will keep the public updated on the

progress on green funeral solutions and will continue to encourage the funeral and cemetery industries to lobby for regulatory changes that will allow them to offer more eco-friendly services to the public.

For more information please contact:

John Cossham
johncosshamonlyone@gmail.com

Telephone: International +011.44.1904.422344, UK Regional 01904.422344
www.novaterium.com

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Photo by Bud Korotzer

One American woman with messages for everyone: Eva-Lee Baird for the Granny Peace Brigade.

Grandmothers' Anti-War Protests in Sixth Year

By Byard Duncan

AlterNet.org, May 7, 2010

The *New York Times* today is reporting on a lesser-known Big Apple tradition — one that has nothing to do with hot dogs, Broadway or spitting obscenities at strangers.

For the last 330 Wednesdays, a group of elderly women (and a couple of elderly men) have met on Fifth Avenue to protest the American presence in Iraq and Afghanistan. The demonstrations began January 14, 2004 and are still going strong.

On a gorgeous afternoon, the avenue was crowded. Most peo-

ple walked by briskly without giving the protesters a glance. One or two slowed down long enough to call the demonstration misguided. But more than a few expressed approval. A young woman went down the line telling each protester, "I really appreciate what you're doing." Another woman, Anna Ungaro, was in town from Jersey City and had free time before an appointment. She joined the group.

Tourists stopped to take pictures, as if the grannies were just one more New York attraction. Ms. Heinz could have lived without that. "It's hard to have people pat you on the head," she said.

"We get people saying we're cute. This isn't about being cute."

Damn straight. Some of these people can barely stand yet they've been showing up in the same spot for six years.

When was the last time you saw a group of young people working this hard — being this patiently persistent — about peace? Then again, when was the last time you heard a 23-year-old say, "I don't want to say at the end of my life that I didn't stand up for peace and justice?"

It's been a while. Here's to hoping activism doesn't skip a generation. Or three.

Grannie Groups Spotted at Random on the Web: Grannies, Get Off Your Fannies — There is Work to Do

Granny Peace Brigade

Peace Walking on Mother's Day

We like chocolate just fine but we want peace — NOW.

So the Granny Peace Brigade and CodePink set out on our 4th Annual Mother's Day stroll to take back the day. Julia Ward Howe started the whole thing in 1870 with her Mother's Day Proclamation and we carry her words in our hearts today: 'Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice.'

Start a re-truthment campaign at a military recruitment center near you:

- Hold your own Phone-A-Thon.
- Work on counter recruitment with us or with a group near you.
- Join our legislative campaign. Call your Senators and your Representative. Send them peace-mail messages regularly.
- Keep us informed about what you are doing.

Join our Smart Toys Campaign.

Children need smart toys, not war toys. The Granny Peace Brigade takes this message to Target in Brooklyn for a grass-roots, granny-powered consumer education project. A U.S. Army veteran with a 4-year-old son tells of his concern that he will be unable to counteract the messages of war directed at his son by movies, television and our government.

We welcome all ages, women and men; grannypeacebrigade.org.

Grandmothers for Peace International

Grandmothers for Peace (GFP) International is composed of volunteers from all over the globe.

One does not have to be a biological grandmother to join or even be a certain age! Just share our philosophy of making the world a better place for this and future generations. Membership is open to all. We even have a Men's Auxiliary!

We are grassroots activists and encourage others to become as actively involved as their health and time permit. Join our efforts to address the issues of violence and injustice that continue to plague our planet and the human family. The abolition of nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction remain a top priority.

We believe it is imperative to foster in the next generation of world leaders the principles of non-violence and responsibility for their community and the world. We welcome the "stay at home" grandparents who care for and guide their grandchildren in these principles.

Membership dues and donations from supporters are the "life blood" of our organization. We have no corporate sponsorship. All monies go directly to our work. Publishing and mailing our International Newsletter, plus other informational materials remain our biggest expenses. Our Scholarship Program and humanitarian efforts are made possible through fund-raising appeal letters. Every cent goes directly

to the purpose of the donation. The generosity of our members and supporters has kept our work alive since our founding in 1982!

Before her passing in 2001, Barbara asked Lorraine Krofchok to continue the vision of GFP. Lorraine says: "I did not take over, I am taking care of a beloved organization. As we move into the 21st century, our challenges increase. Now, more than ever, we need each other! Remember, 'Silence is affirmation...'"

Please join us — by your membership or a donation — you will be making a very wise investment with tremendous dividends. The greatest legacy we could leave our families would be a safer, saner world!

Keep Poking the Bear

(The Gas-Drilling Bear, That Is)

By Calvin Tillman

Mayor, DISH Texas (From talk in PA)

There have been a lot of my friends in the industry who have found it necessary to begin aggressive personal attacks on me. Several industry publications, such as the *Powell Barnett Shale Newsletter* have had articles and editorials stating that I am pretty much everything but a nice person. This activity is not new; however, the intensity has been elevated and it has gotten much more personal.

This tells me that I must be making an impact or they would not attack me personally. This also tells me that they have given up on attacking the message; now they are only attacking the man.

Obviously, anyone who would bother to read the *Powell Newsletter* knows that it is industry funded. As everyone also knows by now, I do not accept compensation or travel expenses for my presentations and, unfortunately, those at the *Powell Newsletter* can't say the same. They are in all reality paid cheerleaders for the natural gas industry...

Frankly, if the industry wants to truly be successful they would embrace the ideas that I bring forward, which are doing business in a respectful and responsible manner. I find that in every presentation I give, there are always a few who show up who have read the propaganda and are looking for a fight; however, after listening to my message, it is apparent that I am not some anti-drilling wacko and the picture that has been painted of me is inaccurate and it is always nice to hear that they agree with my points before they leave.

Everyone knows that the industry has an ugly baby, except for the industry itself. I know it must be difficult to admit your baby is ugly but, like they say about alcoholics, you must first admit you have a problem before can move one. Instead this industry continues to deny their baby is ugly.

There is really no doubt for anyone who has accomplished even a small amount of research that there is certainly a downside to this industry. If this downside is not mitigated in some manner we will be looking at a mess that will need to be cleaned up down the road when all of these companies are long gone. As history has shown us, these companies are typically nowhere to be found when it comes time to clean up the mess. That cleanup project is left for the citizens and taxpayers, not the companies who made billions making the mess. The industry will outsource this cost to the hard working American people, just as they try to do for all of their costs.

The industry wants us to believe that they are a fledgling industry who cannot afford to take simple measures needed to make the (Marcellus) shale plays a win-win situation. I think that most of us know that this industry spends billions lobbying to

prevent it from being mandated to do it right; therefore, they could and should do this process more responsibly and respectfully.

They are picking the pockets of the citizens of Pennsylvania who will be paying for the mistakes made by their elected officials for many years to come. This state is one of two that have oil and gas activities and do not have a severance tax for the minerals. They pay this tax in every other state and will gladly pay it in Pennsylvania but continue to lobby for the outsourcing of their costs to the taxpayers. This could be billions when it is all said and done but, as it stands now, the billions will come from hard-working Pennsylvania taxpayers.

Every location that has natural gas exploration in Pennsylvania has something in common and that is destroyed roads. Instead of being the good neighbor we keep hearing about, they outsource the cost of the road repair to the taxpayers. However, these small communities simply can't afford to pay the hundreds of thousands of dollars in road repairs... therefore, the citizens in these areas drive on destroyed roads, worse than I have ever seen. If the natural gas industry wanted to improve their image, they should embrace a severance tax in Pennsylvania instead of chasing me around the country.

As the oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico shows, we are one wrong move from a catastrophic event. As any good Texan does, I really enjoy my Gulf shrimp. Unfortunately, thanks to the reckless actions of this industry, it will likely be several years before I can enjoy it again. That is not the bad part though; the bad part is that something similar will happen here before this is over. It is only a matter of time before we have that catastrophic event somewhere in one the shale plays. However, in the shale plays they have put this hazardous activity in school yards and neighborhoods. So guess what is going to happen when the catastrophe happens here? There will be a lot of dead people.

The last editorial written by Gene the "propaganda machine" Powell himself, was entitled "All Hat and No Cattle" (<http://www.barnettshalenews.com/documents/2010/TillmanEditorialAll-Hat4-27-2010.pdf>). I must admit that I do not have any cattle; however, I would like to have cattle but I am afraid they would die or abort their calves, like they do in the small town of Clearville, Pennsylvania, home of Clearville Gas Storage. In this area the hard working Americans have to purchase their own filtration systems to take the high levels of arsenic out of their well water. Most of the surface and ground water has been contaminated by this reckless industry in Clearville.

As one of my new friends in Pennsylvania said, I am the new villain for the industry extremists. They rally around the *Powell*

Newsletter, which gives me an entire section of every issue.

Whatever happens, they blame me for their problems. If a large landowner refuses to sign a one-sided lease, it is my fault. If a community demands that the industry be responsible, it is Calvin Dewayne Tillman's fault. When people rally around the idea of a fair and equitable severance tax — yep, you guessed it — Calvin's fault.

It has nothing to do with the industry that has contaminated dozens of private water wells in Pennsylvania and has destroyed air quality and property values wherever they have been, leaving a path of destruction in their wake. It has nothing to do with the industry that outsources its cost to the taxpayers while its executives make hundreds of millions dollars in bonuses. Nope, those things have no influence on public perception. It is only that mayor of DISH (Calvin Dewayne Tillman) who causes all of this grief for the natural gas industry.

If the industry would be responsible and respectful, instead of searching out a new way to attack me, they would be much better off. However, it appears the more they attack me, the more people come to see what the big deal is. As bad as they hate it, every presentation that I give is to a packed house.

Furthermore, I find dozens more who want me to speak in their town. People want to know the truth through the eyes of someone that has lived it, not a paid cheerleader. I truly wish the industry would do the smart thing and let me help them become responsible and respectful; however, they are going to continue to be the irresponsible bully, blaming me for all of their problems.

Mr. Powell is right on another matter; I have no shortage of arrogance against this industry. Maybe it was my Oklahoma raising or the fact that my parents would not allow me to stand by while a bully ran over those too passive to defend themselves but I am not afraid of this industry and certainly will not be deterred by their personal attacks.

Frankly, seeing this fear that has been struck in these industry extremists keeps me going when my energy has run out. You should see the looks on their faces when I walk over and shake their hand.

So I hope Mr. Powell and the extremists keep "Poking the Bear," regurgitating the same propaganda because, in the end, that may be what forces them to be respectful and responsible and hopefully those companies that chose not to will perish. God bless.

Contact Calvin Tillman at 940-453-3640.

"Those who say it cannot be done should get out of the way of those who are doing it."

D.C. Weapons Cleanup on Front Page of LA Times

Smoking Arsenic Next Door May Drive Pres. Kerwin from Glenbrook Road House in D.C.

By Bob Drogin

Front Page Los Angeles Times
May 10, 2010; excerpt

On March 29 a broken bottle spilled smoke inside the containment tent. Tests show the

fumes came from arsenic trichloride, which is poisonous by inhalation, skin contact or ingestion. Known as "arsenic butter," the compound was used: 1. to boost the lethality of mustard, a blister agent that reportedly caused more than one million casualties in World War I and, 2. to produce lewisite, dubbed the "dew of death," and other chemical warfare agents.

The find was deemed so perilous that work has been halted until Army engineers can determine how to safely proceed.

"The concern is they may find a lot more and there's a real question whether the air pollution controls are adequate," said Paul Chrostowski, an environmental scientist who monitors the cleanup for American University.

Kerwin, the university president, was forced to abandon his home for two years when his yard was dug up. He and his wife moved back last fall after tests showed the hazard was gone. "We may have to change our analysis now," Chrostowski said. "He may have to move again..."

PA DCNR's 'Natural Gas Exploration' Web Page

PA Center for Environmental Education
June 1, 2010 Newsletter

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources presents a new Web page on natural gas exploration on state forest lands. It provides information on the history of state forest gas exploration, managing the impacts of drilling and gas-leasing policy. Visitors may also find out about oil and gas resources, statistics on leased acreage, forest sustainability and more.
For information: PA DCNR-Nat. Gas Exploration in State Forests



Photo Courtesy of Calcars.com

"We at the local level have too much to lose. We will go further and we will make it safe (for politicians) to go further," says former Mayor of Seattle, Greg Nickels.

Five Ideas Shaping National Policy Now

Local governments serve as idea labs for federal lawmakers.

By Douglas Fischer
Daily Climate.org

Call them the Silicon Valley garages of climate policy.

Local efforts to trim emissions, change economies and alter behavior are serving as idea labs where mistakes can be made and novel approaches honed in preparation for setting national climate and energy policy.

These ideas can have a powerful influence in the climate debate, say policy experts: Within the recently released climate bill are many lessons learned in these local laboratories. And as discussion in Congress intensifies, many lawmakers will find themselves pushed by proponents of these municipal efforts to extend their reach to the national stage.

"There's no doubt cities are the place where all these things are being tried," said Julia Parzan, coordinator of the Urban Sustainability Directors' Network, a group of civic leaders dedicated to sharing the experiences of various municipal sustainable development efforts.

"And when they're hitting walls, they're going for (changes in) state policy and federal policy."

Exhibit A is the firestorm of revisions to municipal codes and state laws concerning how residential renewable energy and energy efficiency projects are financed.

It started in the spring of 2007, when staffers for the City of Berkeley, California were casting about for a way to make rooftop solar affordable for a typical homeowner.

The ah-ha moment came as Cisco DeVries, then the top aide to Mayor Tom Bates, was untangling some knots in a neighborhood's push to establish an underground utilities district where homeowners agree to taxes on their properties to bury electric wires and cables.

If homeowners could diffuse the high costs of burying utility lines, DeVries reasoned, they should have the opportunity to do the same for the high up-front costs of putting solar panels on their roofs.

And so a new financing scheme was born. Berkeley pioneered the so-called Property Assessed Clean Energy program, where residents pay for household renewable energy and efficiency improvements over 20 years via a special tax or assessment on their property tax bills.

The idea took off like a brush fire.

DeVries left city government shortly thereafter. He helped launch Renewable Funding in 2008 in Oakland, California with one other person. Today it is a major player in the development of municipal clean-energy financing with 50 employees and offices in six states. It is helping 240 local governments set up similar programs. Twenty states have amended their laws to facilitate such programs: Missouri last week, Minnesota last month; Florida is in the finishing stages.

"There are lots of ideas — good, bad and indifferent — and they never get any traction," said DeVries, who is president of the company. "But then there are moments when a window opens,

and those moments are very powerful."

Only a local government could have given this idea wings, he added. "Nobody else spends their days in the mundane world of land-secured financing districts."

New England offers another example of a regional program shaping national policy.

"There are moments when a window opens and those moments are very powerful."

Cisco DeVries
Renewable Funding

In 2009 ten states agreed to cap their emissions and created the nation's first greenhouse-gas-emissions trading program. It auctioned allowances, created a carbon market and to date has sent \$582 million into the coffers of participating states.

But before this started, the only example of a carbon cap-and-trade program was Europe's, which had seen wild price swings and windfall profits for utilities. The stability of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), as New England's cap-and-trade program is known, silenced those critics and placed it in the foreground of the national discussion on how to run these policies," said Tom Tietenberg, emeritus professor of economics at Colby College in Maine.

"It's been one of the primary reasons auctions are now prominently part of the (climate) bill." Politicians, he added, have no problem spotting RGGI's revenue. "It reduces the negative impact of a carbon bill."

Of course, there are tensions: RGGI has strong regional support in part because it funnels cash back to state coffers. While some states have siphoned that revenue to patch deficits, others — such as Maine — have used it to make significant gains in energy efficiency, far outpacing federal efforts.

But the Senate climate bill as drafted voids regional emissions schemes like RGGI and state efforts like California's. That has raised hackles from local leaders who want to retain control over their own programs and revenue.

City Hall cannot be the sole driver of policy and innovation, even the staunchest local proponents caution. Many municipalities are worried about street lights and police pay. They don't have the resources to map out a comprehensive climate or energy policy.

"The towns that do have really moved the ball," said Kevin McCarty, managing director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. But "many cities are in budget crises. They just don't have the time and money."

Denver makes a good case study.

Last summer the Conference lauded the best climate-protection efforts from the nation's cities. The Denver metro area took top honors for an ambitious program, dubbed FasTracks, to expand light rail and encourage smart growth.

And the plan was ambitious: voters in an eight-county region had agreed in 2004 to a 12-year plan, dubbed FasTracks. It would add 119 miles of light- and com-

muter rail, open 31 new park-ride lots, build 57 new transit stations, expand bus service, redevelop downtown Denver and the land around 51 of the 57 new stops toward transit-oriented housing and businesses. To pay the \$4.7 billion price tag, voters OK'd a 0.4 percent sales tax hike.

Then the recession hit. Project estimates understated the cost by half. Overly rosy projections made the tax hike inadequate to cover costs. Regional consensus is in danger of fragmenting as municipalities bicker over trimming costs and raising money. The Regional Transportation District needs an additional 0.4 percent sales tax jump to complete the project by 2017.

"What has happened to the FasTracks program from a financial standpoint is not unique," said Scott Reed, the Transportation District's assistant general manager for public affairs. "The entire nation is seeing that same type of financial challenge."

But local politicians say they get it. They feel a greater sense of urgency than their national counterparts. And they're closer to both the impacts of climate change and the economics of energy reform.

Speaking in Copenhagen during the United Nations climate talks last year, Melbourne Mayor Robert Doyle described the chaos that paralyzed his government as wildfires licked the city's outskirts during the Southern Hemisphere's summer in January 2009. "If those conditions are what my city is going to have to deal with (in a warmer world), my city is not ready," he said.

Former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels got more than 1,000 U.S. mayors to commit to acting on climate change, a movement that has pushed governors and, in turn, federal lawmakers to facilitate those local efforts. He was with Doyle in Copenhagen to lobby for a global accord. "We at the local level have too much to lose," he said then. "We will go further and we will make it safe (for politicians) to go further."

Back outside Denver, Littleton Mayor Doug Clark didn't pay too much attention to Copenhagen. He's not a part of Nickels' coalition. Nor is he watching the Senate climate talks in D.C. But he sure is looking at his community's bottom-line energy costs.

Clark represents a conservative town of 41,000, mostly commuters, south of Denver. Like many of his voters, he is not so sure he believes this "climate warming stuff."

In March, the Littleton City Council voted against spending \$107,807 to match a federal grant to put solar atop the town's nature center. "It didn't make economic sense," he said.

But Clark likes light-rail. And he's in favor of pushing forward on FasTracks, despite the ballooning costs.

"Some of this stuff makes sense to do just because it's the rational thing to do," he said. "Reducing fuel consumption, switching to cleaner fuels — all that stuff is common-sense smart stuff to do regardless of where you come down on global climate change."

"We don't want to wait for the feds."

DailyClimate.org is a nonprofit news service covering climate change. Reach Daily Climate editor Douglas Fischer at dfischer@dailyclimate.org.

The Awakening

Dear Iona,

A beautiful translation from spirit in "The Awakening" — in order to end war and destruction of the Earth, the human spirit must change.

Thank you again for printing Monkey Business in your paper. I am honored! Frisky's is honored!

I've enclosed a check for postage.

Heather Wandell
Ellicott City, Maryland
(see Monkey Business, page 11)

Oil Spill

Iona,

I was looking at old photos of a trip in the '70s when I was a kid. We went to some strange pre-Disney resort near Orlando, Florida to see the alligators and go fishing with my father.

One of the photos I took with my hand-held Kodak camera was the Holiday Inn we stayed at. Next to it was a Conoco-Phillips gas station. The sign read 61 cents a gallon of gas. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico will no doubt impact the Gold Coast of Florida. Millions of citizens will get an upclose and personal look at our Automobile and Truck Transport excesses.

BP Execs and government regulators share the blame. But it is *we*, the motoring American, that shoulder the blame and the responsibility of cleaning up this mess.

GM had the opportunity 12 years ago to go electric. They scrapped the EVI for the Hummer. Americans bought SUVs and laughed at me while I was riding my bike to work. So we reap what we sow. We naively thought that we could just keep polluting and paving over farmland for our Auto-centric paradise.

Let the Muck Run Up!
Maybe all those pro-business, anti-regulatory yacht owners in Clearwater, Florida will wake up to the fact that an oil-based economy is bad for the environment, the American people and the health of a vibrant, new economy that seeks positive solutions to the challenges of the 21st century.

Great job on *The Order of the Earth*.
Love, Your Friend,
Mark Petersen
Roanoke, Virginia
(see page 1 biking article)

[Ed.: The following is from a reader who responded to a plea for money from a mainstream environmental group in the wake of the disaster.]

From: Allen Hengst
Date: May 5, 2010
To: "Courtney Taylor, Environmental Defense Fund" <takeaction@edf.org>
Subject: Re: Oil Spill Disaster: How I Won't Help

Dear Courtney,

I'm sorry but, IMHO [*in my humble opinion*] your reformist agenda is akin to re-arranging deck chairs of the Titanic. Haliburton and the oil companies responsible for this type of pollution should be sued for every penny they have. Instead of running to help clean up their mess, Environmental Defense Fund corporations out of business once and for all.

Life as we know it on this planet is being threatened by the consumerism they serve. Please take a break, go on a spiritual retreat and re-evaluate your priorities. The hour is growing late

and there is no time left to compromise with the Beast.

Sincerely,
Allen L. Hengst
Washington, D.C.

Our Articles

Dear Iona,

I am expressly impressed with Derrick Jensen's characterization of society's un-civilization practices this month [May]! Once again he has expertly detailed actual operations in our lives, along with describing several more terms used in incarcerated humans' daily encounters with inflamed endgame(s) of our life. Do let Derrick know how much I appreciate his wording of certain situations he illustrated this month, that I parallel myself.

The River-Dams was a good article — enjoyed it, however I could not grasp what the full-page Earth-Based Political Structure was about and how it related was a mystery.*

You KNOW they will never let a third party run again; look how they did Harry Brown, Ron Paul — it will never be fair, FREE elections again . . . Green party, Constitution party, people party or other will never take the control from the Obamasia/Republican platform operators.

Michael Kirkpatrick

Conyngham, Pennsylvania
*The Green political graphics were to indicate political boundaries drawn based on Earth's natural configurations and divisions, not artificial lines drawn ages ago which don't represent anything. With a bio-regional way of thinking, political decisions would more likely be based on what is good for the ecosystem, not just the humans.

Hi Iona,

My favorite article in May is "Silence." Am copying that to send to those who live in the hell of noise in prison. It is one of the worst punishments for them, but the article helps to let them see that silence can be within — I did not need to edit it to get it down to a level where most uneducated inmates can read it. Didn't change anything except to edit out the academic references.

Sunny War Eagle
Marianna, Florida

Dear Iona,

The item on silence was very good and went nicely with the poem — and I agree with it. I spent much of my boyhood in a summer cabin with my grandparents who loved the wildness and lack of running water, electricity and a telephone. Some of my cousins would visit sometimes from the city and be uncomfortable with the darkness and "silence" at night and also with the "noise" of the insects.

Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada
(see Sandy's poems on pages 9 and 10)

Space Ship

Dear Iona,

This morning I had a small group meeting to discuss global warming and civilization. Around 60 ladies from Daegu City area came to the meeting. The group was organized by local government. I like a small group rather than a large one. I said to them, "Mothers are the first teachers for the children in the world and mothers show their children good examples."

I spent an hour and a half for this meeting and we discussed how to make this planet a little bit better and pleasant place.

Do you remember that John

(Conner) had a small group meeting in New Jersey a few years ago? Community members should be involved in the movement, I think.

A rocket needs tons of energy to put a space ship into orbit. The engineers need all kinds of technology and materials to shoot the rocket. They have been working day and night for many and many years. What is the purpose of launching a rocket? It is plain and simple: To put a space ship into orbit.

We human beings are working so hard. What is the main goal of hard work? Maybe peace of mind and soul. Eventually the soul should be separated from physical body as the space ship is separated from the rocket. If it does not, all efforts are fruitless. Nowadays not many people talk about this highly noble philosophy. We have to be free from everything. Then we can embrace everything and love nature and the Universe.

I am lucky to have a sister in the Universe who can see the things beyond our sight.

Pyeong Roh
Daegu, Korea
(see article on page 4)

Special Request

Dear Iona,

May all the blessings of love walk with you all of your days. Thumbs up on your paper. I received your letterhead dated May 10th. Thank you.

If you can I would like (all) back issues and possibly a few extra papers to pass around the prison here in hopes they will buy your paper.

One of the most reasons I am writing today is to wish myself a 42nd year of my birth (born May 21st 1968). Could you please send me any/all resources that you may have there at your office. (Any resources for Pen Pals)? Note: Only 20 pages (regular mail) can be sent per manilla envelope.

Do you know of anywhere that I can sell song/lyrics (unpublished)? I have eight songs on sheet music (lyrics) ready to be sent but to whom??

In Native we say: "Awanyanka Ika Maka" (Protect Mother Earth)

My warmest regards and prayers,
Michael Gaskill
Indian Springs, Nevada

Looking for Pen Pal

My name is Michael Gaskill (#87155). I am not a convict, nor am I an inmate. I simply made (many) mistakes in my life. I am (now) 42 summers old, born under the sun on May 21st, 1968, Native American and Egyptian bloodlines.

I am looking for someone to write to; I am honest and always will be. My weight is between 168 and 171, deep dark brown eyes, long brown hair (sides of my head are shaven) like a wide Mohawk, long hair down my back. I am not choosy about who writes, I will answer all replies.

My birth Native name is Spotted Owl, though I prefer Black Cloud. I do my best from day to day to walk this sacred road that Creation has put me on, one that is a constant struggle.

In Balance and Harmony,
Black Cloud
(Please address letters to me at: Michael Gaskill #87155 High Desert State Prison Post Office Box 650 Indian Springs, Nevada 89070)

News Submitted by Our Readers

Women of the Dirt, Montana

Both articles submitted by Loris Boutwell, Tiger GA from relishmag.com.

Once a month, at varying locations throughout Gallatin Valley in southwest Montana, a group of women gather to talk dirt . . . literally. They're the "Women of the Dirt," 50 women who farm for a living or grow vegetables or raise animals for a hobby. Their monthly potluck meal is where the real bonds are formed. "It's a support group," says organic gardener Kathryn Hainsworth. "We scheme and dream, pitch in and help each other. Check out their blog at HomesteadBlogger.com/womenofthedirt.

See How Their Garden Grows

The four-lane highway running past rows of broccoli and kale may not be a typical garden view but San Francisco's Alemany Farm shows how unused urban land can be transformed into an agricultural oasis. The four-acre space, once an illegal dump, is now an organic farm dedicated to providing produce to the neighborhood's low-income residents who otherwise would not have access to affordable fresh food.

Farmers and volunteers work year-round to tend crops that are donated to senior households, given to volunteer workers and sold at the local farmers' market at prices 30 to 50 percent lower than other markets and grocery stores. It's truly a communal effort with 85 percent of the labor coming from volunteers . . .

Grassroots Power

DOW THROWS A DISMAL PARTY, FEW ATTEND

“Run for Water” Plagued by Death Scenes, Zombies and Dozens of Phony “Dow Spokesmen;” Yet Truth Seemed to Run Free as **The Yes Men Arrived On the Scene**

By Andy Bichlbaum
The Yes Men, April 19, 2010

BROOKLYN, New York — Bucolic Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York played host to a bizarre spectacle on Sunday, as a dramatically under-attended, Dow-sponsored “Run for Water” was infiltrated and turned upside down by hundreds of furious activists, including a hundred dressed as Dow spokespeople.

New Yorkers who came to the park expecting a light run followed by a free concert found themselves unwitting extras in a macabre and chaotic scene as runners keeled over dead, Dow-branded grim reapers chased participants, and a hundred fake Dow representatives harangued other protesters and handed out literature that explained Dow’s green-washing program in frank detail.

The actions called attention to Dow’s toxic legacy in places like India (the Bhopal catastrophe), Vietnam (Agent Orange), Midland Michigan (Dioxin contamination) and to the absurdity of a company with serious water issues all over the world sponsoring the Live Earth Run For Water.

After race cancellations in London, Milan, Berlin and Sweden, on-site Dow brand managers were in damage-control mode. But their job was made harder by the hundred fake “Dow” spokespeople who loudly but clumsily proclaimed Dow’s position (“Our Race! Our Earth!” and “Run for Water! Run for Your Life!”), spoke with many runners, screamed at the other protesters, passed out beautifully-produced literature and, all in all, looked a whole lot better than the real Dow reps, who seemed eager to make themselves scarce.

“I don’t know what’s going on here,” said Tracey Von Sloop, a Queens woman who attended the race. “All I know is these people are both crazy and Dow is f*ing sick. I’m outta here.”

The event was the latest blow to Dow’s green-washing efforts, the most visible element of which is the “Human Element” multi-media advertising campaign, one of the most expensive and successful marketing efforts in recent history. It even won an “Effie Award” for the most effective corporate advertising campaign in North America.

“Effective,” perhaps — but also completely misleading. To name just a few examples of Dow’s water-related issues: Dow refuses to clean up the groundwater in Bhopal, India (site of the largest industrial disaster in human history) committed by Dow’s fully-owned subsidiary, Union Carbide. As a result, children continue to be born there with debilitating birth defects. Dow has also dumped hundreds of millions of pounds of toxic chemical byproducts into wetlands of Louisiana and has even poisoned its own backyard, leaving record levels of dioxins downriver from its global headquarters in Midland, Michigan.

“We thought it must be a joke when we first heard that Dow Chemical Company was sponsoring a run for clean water,” said Yes Woman Whitney Black. “Sadly, it was not. One of the world’s worst polluters trying to green-wash its image instead of taking responsibility for drinking water and ecosystems it has poisoned around the world? What an awfully unfunny way to start off Earth Week. We decided the event needed a little comic relief.”

Irony was piled on irony throughout the race, which Dow absurdly claimed was going to be “the largest solutions-based initiative aimed at solving the global water crisis in history.” At one point, organizers were caught on tape dramatically throwing out excess water left over because of an embarrassingly low turnout.

Groups organizing the action included the Center for Health, Environment and Justice; the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal; New York Whale and Dolphin Action League; the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign; the Wetlands Activism Collective; Global Justice for Animals and the Environment; Kids For a Better Future; The Yes Men and hundreds of assorted volunteers, activists and mischief makers.



One-hundred-twenty people celebrated National Bike Month on May Day by riding through Roanoke, Virginia led by Mayor David Bowers (in the center) flanked by Sheriff Octavia Johnson and state senator Ralph Smith. Blue Ridge Bicycle Club President Wes Wilmer is on the left.

Citizens Celebrate Cycling with Mayor’s Bike Ride

Continued from page 1

poses of the Club are to promote and encourage the use of bicycles for transportation and recreation in southwest Virginia, to support the rights of cyclists, to provide information in the interest of bicycling safety and to promote competitive cycling.

People of all ages and riding abilities rode from Reserve Avenue to the Mayor’s Monument in Elmwood Park. Many of the riders took advantage of the hassle-free bike parking to enjoy the activities, food and music at the Strawberry Festival, the Chili Cookoff, various vendors and shops at the historic city market while enjoying the sounds of the music festival in downtown Roanoke. State Senator Ralph Smith, Councilman Trinkle, city manager Chris Morrill and Drew Densmore from Senator Warner’s office also rode with the Mayor.

Barbara Duerk, ride coordinator, said, “The bicycle culture in Roanoke is changing. More people are choosing to ride bicycles for healthy lifestyles and a gas-free, clean and green transportation choice. Residents in the neighborhoods can access downtown by bike. Residents living downtown can cycle to Valley View on the Lick Run Greenway.”

The League of American Bicyclists recognizes in 2010 SHAREBIKE as a silver-level Bicycling Friendly business and Roanoke City a bronze-level Bicycling Friendly community.

“Roanoke is a great place for biking with its combination of smooth greenways, challenging hills and trails and low traffic, bike-friendly neighborhood streets,” said Mayor David Bowers. “Our biking community has worked hard to achieve this award. We thank the League for recognizing the efforts the City has taken to improve the quality of life for our citizens by support-

ing safer biking, walking and running. Our expanding greenways and off-road trails and our bicycling and running events are making Roanoke one of the best outdoor cities in the country. This designation is exciting and puts Roanoke on the national biking map.”

On Saturday, the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, Inc. awarded 2010 Virginia Bicycling Federation Bicycling Friendly recognitions to Carilion Clinic, Valley Metro, MOJO Café and SHAREBIKE. Individuals recognized for their commitment to bicycling were State Senator John Edwards and Councilman Rupert Cutler.

Virginia Bicycling Federation Bicycling Friendly recognitions were given to the following:

Carilion Clinic — For promoting healthy lifestyle initiatives, sponsoring screening clinics in the downtown market building, financially supporting The Artie (the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club’s annual bike ride) and for Carilion’s involvement in the completion of the Hamilton Section of the Roanoke River Greenway.

Representative Dr. Kipper Nottingham

Valley Metro — For commitment to accommodating cyclists on transit. Valley Metro has placed bike racks on buses. The transit company has incorporated a “Bikes on Buses” policy and provides driver training to share the road with cyclists. This is a national issue that is being dealt with in a proactive manner by Valley Metro. (Sandra Shedwell represented Valley Metro.)

MOJO Café — Owned and operated by Nikki Litwiler and Sybil Barrett is located on Brambleton Avenue. The Blue Ridge Bicycle Club has a 5:30 a.m. training ride from Brambleton. The café always has ready a hot cup of coffee and good food to eat. (Nikki Litwiler accepted the award for

MOJO Café.)

ShareBike — The vision of Ron McCorkle was named by his daughter, Reanna. James Rosar has been involved from the beginning. ShareBike’s goal is to promote sustainable transportation in Roanoke by providing a bicycle library for bicycling advocacy and bikes to rent or borrow currently serving three locations in Roanoke. (Ron McCorkle received the recognition.)

Senator John Edwards — Senate Bill 546 was patroned by Senator John Edwards of Roanoke. This bill specifically mentions the railroads as a limited-liability landowner when they permit recreational users to cross their owned or easement-acquired property for recreational purposes. Though primarily pushed for by the paddlers and fishermen and spearheaded by Roanoke’s Bill Tanger of the Friends of the Rivers of Virginia, the Virginia Bicycling Federation joined the coalition of groups supporting this bill in order to help the railroads remove the “liability” argument they have often used when access along or across their tracks has been requested. (Barbara Duerk represented the Virginia Bicycling Federation for Senator Edwards.)

Councilman Rupert Cutler — Rupert Cutler has championed the bicyclist’s voice on City Council. He has advocated for a downtown connection between the Lick Run Greenway and the Mill Mountain Greenway, initiated dialog for extending the Railwalk to Wise Avenue, spearheaded the Roanoke Valley Kiwanis support for signage along the Lick Run Greenway and requested accountability of city departments for inclusion of bicycle accommodations in road projects and championed Rails with Trails options to connect the Roanoke River Greenway and the Huckleberry Trail.



Mayor David Bowers, a strong cycling advocate, and state senator Ralph Smith.

From Author to Editor

Iowa,

The oil spill in the Gulf is really upsetting me! The reports to Wildlife are coming in and I get so depressed thinking about it. This is the price we pay so that we can drive our lazy asses around town.

I am so upset with Obama — our Turn-Coat President.

According to NPR, American kids can no longer write by hand— texting and Inet are the norm. The report stated that lack of handwriting skills also affects math and comprehension skills. Technology is making our kids stupid!

I hope you enjoyed June — looking forward to the July issue. I understand (your needing to and wanting to take a month off of publishing).

Will send you renewal next payday.

Love, Your Friend,
Mark

It's time to end the stranglehold corporations have on us and our world.

Artwork by David Dees, Jonkoping, Sweden

Note from the Artist: You have not heard much from me lately; I am not doing political art at the moment. I am busy preparing and assembling my first big book of art and it is going to be a doozy. Now, there is a word you don't hear so often but it applies here. I am not holding back — this book will be jam-packed full of the best stuff I have done.

