

The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

March 2009

theorderoftheearth.com

Vol. 9 No. 3 Issue 84: To press 2/20/09

\$1.00

ENOUGH!

14 Arrested Protecting Coal River Mountain

Massey Energy blasting
endangers community:
citizens stage
lock-down

PETTUS, West Virginia, February 3 (Press release from CoalRiverWind.org) — This morning five activists who had chained themselves to a bulldozer and an excavator and one videographer were arrested for trespassing at a mountaintop removal site. By afternoon, dozens of local residents, friends and supporters from throughout Appalachia converged at the mine gate. Eight more citizens were arrested in the afternoon action.

The latest wave of protesters, trained in and committed to non-violence, delivered a letter to mine company officials. The letter, ultimately intended for Massey Energy CEO Don Blankenship, insists that Massey cease the mountaintop removal operation on Coal River Mountain.

Blasting for part of the operation could begin at any time, very close to a nine-billion-gallon toxic coal waste sludge dam called the Brushy Fork Impoundment. Blasting would occur above underground mines close to the dam and the lake of toxic coal waste it impounds.

Instead of mountaintop removal, residents and their supporters are advocating for a wind farm on the site as a safe alternative for cleaner energy and long-term jobs.

"I fear for my friends and all the people living below this coal sludge dam," said Gary Anderson, who lives on the mountain near the site. "Blasting beside the dam, over underground mines, could decimate the valley for miles. The 'experts' said that the Buffalo Creek sludge dam was safe but it failed. They said that the TVA sludge dam was safe but it failed. Massey is setting up an even greater catastrophe here."



Photo by Chad Stevens

Matt Noerpel and Rory McIlmoil, right, chained themselves to an excavator on Marfork Coal Company property. Mountain Justice conducted the action to bring awareness to the mountaintop removal about to begin on Coal River Mountain.

In 1972, a sludge dam operated by Pittston Coal Company failed and killed 125 people in Buffalo Creek, West Virginia. In 2000, a sludge dam operated by Massey Energy in Martin County, Kentucky released approximately 300 million gallons of coal waste that broke through into underground mines. The U.S.E.P.A. called that the worst environmental disaster in the Southeast.

Then, in December 2008, a coal ash sludge impoundment operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority failed near Harriman, Tenn. That disaster released over one billion gallons of toxic sludge that destroyed three homes, damaged twelve more and covered 300 acres.

The Brushy Fork coal sludge impoundment currently contains seven billion gallons and has a nine-billion-gallon capacity.

Residents have lost faith in their state government and taken their plea nationally.

Climate expert James Hansen, the head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said, "President Obama, please look at

Continued on page 8



Photo by Chad Stevens

Activists hung a banner stating "Windmills Not Toxic Spills" from an excavator at an active mine area on Marfork Coal Company property, a subsidiary of Massey Energy.

What YOU Can Do

(Press Release, February 3)
— Please help save Coal River Mountain! Call Governor Manchin at 1-888-438-2731 and/or use our simple form on the Web site below to email the governor.

Today five activists were arrested after locking down to an excavator on Coal River Mountain. They had giant banners that read "Save Coal River Mountain" and "Wind Mills NOT Toxic Spills."

This afternoon, local residents, friends and allies from across Appalachia will gather to demonstrate against Massey Energy's preparation for blasting on Coal River Mountain. Massey's bulldozers have razed a huge mud pit and torn down trees on the mountain, and the first blasts permitted would be next to the world's largest toxic coal slurry impoundment.

That's right, not only is Massey planning to blow up an ideal site for a wind farm but they will risk destabilizing a nine-billion-gallon toxic coal slurry dam.

Coal River Mountain is slated for a 6,600-acre mountaintop removal site but local residents have developed plans for a wind farm there instead. The wind farm would provide over a million dollars more in tax revenue per year than the mountaintop removal site and would provide jobs and clean energy forever.

Citizens have been working to convince West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin to support their plan for their community but they're running out of time.

That's why we need your help! You can join us by calling Governor Manchin at 1-888-438-2731 and/or using our simple Web form to email the governor. Tell him that West Virginia and the nation are ready for a clean energy future and that he MUST Stop the Blasting on Coal River Mountain!

E-mails are great, but calls and donations are better!

The Coal River Mountain
Wind Team

[Ed.: See August to December "OE" at www.theorderoftheearth.com.]

A Vision for Blair Mountain

By Wess Harris

Appalachian Voices, Winter 2008/2009

[Ed.: We ran an exclusive story about Blair Mountain in our December 2008 issue.]

Blair Mountain is a site that is sacred to American labor, so why not claim it as our own? Blair Mountain should become the Blair Mountain Center for the Development of American Labor.

Reclaimed by its rightful owners, the Blair Mountain Center will house a museum dedicated to American mine workers. The museum will be the core of an educational system offering courses by a revolving staff of scholars serving two-year stints in endowed chairs: The Bill Blizzard Chair of Advanced Labor Strategy and Tactics; The Ma Blizzard Chair of

Direct Action; The Don West Chair of Labor Literature; The Pete Seeger Chair of Solidarity Forever; The William C. Blizzard Chair of Labor History; The Harold Houston Chair of Labor Law

Academics accepted to serve at The Center will spend their first year working in the deep mine that will dig the recoverable coal under Blair Mountain.

Scholars surviving their first year will spend the second doing a mixture of teaching and research. Proceeds from the Union mine will pay for the acquisition and development of the mountain. Funds will be set aside to create an endowment that insures the center thrives in both good times and bad.

Tourists will visit portions of the

mine where coal has been removed, thus gaining direct knowledge of digging coal. Daily, week-long and extended seminars will supplement standard museum fare. The Center will also offer tours to historic regional labor history sites such as Eskdale and the Holly Grove Union Burying Ground.

The Blair Mountain Mine — just as our total supply of coal — will one day be mined out. To insure a long future for the Mountains, a special center for the development of alternative energy sources — including model facilities — will be created using union labor and funded by grants from major unions.

Alternative energy scholars and researchers at the center will be ex-

Continued on page 5

Unknown union coal miner painted by Connie West, whose art subjects were described by her husband, Don, as "Mountain people who have meant more to their time and place than merely chasing the fast buck." Profits from these cards help finance efforts to locate, identify, digitally archive and share Connie's work. Information is available from Appalachian Community Services, 229 Birtrice Road, Gay, West Virginia 25244. Please contact Appalachian Community Services if you know the identity of this man.



Endgame by Derrick Jensen

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

In late 2001, the United States military began bombing the people and landscape of Afghanistan, at a cost to the American public of approximately a billion dollars a day or about four dollars for every man, woman and child in this country (or more was spent in three hours than in all of 1995 ostensibly to save salmon). This amounts to about forty dollars per day for every one of the human targets, that is, every Afghan man, woman and child. Based on Afghanistan's gross domestic product, forty dollars is about twenty times their average daily income. It would, in a sense, be the equivalent of a government spending about eighteen hundred dollars per day per person in the United States to kill us here.

Much as I enjoy being the center of attention (I am, after all, a male), given the choice, I'd be willing to settle for a lot less attention were it given to me in the form of cash or foodstuffs, rather than bombs.

"No, thank you," I'd say politely, "I don't really want a bomb, nor even a 'bomblet,' not even one as cool as a BLU-26 Sadeye, although I might be able to use a few of the hundreds of razor-sharp projectiles to cut some things around the house. Instead, a cow would be nice. And some chickens. And some native trees. You could buy all of that for me in one day. And then tomorrow we could talk about a bicycle and then the day after that we could start thinking about a new well."

Truth be told I wouldn't even know what to do with eighteen hundred dollars every day, or its equivalent in the Afghan community. I'd probably give most of it away. But I

still think I'd rather have a cow and some chickens than a bomb.

On further reflection, do you know what I'd like even more? To simply be left alone.

The United States has historically spent about \$70 million per year on humanitarian aid for Afghanistan (about four dollars per person per year, the equivalent of about a hundred and eighty dollars if it were given in the United States), which is about how much the United States spent per Afghan on the bombing campaign every hour and forty minutes.

If United States citizens have paid four dollars a piece per day to support this war effort, the Afghan people have paid rather more. The bombs — such a nice, short word to describe inventions that have as their purpose destruction — include, fairly typically, the two-thousand pound MK-84, which was developed in the 1950s and has served its masters well in the time since. About twelve thousand were dropped on Iraq during the First Gulf War. If the bomb detonates on contact with the ground, it creates a crater fifty feet in diameter, and thirty-six feet deep (Sorry, guys, this is not precisely what I had in mind when I asked for a new well). If it explodes above ground, it disperses shrapnel to a lethal radius of four hundred yards.

A more commonly used incendiary device — incendiary device being even more abstract language than bomb — are cluster bombs. Instead of causing a single explosion, cluster bombs (or CBUs: Cluster Bomb Units, if we don't mind getting yet more abstract) contain doz-



ens, hundreds, or even thousands of bomblets called BLUs (bomb live units). Each BLU then splits into hundreds of pieces of shrapnel. For example, the bomb called the CBU-75 may contain eighteen hundred BLU-26 Sadeyes. Each Sadeye contains six hundred sharp steel shards. A single CBU-75 will shoot these shards across an area of around 9.25 million square feet, which is about 212 acres or more than 150 football fields or nearly a third of a square mile. A single B-52 strategic bomber can carry forty of these cluster bombs, which could then blanket almost fourteen square miles at an average density of one shard every ten square feet. In just one day in the First Gulf War, twenty-eight B-52s dropped about four hundred and seventy tons of explosives on Iraq, enough to devastate approximately sixteen hundred square miles, an area about one-third the size of Connecticut.

The United States military uses another type of bomb, this one "a terrific violence weapon" with "tremendous destructive

power," according to U.S. General Wesley Clark. It is the BLU-82, also known as the "Daisy Cutter." This fifteen-thousand-pound bomb, filled with an aqueous mixture of ammonium nitrate, aluminum powder and polystyrene soap, is so large it can only be launched by rolling it out the rear door of a cargo aircraft, the MC-130 Hercules. The slowness of the cargo plane means Daisy Cutters can only be dropped when there are no defenses, in other words, only on those who are defenseless. (It must be stated that prior to the U.S. attack, the Afghans were not precisely defenseless: their Air Force did have two old planes, which might even have been jets. It must also be stated that in the first days of the attack the Afghan military killed precisely one American soldier and Afghan prisoners did manage to kill one CIA operative — who was probably "playing smacky face" with them, as the CIA has been known to put it — before they themselves were ultimately blown to bits. Far more U.S. military casualties

were caused by so-called friendly fire and a plane wreck.) A parachute opens, then the Daisy Cutter floats toward the Earth. The parachute slows the descent enough to give the transport plane time to get away before the bomb explodes. The bomb detonates just above ground, producing what are called overpressures of one thousand pounds per square inch (overpressure is air pressure over and above normal air pressure: overpressures of just a few pounds are enough to kill people) disintegrating everything and everyone within hundreds of yards and killing people (and nonhumans) at a range of up to three miles. General Peter Pace, vice-chair of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, put the purpose clearly: "As you would expect, they make a heck of a bang when they go off and the intent is to kill people."

Marine Corps General Trainor was even more specific about the effect of Daisy Cutters on people in Afghanistan: "Besides the physical degradation, these — along with the regular ordnance dropped from B-52s — provide great psychological punishment, as victims begin to bleed from the eyes, nose and ears, if they aren't killed outright, of course. It's a frightening, awesome assault they're suffering, and there's no doubt they're feeling our wrath."

Even if the primary target of these bombs were members of the Afghan military (or terrorists, whatever or whomever they may be) those who were killed were mainly just people trying to survive.

"We were farmers," said Kamal Huddin, after American planes made four passes over Kama Adu, his home village,

killing more than half of the three hundred people who lived there. "We were poor people. And we didn't have any contact with any organizations."

It's no surprise that people like these — people living in mud huts with straw roofs, using wooden plows to till the soil exactly as their ancestors did — were killed.

Colonel John Warden, who planned the air campaign in Iraq, said that dropping any of these bombs I've mentioned "is like shooting skeet. Four hundred and ninety-nine out of five hundred pellets may miss the target but that's irrelevant."

So, who dies? I have seen pictures of the dead, dark-haired children laid out on mattresses, hands folded neatly above the last clothes they will ever wear by parents now standing looking downward, eyes red, in the background...

It is not acceptable in the United States to talk about these dead children. The official United States and capitalist media have declared it so. The Chair of CNN, Walter Isaacson, ordered journalists who work for CNN not to focus on the killing of Afghan citizens by the U.S. military, because it "seems perverse to focus too much on the casualties or hardship in Afghanistan." He went on to admonish his reporters who cover civilian deaths that they should never forget that it is "that country's leaders who are responsible for the situation Afghanistan is now in," perhaps forgetting that the same argument could just as easily be used to ignore the dead in this country.

Printed with the author's permission.

INSIDE The Order . . .

Message from the Amazon's Indigenous People . . . 3

Gas Drilling Endangers Water Supplies . . . 4

Working Together to Save OUR Forest
by Karen Atwood . . . 5

Chemtrails: Madness Beyond Horror
by Don Harkins . . . 6

Korean Students Discuss Climate Change
by Ms. Young-mi Kim, Mr. Hok-Kyong Lee,
and Mr. Woo-yon Won. . . 7

Teach Kids to Revere Earth's Beauty and Bounty
by Al Fry . . . 8

Poetry by Sandy Chilcote . . . 8

Youth Protecting Streams . . . 9

Mother Earth Speaks: Majestic
by Douglas J. Davis . . . 9

Getting to Know the Neighbors
by Terry Darling . . . 10

Poems from a Hunter by Reg Darling . . . 10

Examined Life: On 'No to Nukes'
by Marion Stuenkel . . . 10

Smell the Flowers by Sunny War Eagle . . . 10

Reviews: Democracy for the Few
by John Conner . . . 11

Plant Secrets by Alyssa Balles . . . 11

Nowtopia by Iona . . . 11

Earth Belongs to Everyone? . . . 11

Weatherization at "OE" Home by Iona . . . 12

Polarity Healing in Nature by Sally Klein . . . 13

Val's Vegetarian Column: Non-Dairy Cheesy Gravy
by Valerie Stanley . . . 13

a smaller, slower, simpler life by Daniel Murphy . . . 13

Personal Tour Through Inauguration
by Mike Tabor . . . 14

...and There Was Peace in the City
by Cynthia S. Waugh . . . 14

Monsanto Uses Terrorism to Destroy Small Farms
by Linn Cohen-Cole . . . 15

Letters to the Editor . . . 15



Photo by Terry Darling

5,000 Years of Empire: Ready for a Change? Message from the Hopi Elders

To my fellow swimmers:

There is a river flowing now very fast.

It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid.

They will try to hold onto the shore.

They are being torn apart and will suffer greatly.

Know that the river has its destination.

We must let go of the shore, push off into the river, keep our heads above water.

At this time in our history we are to take nothing personally least of all our

selves, for the moment that we do, our spiritual growth and journey come to a

halt.

The time of the lone wolf is over.

Gather yourselves. Banish the word struggle from your attitude and vocabulary.

All that we do now must be done in a sacred manner and in celebration.

ADVERTISE WITH US

Full page color = \$350; Half page color = \$200; Quarter page color = \$100
Eighth page color = \$50; One-sixteenth color (large business card) = \$25

SEND CAMERA-READY JPG to ionaconner@pa.net

Contact Iona at 814-259-3680.

Black and white rates 15% lower.

Pre-pay for five months and the sixth month is free.

DEADLINE = 10th OF EACH PRIOR MONTH

BULK ORDERS

25 copies = \$20; 50 copies = \$35; 100 copies = \$65
200 copies = \$125; 300 copies = \$175 Thank You!

The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings

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

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

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

Publisher/Editor: Iona Conner

Publishing Partners: Kim Stanley, Christine MacCabee, Arikia Millikan

Layout/Design: Katherine Lukaszewicz, Arikia Millikan, Kim Stanley; Jennifer Michalak

Printing: The Daily News, Huntingdon PA, a family-owned business using 50% recycled paper and soy-based inks.

Subscriptions: \$25 for 12 issues

Tax-Deductible Contributions: *The Order of the Earth News* is a project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to Grassroots Coalition with "OE" on the memo line.

Masthead: We say "Volume 9" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name nine years ago. In 1995 Iona 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. The photo is a free-growing forsythia in Shade Gap.

Contact Us: HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania; 814-259-3680, ionaconner@pa.net, or go to our Web site: www.theorderoftheearth.com.

**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.

FAIR USE NOTICE: This newspaper contains copyrighted material, the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner, although we do try. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of environmental, political, human rights, economic, democracy, scientific, and social justice issues, etc. We believe this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U. S. C. Section 107, the material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for educational purposes. For more information, go to www.law.cornell.edu.uscode/17/107.shtml. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this newspaper for purposes of your own that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

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 Stanley, Taneytown MD

Indigenous People Unite to Send the World a Message to Save the Amazon Rainforest



Photo courtesy of Amazon Watch

Indigenous participants in the human banner used their bodies to dramatize the increasingly precarious situation of their homes.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM: “Wake Up, World!” SOS from the Amazon

By Mario Osava
IPS via CommonDreams.org

BELÉM, Brazil, January 27 (IPS) — A human banner made up of more than 1,000 people, seen and photographed from the air, sent the message “SOS Amazon” to the world in the first action taken by indigenous people hours before the opening in northern Brazil on Tuesday of the 2009 World Social Forum (WSF).

The mass message reflects “our concern about global warming, whose impact we will be the first to feel, although we, the peoples of the Amazon, have protected and cared for the forests,” Francisco Avelino Batista, an Apurinán Indian from the Purus river valley in the Brazilian Amazon, told IPS.

“We are raising our voices as a wake-up call to the world, especially the rich countries that are hastening its destruction,” said Edmundo Omoré, a member of the Xavante indigenous community from the west-central state of Mato Grosso on the border between the Amazon region and the Cerrado, a vast savannah region in the centre of the country.

Both men belong to the Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), which joined the Quito-based Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) to create their “message from the heart of the Amazon.”

Nearly 1,300 indigenous people from about 50 countries, although mainly from Brazil, plan to raise the issues of their rights as original peoples and environmental preservation at this year’s session of the WSF (which ran through February 1) in Belém, a city of 1.4 million people and the northeastern gateway to the Amazon.

Indigenous people have participated in the WSF in previous years but this time a much larger presence was sought. The aim was for 2,000 to take part but transport costs and financial difficulties prevented many participants from coming from other countries and from remote areas within Brazil itself.

In addition to indigenous groups, original peoples at the WSF include Quilombolas (members of communities of Afro-Brazilian descendants of escaped slaves) and other native peoples.

The key location chosen for the WSF and the various global crises that are occurring, have created “a special moment” for original peoples to take a leading role, according to Roberto Espinoza, an adviser to the Andean Coordination of Indigenous Organizations (CAOI).

“A crisis of civilization” is under way, said Espinoza, who described the serious economic, energy and food problems, as well as climate change, as part of the same phenomenon.

In this situation, indigenous people should have political participation as a right, not “as folklore or as a merely cultural contribution,” Espinoza, one of the coordinators of the indigenous peoples’ presence at the WSF, told IPS.

The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, approved by the United Nations General Assembly, is of paramount importance here, he said. It should not be seen as a “utopian” document; rather, its provisions should be binding, like those of the International Labor Organization’s Convention 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples.

Espinoza said he hoped this WSF would produce an agreement for global demonstrations similar to those held in 2003 against the United States’ invasion of Iraq.

This time around, the goal would be to mobilise “in defense of Mother Earth and against the commercialization of life,” added to specific causes championed by each nation, such as the fight against hydroelectric power stations in Brazil that flood vast areas of Amazon rainforest and displace riverbank dwellers, said Espinoza.

The voices of indigenous people are bound to have a greater impact on environmental matters when “the risk of catastrophic climate change in the near future and disputes over natural resources are threatening the survival not only of indigenous peoples but of humanity itself,” Espinoza added.

Indigenous and environmental issues were even more visible during the sessions on January 28th, which were dedicated entirely to the Amazon region in an attempt to revitalize the PanAmazon Social Forum, inactive since 2005.

Launching a campaign led by the peoples of the Amazon, who “want a society that values them and understands the value that the land has for them,” is a proposal for discussion at the WSF, according to Miquelina Machado, a COIAB leader belonging to the Tukano ethnic group.

This is necessary for “a greater balance with nature,” at a time when Brazil’s plans for economic growth and the physical integration of South America are fuelling projects which have “strong negative impacts on the Amazon and Andean regions,” she told IPS.

“The hydroelectric dams flood the land and destroy biodiversity,” she said, while lamenting the fact that attempts to block the building of highways that cause immense deforestation have been frustrated in the courts, “which have more power.”

The presence at the WSF of presidents of Amazon region countries like Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, Evo Morales of Bolivia and Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, as well as Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo, should increase the impact of the event, hopefully benefiting the peoples of



Photo Courtesy of Amazon Watch

Message created by more than 1,000 indigenous people at the World Social Forum, January 27, 2009. Translated from Portuguese it reads “Save the Amazon.”



Cartoon by Matt Wuerker

Cartoon (our first!) submitted by Al Fry, Garden Valley ID. Printed with the artist's permission.

the Amazon, Machado concluded.

Indigenous peoples’ voices should be heard because “We are the ones who were born and raised in the middle of the forest and who lead a lifestyle that contrasts with the ambition of capitalism, which does not bring benefits to all,” said Omoré.

Furthermore, “We are the first to suffer the effects” of climate change. Rich people can cool

themselves down with air conditioners and buy food in supermarkets but “We depend on the fish in the river and the animals in the forest so we are concerned about the future that belongs to everyone,” added Batista.

Printed with permission from
IPS-Inter Press Service

NEWS FLASH: Court Overturns Mountaintop Removal Protections

By Ken Ward, Jr.
The Charleston Gazette

CHARLESTON, West Virginia (February 13, excerpt) — A federal appeals court today overturned a judge’s 2007 decision to require more thorough permit reviews of mountaintop removal mining operations.

In a victory for the coal industry, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia, rejected the decision by U. S. District Judge Robert C. Chambers in Huntington.

By a 2-1 vote, a 4th Circuit panel concluded that Chambers wrongly did not defer to the federal Army Corps of Engineers inter-

pretation of its own rules when granting Clean Water Act permits for mountaintop removal coal operations

Judge M. Blane Michael of West Virginia dissented from parts of the decision from parts of the Corps had rightly concluded the mining operations in question would cause no significant environmental degradation.

Chambers had ruled in March 2007 that the federal Army Corps did not properly consider the environmental impacts before issuing Clean Water Act permits for mountaintop removal mines to bury streams.

A Comment From One of Our Readers:

This latest ruling on mountaintop removal is one more thing telling me that merely having Obama in the White House and a few more Democrats in Congress is not going to save the Earth. The environment is in very serious shape and requires a mass movement to save it. So our job is to keep building that mass movement along with the mass movement to retake our democracy from corporations.

Bill Boteler, Washington D.C.

Natural Gas Drilling Endangers Water Supplies

Part III: A Compromised Study

By **Abrahm Lustgarten**
ProPublica, November 13, 2008

A study published by the U.S.E.P.A. in 2004 is routinely used to dismiss complaints that hydraulic fracturing fluids might be responsible for the water problems in places like Pinedale, Wyoming. The study concluded that hydraulic fracturing posed “no threat” to underground drinking water because fracturing fluids aren’t necessarily hazardous, can’t travel far underground and that there is “no unequivocal evidence” of a health risk.

But documents obtained by *ProPublica* show that the E.P.A. negotiated directly with the gas industry before finalizing those conclusions and then ignored evidence that fracturing might cause exactly the kinds of water problems now being recorded in drilling states.

Buried deep within the 424-page report are statements explaining that fluids migrated unpredictably — through different rock layers and to greater distances than previously thought — in as many as half the cases studied in the United States. The E.P.A. identified some of the chemicals as biocides and lubricants that “can cause kidney, liver, heart, blood and brain damage through prolonged or repeated exposure.” It found that as much as a third of injected fluids, benzene in particular, remains in the ground after drilling and are “likely to be transported by groundwater.”

The E.P.A. began preparing its report on hydraulic fracturing in 2000, after an Alabama court forced the agency to investigate fracturing-related water contamination there under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Political pressures were also mounting for the agency to clarify its position on fracturing. The 2001 Energy Policy, drafted in part by the office of Vice President Dick Cheney, a former Halliburton CEO, noted that “the gas flow rate may be increased as much as 20-fold by hydraulic fracturing.” While the E.P.A. was still working on its report, legislation was being crafted to exempt hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Before that happened, however, the E.P.A. sought an agreement with the three largest hydraulic fracturing companies, including Halliburton, to stop using diesel fuel in fracturing fluids. Diesel fuel contains benzene and such a move would help justify the report’s conclusion that no further studies were needed.

“Our draft is pending release,” a senior E.P.A. official wrote to Halliburton’s counsel in an August 2003 e-mail. “It would certainly strengthen our preliminary position not to continue studying the issue . . . if the service companies were able to remove diesel all together or even move in that direction.”

In a subsequent meeting, an E.P.A. official’s handwritten notes show that a Halliburton attorney asked federal officials, “Are we willing to entertain regulatory relief in other areas; eg: fewer inspections?”

“Willing . . .” was the reply from Tracy Mehan, then the E.P.A.’s assistant administrator for water.

The Amoses were told that a Halliburton spokesperson

declined to comment on this exchange.

The diesel agreement was signed. But according to the E.P.A. it isn’t legally enforceable and the agency hasn’t checked to see if diesel is still being used. Furthermore, the agreement applies only to fluids used in a specific kind of gas drilling, not all drilling across the United States.

Mehan did not return calls for comment about his negotiations. Roy Simon, associate chief of the Drinking Water Protection Division’s Prevention Branch at E.P.A. headquarters in Washington says the “E.P.A. still stands by the findings outlined in the (2004) report.”

But one of the report’s three main authors, Jeffrey Jollie, an E.P.A. hydrogeologist, now cautions that the research has been misconstrued by industry. The study focused solely on the effect hydraulic fracturing has on drinking water in coal bed methane deposits, typically shallow formations where gas is embedded in coal. It didn’t consider the impact of above-ground drilling or of drilling in geologic formations deep underground, where many of the large new gas reserves are being developed today.

“It was never intended to be a broad, sweeping study,” Jollie says. “I don’t think we ever characterized it that way.”

Nevertheless, a few months after the report’s release, the sweeping 2005 Energy Policy Act was passed. Almost no attention was paid to the three paragraphs that stripped the federal government of most of its authority to monitor and regulate hydraulic fracturing’s impact on the environment. By default, that responsibility would now fall to the states.

“That pretty much closed the door,” said Greg Oberley, an E.P.A. groundwater specialist working in the western drilling states. “So we absolutely do not look at fracking . . . under the Safe Drinking Water Act. It’s not done.”

Waste Hazards

On April 30, 2001 a small drilling company now owned by the Canadian gas company Encana fractured a well at the top of Dry Hollow, a burgeoning field in western Colorado that has seen one of the fastest rates of energy development in the nation.

The well sat at the end of a dirt drive among pinion pines and juniper at the crest of a small mesa overlooking the Colorado River. It was also less than 1,000 feet from the log farmhouse where Larry and Laura Amos lived.

As usual that day, water trucks lined up like toy soldiers on the three-acre dirt pad cleared for drilling just across the Amos’ property line. They pumped 82,000 gallons of fluids at 3,600 pounds of pressure thousands of feet into the drill hole.

Suddenly the Amos’ drinking water well exploded like a Yellowstone geyser, firing its lid into the air and spewing mud and gray fizzing water high into the sky. State inspectors tested the Amos well for methane and found lots of it. They did not find benzene or gasoline derivatives and they did not test fracturing fluids, state records show, because they didn’t know what to test for.

The Amoses were told that methane occurs naturally and is



Misted waste fluid rises from waste pit at a Wyoming well site.

Photo: Abrahm Lustgarten/ProPublica

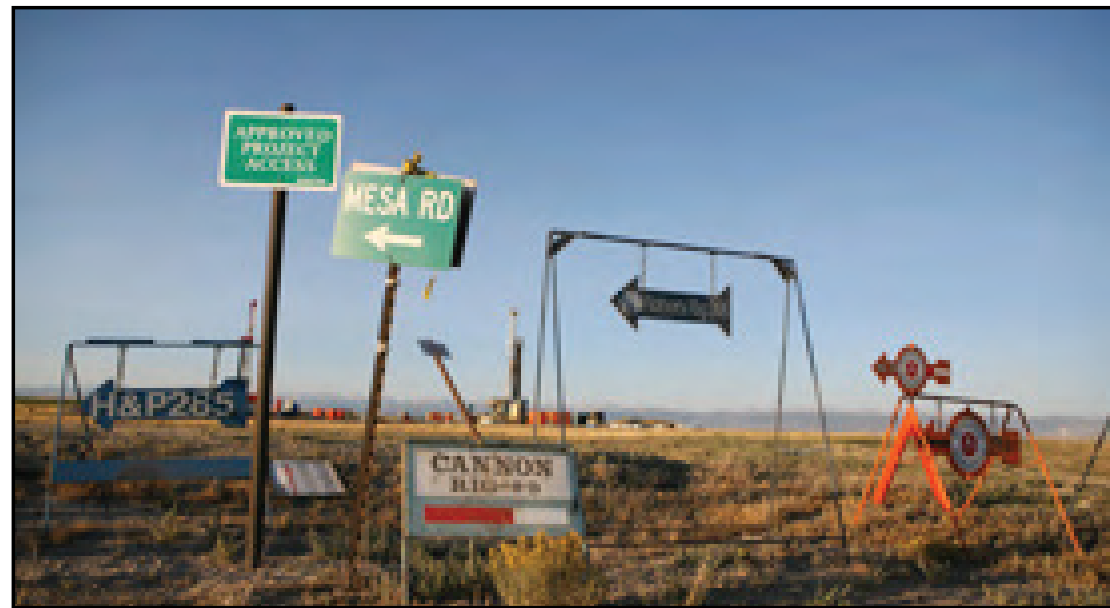
harmless. Inspectors warned them to keep the windows open and vent the basement but they were never advised to protect themselves or their infant daughter from the water. It wasn’t until three years later, when Laura Amos was diagnosed with a rare adrenal tumor, that she started challenging the state about the mysterious chemicals that might have been in her well.

Much of what is known about the makeup of drilling fluids comes from the personal investigations of Theo Colborn, an independent Colorado-based scientist who specializes in low-dose effects of chemicals on human health and has testified before Congress on drilling issues. Although she opposes drilling, her research is referenced by scientists at the E.P.A., at the United States Geological Survey and at state-level regulatory agencies and is widely believed to be the most comprehensive information available.

Spurred by reports of water contamination in Colorado, Colborn painstakingly compiled the names of chemicals from agencies that collected shipping manifests that trucks must carry when they haul hazardous materials for oil and gas servicing companies. Whenever an accident occurred — a well spill in Colorado or an explosion at a drilling site in Wyoming — she gathered the data that became available after water and soil samples were tested for contaminants, adding the results to her list.

Industry officials say they use such tiny amounts of chemicals in the drilling — of the million or so gallons of liquid pumped into a well, only a fraction of one percent are chemicals — that they are diluted beyond harmful levels. But on some fracturing sites that tiny percentage translates to more than 10,000 gallons of chemicals and Colborn believes even very low doses of some of the compounds can damage kidney and immune systems and affect reproductive development.

In Garfield County, there were signs this was already happening. Animals that had produced offspring like clockwork each spring stopped delivering healthy calves, according to Liz Chandler, a veterinarian in Rifle, Colorado. A bull went sterile, and a herd of beef cows stopped going into heat, as did pigs. In the most striking case, sheep bred on an organic dairy farm had a rash of inexplicable still



Signs point in all directions to drilling sites in Wyoming.

Photo by Abrahm Lustgarten

births -- all in close proximity to drilling waste pits, where wastewater that includes fracturing fluids is misted into the air for evaporation.

Among Colborn’s list of nearly 300 chemicals — some known to be cancer-causing — is a clear, odorless surfactant called 2-BE, used in foaming agents to lubricate the flow of fracturing fluids down in the well. Colborn told Congress in 2007 that it can cause adrenal tumors.

Laura Amos, who suffered from such a tumor, pressed Encana on whether the compound had been used to fracture the well near her house. For months the company denied 2-BE had been used. But Amos persisted, arguing her case on TV and radio. In January 2005, her lawyers obtained documents from Encana showing that 2-BE

had, in fact, been used in at least one adjacent well.

“Our daughter was only six months old when fracturing blew up our water well,” Amos wrote in a letter to the Oil and Gas Accountability Project, an anti-drilling group. “I bathed her in that water every day. I also continued breast-feeding her for 18 more months . . . If there was a chemical in my body causing my tumor, she was exposed to it as well.”

In 2006, Amos stopped talking to the media after she accepted a reported multi-million dollar settlement from Encana. The company was fined \$266,000 for “failure to protect water-bearing formations and . . . to contain a release of (gas production) waste.” Yet investigators also concluded, without further explanation, that hydraulic frac-

turing was not to blame.

Asked about the Amos case and the rash of complaints in the area, an Encana spokesman said the company disagreed with the state’s judgment on the Amos case and emphasized that there was no proof that fracturing had caused the explosion. Environmentalists had created a climate of fear in the community, he added.

“The concerns residents have expressed — and some of them are legitimate and heartfelt concerns — a lot of them are out of misinformation,” said Doug Hock. “Just because chemicals are used at a site does not create risk. We have a proven process that helps us ensure that there are no pathways.”

Conclusion Next Month:

“The Tipping Point”

CO₂ Hits New Peak

Reuters
Via Environmental News Network

OSLO, Norway (February 12, *excerpt*) — Atmospheric levels of the main greenhouse gas are hitting new highs, with no sign yet that the world economic downturn is curbing industrial emissions, a leading scientist said today.

“The rise is in line with the long-term trend,” Kim Holmen, research director at the Norwegian Polar Institute said of the measurements taken by a Stockholm University project on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard off northern Norway.

Levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas from human activities, rose to 393 parts per million (ppm) in the atmosphere above Svalbard in December, a rise of 2-3 ppm from the same time a year earlier, he told Reuters.

Carbon dioxide concentrations are likely to have risen further in 2009, he said. They usually peak just before the start of spring in the northern hemisphere, where most of the world’s industry, cities and vegetation are concentrated.

Plants suck carbon dioxide, which is released by burning fossil fuels, out of the atmosphere as they grow. Levels fall toward the northern summer and rise again in autumn when trees lose their leaves and other plants die back. . . .

Levels of CO₂ are around the highest in 800,000 years . . . The increase is caused by “mainly fossil fuel burning and to some extent land use change, where you have forests being replaced by agricultural land,” Holmen said.

Working Together To Save OUR Forest



Photo by Walt Atwood

March 30, 2007: Aerial Tour of the Allegheny National Forest, co-sponsored by Tionesta Valley Snowmobile Club and Allegheny Defense Project. The road off the far left is State Highway 59, part of Longhouse National Scenic Byway. The body of water in the background is the Allegheny Reservoir. The squiggly roads in the foreground are oil and gas roads on Forest Service lands.

By Karen L. Atwood
Pleasant Township, Pennsylvania

This is a story about people who traditionally haven't had much to say to each other, who compared notes, then realized that they had a lot in common — the motorized recreationist vs the "tree-hugger" types. Now add that scenario to a public land situation. Dab a little color to the picture in the form of particulars about the individuals. The motorized recreationists are three-decades-long volunteers on said public lands. Additionally, they are also hikers, fishermen/women and hunters — and natives within the boundaries of the public lands. The so-called "tree huggers" are transplants and natives alike — lovers of the land.

Now add an event that began to change the public land in ways no one dreamed would ever happen and it changed the places both groups thought of as "special" — places where memories had been made.

The organizations we are talking about are the Allegheny Defense Project (ADP), a group born out of a collection of University of Pittsburgh faculty, students and other supporters who saw the management practices of the Forest Service on the Allegheny National Forest (aforementioned "public land" or ANF) as not in keeping with the way public lands should be managed. Such things as black cherry "tree farming," clearcutting, applying herbicides and road building which disturb the Forest, the wild inhabitants and other users of the Forest. The motorized component of the story is the Tionesta Valley Snowmobile Club, Inc. (TVSC), established in 1977; they are a group of natives and transplants (both permanent and temporary) who also noticed the same management practices were detrimental to what they did, as well.

Then came the cataclysmic event that brought both of these groups together — the market-driven oil and gas drilling boom on the Allegheny National Forest and the destruction that has been steadily increasing since the early 1990s.

Some background. The Allegheny was formed from a patchwork of cut-over and drilled-over lands purchased by the Federal government in the late

1920s to "protect the watershed of the upper Allegheny (River)" and signed into existence by President Calvin Coolidge. Something was omitted that would come back to haunt us. The feds did not acquire the mineral rights on the land that would form the ANF, thinking perhaps that the oil drilling boom that started in the 1860s and stretched into the early 1900s was depleted and nothing of substance would be produced in the future. Consequently, more than 95 percent of the mineral rights under the Forest belong to individuals or companies, not the Forest Service — a serious error when oil prices began to, first slowly, then precipitously, rise.

It is important to remember that the oil produced on the ANF is paraffin-rich, suitable for lubrication and chemical processes such as the ones that produce lipstick. This oil is not made into gasoline in any significant amounts. The local refinery in Warren processes crude produced in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. We are not talking about the ANF or Pennsylvania, in general, producing enough oil to even register on the national energy scale.

The circumstances are that there are oil and gas producers operating on the ANF; lining their pockets at the expense of the Forest environment and claiming that only the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.) can regulate their operations; that the Forest Service has no authority to regulate them. The D.E.P., of course, is not doing the job either because of a lack of funding, nor are their employees adequately regulating the drilling and oversight of more than 12,000 wells that now pepper the hillsides and byways on the ANF, negatively impacting recreation, wildlife and the streams on the Forest.

In fact, it appears that both the PA D.E.P. and the Forest Service have been responding only in an expeditious manner to quickly allow the oil and gas projects to happen.

Back to the two diverse groups. In the early 1990s, members of both groups began to talk and compare notes. One group knew one area better than the other, and vice versa. The snowmobile club and the environmental group found that, in comparing notes, they



Photo by Walt Atwood

Tionesta Valley Snowmobile Club and Allegheny Defense Project volunteers tour a portion of the Allegheny Front National Recreation Area. The two divergent groups cooperate to protect the national forest.

were able to form a complete picture of what was occurring on the entire Forest, instead of just spotty areas. The complete picture began to show that because of the damage from the combined timber operations and the drilling, the Forest was being heavily impacted. Other uses of the Forest other than the extractive ones were being ignored.

Both groups began commenting on Forest projects in unison, supporting initiatives that benefit all recreation users of the ANF. The Forest Planning process began in earnest in 2001 and both groups were heavily involved, attending local and regional workshops until the Forest Plan was adopted in 2007.

Because our concerns about the oil and gas drilling in the Forest were not being viewed as critical Forest Planning issues, both organizations cooperated in a Forest Plan appeal. In the early spring of 2007, the ADP and TVSC funded an "over-flight" of the Forest

before "green up" occurred. Two more flights would occur later on, giving a clear picture of the scope of the damage being done by the oil and gas industry on the ANF.

As the result of the appeal, during the first week of February 2009, the Chief of the Forest Service issued a directive that a Forest-wide Environmental Impact Statement must be completed for the impact of oil and gas operations on the Forest. Region 9 Headquarters in Milwaukee took over the oversight of the "Notices to Proceed," which were once approved on the local level. Air quality will also be measured concerning the impact of the oil and gas activity on the Forest.

Both groups now hopefully wait to see if this means a brighter future for the Forest. In 2008, the ADP, the Sierra Club and the Forest Service Employees (for) Environmental Ethics filed suit against the Forest Service for allowing extreme destruction to occur on the ANF and asking that NEPA (the Nation-

al Environmental Policy Act) apply to the oil and gas drilling occurring on the ANF.

Subsequently, oil and gas companies filed a countersuit, claiming a "dominant" right to exercise their mineral rights without restrictions and that, because they own the minerals, they own the Forest. This idea is particularly troublesome because the decision will affect not just the ANF, but 23 million acres of federal land in the U.S.

Karen Atwood is a native of Pleasant Township, just outside of Warren, PA. She lives in a log home, hand built by her and her husband Ed, with two dogs and two cats. She is a long-time member of the PA Forest Stewardship organization and secretary of the TVSC of Sheffield. Karen and Ed are managers of the Jim Lobdell Memorial Sled Dog Races, part of Warren County Winterfest held each January at Chapman State Park; the "largest annual Winter event in the PA Wilds." They are also members of Friends of Rimrock.

Blair Mountain

Continued from page 1
pected to begin their time at The Center with six months working in the mine and studying the history of American workers.

Yet one other facility needs to be located on Blair Mountain. A special Judicial Center will be developed to provide for the adjudication of those both living and dead who have sought to destroy our mountains and our people.

Bill Blizzard was once tried for treason against the great state of West Virginia for opposing the coal companies and seeking to bring the U.S. Constitution to the coal fields. (See *Appalachian Voice*, March 2008). Now as we reclaim our

mountain and our government, let's turn the tables a bit and try those guilty of crimes against humanity in the Great West Virginia Mine War, 1890 to the present.

Penalties need not be harsh, as justice is best served when tempered with mercy, but the truth must no longer be hidden.

Wess Harris is a former coal miner, a union organizer, a farmer and the editor of *When Miners March*. Cards with the coal miner's face and other depictions of life in coal country may be ordered at Appalachian Community Services, 229 Bertrice Road, West Virginia 25244.

Mothers Fight Nuclear Industry

By Erica Werner
Associated Press via CommonDreams.org

SAN LUIS OBISPO, California (January 21, *excerpt*) — At the western edge of a largely dormant anti-nuke movement, three generations of mothers are tilting at nuclear reactors. But their mission is less quixotic than it might appear.

Elaine Holder, a 40-year member of Mothers for Peace, has a row of binders containing newspaper clippings of the group's efforts against Pacific Gas and Electric's Diablo Canyon Power Plant from 1969 to 2008 at her home in San Luis Obispo, California.

Mothers for Peace, a citizens watchdog group working from kitchen tables and in between family and work commitments, has pursued a novel and potentially precedent-setting challenge against the nuclear power generator's plans for storing radioactive waste

in above-ground dry casks at the power plant.

Wielding a novel argument about the potential impact of a terrorist attack on nuclear facilities, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace is aiming to set legal precedent requiring tougher environmental reviews for nuclear power plants and radioactive waste storage nationwide.

It's the latest chapter in a long-running battle that pits the all-volunteer group of aging hippies, activists and teachers against the federal government, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and PG&E's Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, nestled on a gorgeous stretch of coastline nearby.

"This whole town— it's like this veil is over our town. Of denial, is what it is," said Mothers for Peace member Linda Seeley as the group met recently in a comfy living room patrolled by a cat.

Outside, the sun shone brightly on

flowers, wind chimes and Green Party lawn signs. "People come here and they think they're living in paradise," Seeley said. "And we have highly lethal poison eight miles from us."

PG&E maintains that its plant, which began operating in the mid-1980s and supplies 10 percent of California's electricity, is perfectly safe. And the company questions Mothers for Peace's motives in opposing its radioactive waste storage plans.

"Their goal is stop nuclear power. Their goal is not to make a facility safer or to make sure that all aspects are adequately addressed," said Jearl Strickland, a manager at Diablo Canyon.

The latest dispute arises because Diablo Canyon, like scores of other nuclear plants nationwide, is running out of room in its cooling ponds for highly radioactive spent fuel.

Chemtrails: Madness Beyond Horror

Mission Accomplished

Globe enveloped in a radioactive, toxic chemical, heavy metal and nano particle-laden haze

By Don Harkins
The Idaho Observer, December 2008
Part I

The "chemtrail" story has become so huge that we can't describe it in mere words. All we can do is "imagine" it. So, close your eyes and take a deep breath — wait don't take a deep breath because we can't do that anymore.

Let's try again: Close your eyes and clear your mind (try to ignore the constant ringing in your ears and your chronic pains). Now imagine the ionosphere, the stratosphere and the troposphere; imagine all the oceans, seas, lakes and rivers; imagine all the islands and continents and their mountains and valleys, gorges and canyons, deserts and rainforests, badlands and scablands, the frozen arctic and frozen antarctic; now imagine the depths to which man has drilled into the earth and the heights to which man has reached in outer space. Now that you have "imagined" the heights, depths and breadths of our world, you can grasp how big the chemtrail "story" has become.

"We are laboratory rats whose very biochemistry is being altered. Our atmosphere is now conductive and we are all receiving its "current." The spraying . . . has saturated our air with polymers, metallic particles and fungi, all of which are now in our bodies as well as in the soil, plants and animals we co-exist with. We are being steadily moved away from real nature into an engineered matrix where all our functions can be observed and governed. Whether you realize it or not, it has happened," counter-propagandist Sofia Smallstorm wrote at her Web site AboutTheSky.com.

Smallstorm, who previously produced the highly acclaimed documentary 9/11 Mysteries (2006) has immersed herself in the global chemtrail emergency. According to Smallstorm, "The [chemtrail] spraying is part of an integrated atmospheric weapons system. Though it seems the program is currently about weather modification, the aerosols contain nano-engineered biologics or weaponized parasites. According to those who have done the research, we are virtually all infected. Perhaps 'seeded' would be a better word.

"The mix of engineered parasites, pathogens, toxic heavy metals and nanobots is designed to assemble within us to create a microchipped terrain. Never mind the dog-and-pony-show discussion about future RFID (radio frequency identification) tags. It's already done."

One of the researchers to which Smallstorm referred is former government research scientist Clifford Carnicom. For several years now Carnicom has been actively involved in bringing attention to the chemtrail phenomenon. His technical background is extensive and he has collected and analyzed countless photos and specimen samples.

Carnicom's intuitive research and lucid analyses prove his qualifications as a scientist who believes that, "The saturation [of our atmosphere via aerosol operations] is complete. It is now a matter of maintenance and concentration."

Morgellons

Perhaps the creepiest of all chemtrail-related developments is the appearance of an affliction called "Morgellons disease." According to microbiologist Dr. Hildegarde Staninger, Morgellons is an environmental disease that will ultimately infect more living things than any other disease in history. "Its environmental impact will be far greater than DDT, PCBs and asbestos have ever been," Dr. Staninger stated to an audience of environmental professionals in 2007.

Morgellons is a "Nano-911 foreign invader," Dr. Staninger explained and added that medical professionals struggling to identify the infection have called it "fiber disease, mystery disease, delusional parasitosis and unknown dermatological skin disorder, to name a few."

In the abstract to her 2007 research paper "Chemical foreign invaders," Dr. Staninger gave Morgellons a chilling description: "It is silent, smart, glistening — powered by its own transitional metal battery. And when it strikes its victim it feels like a piece of burning broken glass as it pierces the skin. Smaller than any of the 150 pieces of a virus (known as virons), it is invisible to the naked eye. So silent is it, only the one who has been invaded knows its true



Deesillustration.com

The good news: Wireless toys and communications are "awesome," war is more lethal and airplanes are better able to hide from one another. The bad news: People, plants and animals are collapsing under the toxic burdens they are carrying; biological apocalypse is looming large. You, me and our children are now breathing ethylene-dibromide, nanoparticulates of aluminum, barium and cationic polymer fibers capable of growing and reproducing inside our bodies.

nature. Marked with the seal of man-made, self-assembling nano-size materials, they can be used in forming drugs, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, biomaterials, artificial nerves, artificial brains, pseudo skin and molecular electronics. Yes, it was patterned after nature's many wonders but it is still one hundred percent man-made. The nano-brew has been let loose from its scientific flask casting its woes upon an unsuspecting innocence."

Some of Carnicom's more recent research shows that the airborne chemtrail fibers and the fibers found in the tissues of a patient with advanced Morgellons Disease match. Additionally, the unusual airborne blood cell samples have been found to match the unusual blood cells in Morgellons-infected individuals.

The implications of these findings are that we have all been deliberately exposed to Morgellons via chemtrails.

Global Dimming

It is ironic that Al Gore, et al., has been blaming global warming on CO₂ (an element) without ever mentioning the global deployment of toxic man-made particulates via aerosol operations. While the global warming debate is more political and emotional than scientific, scientists measuring the amount of sunlight reaching the earth's surface have been concurring that a process of global dimming has been ongoing for the last several decades. Global dimming is evidenced by diminished output of electricity generated by solar panels and a reduction in plant productivity through decreased photosynthesis. Potential complications from global dimming are food chain interruptions from crop failures and weather problems from decreased water evaporation.

According to Smallstorm, "The aerosols being sprayed overhead contain, among other things, metal particles which become ionized (electrically charged) by sunlight. Thus, the air in which we live has been converted from a neutral, life-supporting medium into an electrically charged plasma (a conductive gas). We are told that experiments with deflecting sunlight are to our benefit. We are told that the "global dimming" phenomenon, now being admitted to by NASA as a consequence of the haze layers formed by "persistent jet contrails," will serve to cool the planet. We have already seen a 20 percent loss of sunlight in just a couple of decades."

A NASA project to officially quantify global dimming was delayed when

the Shuttle Columbia crashed in 2001 and permanently abandoned in 2006, allegedly due to budgetary restraints. It is thought by some, however, that the project was scuttled because it would inevitably lead to exposing global aerosol operations and the toxic levels of particulates being deployed under the cloak of national security.

Nano Particles and Internal Organs

The spray planes are filling our atmosphere with nano particles of barium on an almost daily basis. Carnicom estimates that barium levels worldwide are eight times higher than acceptable safety limits. The inhaled nano-particles, 80,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair, stick to the moist lung walls and are small enough to easily be absorbed directly into the blood stream where they will gain access to internal organs such as the liver and brain.

Since the aerosol operations began in earnest in about 1998 our bodies have been loading with these particulates and we are just now beginning to feel the ill effects.

Fait Accompli?

Below is a shortlist of Web sites. From them you can dedicate an evening to surfing. To your utter amazement and horror, you will see dozens of shocking photos of chemclouds so severe that no one can claim them to be of natural origin. You will also see specimen samples photographed under microscopes showing that our breathing mixture is teeming with a vast array of weaponized molds, fungi, human blood cells, nano bacteria, radioactive particles, heavy metals, polymers and self-replicating fibers that seem to be synthetic. When you take all of this in and look at photos revealing our entire planet is blanketed in a toxic plasma no longer describable as "air," you will get the feeling that the transition of our natural, life-giving world into a synthetic, life-taking, planetary tomb is a fait accompli.

However, we can't believe that because there would be no reason to go on living; we can't act as if there is no hope because there are millions of children whose futures depend upon our cleaning up this horrible mess.

Will we be able to stop this madness and clean up the biggest mess in human history? The answer to that question is in a future that will be

Biologic components have been reported in airborne samples that include modified molds, desiccated red blood cells and exotic strains of bacteria. Additionally, award winning investigative reporter, Will Thomas, has reported findings of over 300 types of virally-mutated fungi in the chemtrail fall out. *The Idaho Observer* reported in July, 2006, that analysis of chemtrail fallout in Iowa revealed traces of 26 known toxins including barium, aluminum and uranium, a variety of infectious pathogens, chemicals and drugs including sedatives. The government admits to deploying "military chaff" (fiberglass-coated aluminum particles) when air force pilots are training in U.S. airspace. Dr.R. Michael Castle reports the finding of cationic polymer fibers. Others have reported findings of tiny parasitic nematode eggs of some type encased in the fibers. Researcher Clifford Carnicom has reported finding chemtrail fibers that are an exact match with the bizarre fibers found in those suffering from Morgellons disease. Welcome to the brave new world of toxic skies, weather control, mind control and population control through the use of chemtrails modulated with electromagnetic frequencies generated by HAARP. Our health is under attack as evidenced by the skyrocketing rates of chemtrail-induced lung cancer, asthma and pulmonary/respiratory problems as well as the emergence of a new plague, Morgellons disease, an infection of unknown pathology that has been diagnosed in an estimated 60,000 Americans in over 12,000 families in the U.S. There is a corporate media blackout on this subject and public officials are either unable or unwilling to do or say anything about the fact that our entire planet is covered in a thick toxic haze. We are on our own. The only way to sound the alarm is by word of mouth. People are already dying because of the chemtrails. Life expectancy is down. This situation presents an immediate and serious threat to you, your family and loved ones. We must join together to stop this insane program of chemtrail spraying now. Please do what you can to help.

shaped by what we do NOW.

Go to AboutTheSky.com, Carnicom.com, BariumBlues.com, DontChemtrailMeBro.com, NewYorkSkywatch.com, ArizonaSkywatch.com, and ISeeLines.com.

The Art of David Dees

The chemtrail image is by David Dees. Dees began his airbrush art career in the world of corporate advertising. Starting with a staff position at an Atlanta sweatshop, Dees was soon dealing with cutthroat art directors from New York to Chicago, creating eye catching visuals that sold everything from cartoon package designs on kids' cereal boxes to billboards of dazzling electronics to the newest soft drink ads. His work "trained a monster who would now turn his creative power back against that very corrupt mainstream media."

www.deesillustration.com

[Ed.: Don Harkins, who publishes "The Idaho Observer" was one of the first people to offer to help me get "The Order of the Earth" up and running over a year ago. We are currently trading subscriptions and I find a LOT of interesting but frightening articles in his paper. This is one of them. Although I first heard about Chemtrails about ten years ago. I am going to run this as a series so that you, too, may learn about this issue.

As I was preparing the background "permissions" for reprinting this article here, I received the following email from Don, which I thought was worth sharing:

Iona: Morgellons is the end result of the nexus of chemically-processed food, polluted water, contaminated air (chemtrails), exposure to plastics (polymers) and microwave radiation. The madness here is beyond horror.

Good luck — to all of us.
Don H.

Korean Students Study English and Climate Change

By Pyong Roh
Daegu, Korea

I asked my students to write essays in English and they wrote them in their own words.

They are sophomores in a pre-med course. The oriental medical students study basic science and liberal arts for two years and they study oriental medical science for four years. I taught them medical and public health English. Of course I talked to them about Climate Change and about your activities. The students are twenty years old. They are all Koreans and their native tongue is Korean.

The university is located in Chungchong Nam Do province which is in the central part of South Korea. Of course the students study anatomy and physiology but they also study acupuncture and herbal medicine. In Korea there are two pillars of medicine. One is western medicine and the other is Oriental medicine.

Unforgettable Memory

Ms. Young-mi Kim, Oriental Medical Student,
Semyong University

In connection with climate change, I have an unforgettable memory. Long time ago, when I was very young, I saw a newscast. It reported that the polar glacier had been shrunk and all continent had been sunk little by little. I was so afraid. I went so far as to dream that I sink deep down to the bottom of the water.

Though it's the truth that I was worried too much then, we all have to pay attention to this problem.

Of course climate change has been an issue. Lots of studies about it are going on and we can see them on TV, newspaper and so on.

Even movies about climate change have been made. For example a few years ago 'The Day After Tomorrow' were released. It was a fiction but it made us reconsider the seriousness of climate change.

Climate change causes many troubles and we experience it directly. By way of example, it's already December but not that cold. It's clearly different with the climate of this time last year. Even people who didn't realize seriousness became awake now. To cope with this problem, some countries concluded agreements like Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol.

Climate change is a result of greed. People have destroyed nature indiscriminately and have been burning fossil fuels like petroleum, coal and natural gas. As the world became industrialized and the population grew, people burned more and more fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuel brought economic and industrial growth but now we are paying dearly for the greed.

Many people know that climate change is a menace to the world including human being but make few practical efforts to reduce the damage caused by climate change. Even if the damage doesn't appear instantly, we have to pay attention. Our small care can save ourselves and the earth. Individual efforts is much more important than national efforts.

Penguins Have Problems

Mr. Hok-Kyong Lee

I think you all know what a penguin is. Yes, it is the black and white bird that cannot fly. These cute animals are threatened because of us. There are three major reasons for this: the ozone layer, global warming and pollution.

First, the ozone layer has a hole. The ozone layer is a layer that protects the Earth from harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun. This hole is right above Antarctica, where most of the penguins' habitat is located. These ultraviolet rays decrease the number of planktons in the ocean. The fish eat the plankton and the penguins eat the fish. Some penguins are starving because there aren't enough fish for them to eat. Some have to go far away to catch some fish. Some of you may say, "What do we have to do with that?" We use hair spray and refrigerators that contain Freon gas. This gas breaks open the hole in the ozone layer.

Global Warming is one of the causes why the penguins are threatened. Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide warms up the earth like a green house. This makes the sea level rise which would be harder for penguins to lay eggs and take care for their babies. Carbon dioxide is made mostly when we use cars.

Last but not least, pollution. Pollution causes the fish to get contaminated and the penguins that eat them. One deadly pollution is Polychlorinated Biphenyls, or PCB. It can cause cancer and non-cancer effects on body systems like the endocrine, immune and reproductive systems. This can occur to both humans and penguins.

So what can we do to help the penguins? We all can do a lot of things to help not just the penguins but everything living on Earth. You can use hair sprays and refrigerators that don't contain Freon gas. You can car pool in order to control the amount of carbon dioxide. Already the TSCA, the Toxic Substances Control Act, has moved to stop PCB. I am going to help the penguins. Are you?

Island Homes Abandoned

Mr. Woo-yon Won

Do you know Tuvalu? Tuvalu is a small beautiful island country. And they abandoned their country at 2001. How was it happened? Because of war? Because of any new virus? Or because of 'the wrath of god'? No! because of us. We make 'the climate change' by attacking nature. And now the nature is ready for avenge.

Recently climate change is recognized all over the world. So many NGO [non-governmental organizations] were established. And so many people have struggled to protect the earth from climate change. For internet you can always find the information about climate change. Why so many people have interest in climate change? Because it directly affect not only human but also many other living things to survive. We must have consciousness about it. And we have to overcome it.

Then first of all we have to check the reason of climate change. The main reason is carbon dioxide (CO₂). It blocks solar radiation. So it remains in earth and occur global warming. The Western society's sudden development cause the phenomenon. Since the 'Industrial Revolution' usage of fossil fuel increased sharply and it caused too much CO₂. Now no one can imagine the world without car. Increased timbering is also causing more CO₂ since the forest observe the CO₂ and reproduce the O₂. Increased CO₂ can cost chain reaction. Like increased CO₂ makes the temperature higher and can dry the big rivers. Then the frequency of the wild fire will also increase and burn out more trees.

Then is there no way to stop it? Could really be the end of the Earth? But there still is the cure. The last half century was the age of the western cultures. We tried to conquer the Earth but couldn't think of the relation between the Earth and human. The cure will be the thinking as Oriental sages way and Indians. The Earth is our mother and our home. We can't hurt our mother and destroy our own home. We have to remember that we are only the part of the nature.



Find Green Candidates

www.NewMenu.org

Find Greens running for office near you.

web design provided by
www.DancingTreesWeb.com

"The Order" is for sale in Pa at:

- **Burnt Cabins Campground**
Burnt Cabins
- **Gap Mini-Mart**
Shade Gap
- **Miller's Diner**
Mill Creek
- **Neelyton Post Office**
- **Sandy Ridge Market**
Orbisonia
- **Sunny Ridge Restaurant,**
Shade Gap
- **Webster's Bookstore**
State College

And in New York at:

- **60 Main Coffee Shop**
New Patz
- **Magnolia's Cafe**
Patterson

And in Maryland at:

- **Green Earth Goods**
Clarksburg

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MARYLAND'S CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN PARKS

THE FRIENDS OF CUNNINGHAM FALLS STATE PARK & GAMBRILL STATE PARK

NOW HAVE A NEW WEB SITE: PLEASE VISIT

WWW.CUNNINGHAMGAMBRILL.ORG.

WASTE NOT! EXPO

FREDERICK COUNTY (MARYLAND)

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009 — 9:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

FURTHER INFORMATION AT: WWW.WASTENOTFREDERICK.ORG

No Frills Fancy

By Jeannette Bartelt
Frederick, Maryland

I'd like to share two thoughts with you. In an article published by The Food Marketing Institute (February 28, 2006) they make the point that nothing decomposes in the landfill because there is no oxygen to help break things down. Therefore, whether paper or plastic, it will be there for a very long time.

As I see it the best alternative to paper (save the trees) or plastic (forever in the landfill) is Organic Cotton Fabric. Our produce bags are made from organic cotton scraps (saved from the landfill). Secondly, in one of many studies the Rodale Institute in Kutztown, Pennsylvania discovered that soil that is farmed organically holds more CO₂ than soil with chemicals — just another reason for Organics. It is an easy way to begin healing our Mother Earth.

If every Organic farmer helped a commercial farmer to convert to organics and then that farmer in turn did the same, before long all our food and cotton would be grown Organically.



Organic Cotton "Tomato" Bag holds one pint cherry tomatoes or other goodies like snacks for lunch, \$2.00 each plus shipping, small size. Organic Cotton Fruit Bag stretches to hold about five pounds of fruit or other items, \$2.75 plus shipping, medium size. Order at www.nofrillsfancy.com, a worker-owned cooperative.

Teach Kids to Revere Earth's Beauty, Bounty

By Al Fry
Garden Valley, Idaho

With the Play Stations and 'kill the bad guys' games turning our kids into robotic thrill-seekers, there is a big absence of 'heart' in our society. I suspect this is partly due to the millions that our armed services dumped into getting out this sort of programming in such machines, but whatever the cause, it's about time we took some measures to slow down the assault. Our world doesn't need more soldiers, it needs more leaders and people with common sense and appreciation for nature.

Toward that end, I tried to get my kids out in nature every chance I got. We would head to rivers and have happy times mud-slinging and soaking fun — then head for the most remote hills we could find to search for more wonders and rocks to roll down cliffs. This was really only a rerun of what I had done when I followed my teen-aged mentor around as a young kid myself.

He taught me to dig for treasure in Indian caves and ignore all the dangers like Rattlesnakes. He would make up little home-built boats and rafts and glue together airplanes. He taught me about quenching my curiosity and ignoring artificial stimulation. It's harder now, but my parents would keep me on the right track by keeping a supply of interesting reading material lying all around our house. When I got bored, guess what I picked up? Today, I walk into homes that are as bare as Mother Hubbard's cupboard when it comes to brain food.

The comics that were once fun are often now full of negativity and gore. How difficult is it to just keep some outdoor-oriented magazines lying around? Even a Mother Jones or Nexus Mag for really heating up the neurons? With much of the media putting out pabulum and misinformation, sometimes there is a real genuine character in the family to help bring in wider views.

We had a relative who had a little race car in back and spoke of wonderful adventures . . . and cowboy types who didn't care a thing about pretense and



Children running free in the great outdoors.

Office Publisher photo illustration

Our world doesn't need more soldiers, it needs more leaders and people with common sense and appreciation for nature.

how high up the social ladder you were. Relatives in rural areas are probably worth a dozen in the city as to demonstrating common-sense values.

At on point I ran away from home and wound up being sent to my grandparents in L. A. In no time at all I was being chased down by gangs and subject to negative pressures I had no experience at fending off . . . without my built-up set of solid values.

Tough love is usually needed by kids and it's seldom provided.

Animals often need the 'Alpha' leader to keep chaos in check and kids who test their parents frequently get disillusioned to find they are 'wimps' . . . and don't care enough to set up some standards. This doesn't mean kids need abuse . . . but some restrictions are usually necessary for maintaining standards. Dr. Laura, the radio host has been putting out reliable,

common-sense strategies for ethics training for years now.

If all else fails, it is sometimes helpful to get involved with social groups that have reasonably sane belief systems. Whether religion or some form of independent 'world betterment' group . . . it's better than the many 'me first,' 'we are the best' groups and scam artists seeking funds and pawns. Keeping in mind that most scam artists and sects pump in many truths to catch their prey, it's usually wise to keep a lot of pro and con data around kids that get too far into fanaticism and cultism. Eventually, they usually catch on to being used and slip away from the dominators. In the case of military recruiters, the mistake can cost years of indenturedness and a wounded psyche.

Sometimes whole families are caught up in fronts and facades.

That's where animals are

helpful. A golden retriever dog could be the best influence a kid could have. They can't be easily manipulated and they give their love unconditionally. Snakes, turtles, mice and such can build up a little sense of responsibility but all the feeding, water-changing and special care required gets old fast for kids.

Watching old Westerns and Star Trek episodes can also be better than the usual fare. The 'prime directive' or the concept of non-interference and manipulation is right out of the ancient sacred rules. Under these original guidelines we can't be given higher understanding and truth if we choose to believe the doctrines of some religion or belief system.

Is it any wonder that there is such chaos and confusion when so many factions are playing "king of the hill" games?

Perhaps later we can cover the long-lost sacred rules.

[Ed.: I literally looked at 100 pages of clip art to find pictures of children playing in nature but nearly all had either: parents, posed children, children indoors or kids studying nature. Is this good or bad? Are kids really out in nature without parents or cameras? Let's hope so!]



the blue and green wicker above
and below the clouds
and beneath the sun
in the loop of the moon
in the needle heartbeat of lightyears

Sandy Chilcote, Newfoundland, Canada

Warm Homes Without Heat

By Elisabeth Rosenthal
The New York Times

DARMSTADT, Germany (December 27, excerpt) — From the outside, there is nothing unusual about the stylish new gray and orange row houses in the Kranichstein District, with wreaths on the doors and Christmas lights twinkling through a freezing drizzle. But these houses are part of a revolution in building design: There are no drafts, no cold tile floors, no snuggling under blankets until the furnace kicks in.

There is, in fact, no furnace. In Berthold Kaufman's home, there is, to be fair, one radiator for emergency backup in the living room — but it is not in use. Even on the coldest nights in central Germany, Mr. Kaufman's new "passive house" and others of this design get all the heat and hot water they need from the amount of energy that would be needed to run a hair dryer.

"You don't think about temperature — the house just

adjusts," said Mr. Kaufman, watching his two-year-old daughter, dressed in a T-shirt, tuck into her sausage in the spacious living room, whose glass doors open to a patio. His new home uses about one-twentieth the heating energy of his parents' home of roughly the same size, he said . . .

Using ultra-thick insulation and complex doors and windows, the architect engineers a home encased in an airtight shell, so that barely any heat escapes and barely any cold seeps in. That means a passive house can be warmed not only by the sun but also by the heat from appliances and even from occupants' bodies.

And in Germany, passive houses cost only about 5 to 7 percent more to build than conventional houses . . .

"This is not about wearing thick pullovers, turning the thermostat down and putting up with drafts. It's about being comfortable with less energy input and we do this by recycling heating."



Photo by Chad Stevens
After three hours locked down to an excavator, protesters were removed from Massey Energy property by the West Virginia State Police. The five activists were cited for trespassing.

Lock Down Unlocked

Continued from page 1
River Mountain. Your strongest supporters are counting on you to stop this madness."

"We can't sit by while Massey jeopardizes the lives and homes of thousands of people," said Vernon Haltom of Naoma, West Virginia. "Governor Manchin and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection have proven that they are unwilling to protect the citizens. What do they expect us to do? Will they wait until we're in body bags to take this threat seriously?" he continued.

A 2008 report by the federal Office of Surface Mining revealed serious deficiencies in the W.V.D.E.P.'s regulation of coal waste dams. In November, W.V.D.E.P. approved a permit revision allowing Massey to begin

the mountaintop removal operation. Despite citizens' objections, D.E.P. denied public participation in its decision-making process.

Anderson added, "We need to stop the madness and stop Massey from blowing up our beautiful mountain. We need to go with the better energy option and that's a wind farm, which is perfect for Coal River Mountain. We could have a green energy future for the country, starting right here."

Arrested in the morning action were Rory McImoil, Matt Noerpel, James McGuinness, Mike Roselle, Glen Collins and videographer Chad Stevens. Arrested in the afternoon action were Lorelie Scarbro, Larry Gibson, Charles Nelson, Missy Petty, Mary Wildfire, Vernon Haltom, Allen Johnson and Heather Sprouse.

Hundreds Attend Protest Against Global Warming

Submitted by Cindy S. Waugh
Sykesville, Maryland

Mass Non-Violent
Climate Change
Action!!!

March 2, 2009
1:00 p.m.
Capitol Coal Plant
"E" St. SE at
New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C.
Meet at Spirit of
Justice Park
(Look for the crowd.)



Photo submitted by Terry Darling
We found this at looku.com and thought it was too cute to pass up.

"I can't understand why there aren't rings of young people blocking bulldozers and preventing them from constructing coal-fired power plants," says Al Gore.

Now is the time for the first national mobili-

zation on climate justice and energy solutions!

Join thousands of people, young and old, who are taking action to lead us toward a just and sustainable future. Make history on March 2nd in Washington, D.C.

We know there is a climate crisis. We know

we have to stop it. We've organized, we've lobbied, we've educated, we've agitated. Now it's time to take our action to the next level. With the arrival of a new administration and a new Congress, we have a window of opportunity. But we must open it — together.

We are inspired by the possibility of change with our new administration and aim to reinforce and extend that promise.

We're taking our action to Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Coal-Fired Power Plant, a plant that powers Congress with dirty energy and symbolizes a past that cannot be our future.

Be part of the largest mass civil disobedience for the climate in U.S. history. We need you. <http://www.capitolclimateaction.org>.

Here's a great Web site where Cindy discovered this alert:

http://www.washingtonpeacecenter.net/civic/activist_alert#4559

Youth Protecting Streams

CONSERVANCY HAS SUCCESSFUL STREAM BUFFER PLANTING SEASON

(excerpt from a ClearWater press release) With the help of many volunteers, partners and donations, ClearWater Conservancy was able to restore 1.7 miles of riparian buffers in 2008 that will create healthy streams in Centre County, Pennsylvania.

The goal of ClearWater's Riparian Conservation Program is to improve stream quality in central Pennsylvania's watersheds. The program educates streamside landowners on the role of vegetated buffers, restores streamside buffers and can permanently protect riparian areas through conservation easements.

When people live or farm close to streams, vegetation in riparian areas is commonly disturbed or removed. This disturbance quickly begins to unravel the delicate balance that once existed between soil, water, plants and animals. Stream banks quickly become destabilized, streams become silted and warm, invasive plant species begin to colonize and riparian-dependent wildlife disappears.

Through ClearWater's program and its many partnerships, some riparian buffers have been protected with streambank fencing to exclude livestock from

streams, preventing streamside erosion and filtering stormwater run-off. The Riparian Conservation Program also provided native trees and shrubs that were planted in the stream buffer.

ClearWater partners included: the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SCTU), PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), Centre County Conservation District (CCCD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Foundation for California University of PA, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC), Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship, Penn State University Office of Physical Plant, PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Nittany Valley Charter School and Blue Mountain Quality Resources, Inc.

Penn State Sheep Farm

Downstream of Millbrook Marsh, the Sheep Farm underwent two stages of buffer expansion and plantings in the spring and fall of this year.

The work on the lower portion of the Sheep Farm in the spring and work on the upper



Nittany Valley Charter School students take a break from planting trees along Spring Creek to pose on the bridge.

Photo by Katie Ombalski

portion this fall resulted in the planting of additional trees in an expanded buffer zone. The buffer fencing was moving back from the stream significantly, creating a much wider swath of vegetation along Spring Creek's banks.

Volunteers planted 225 trees, creating a 3.5-acre buffer that is 1,200 feet long and 45 feet wide. In October, volunteers planted 1.3 additional acres in the upper half of the farm, creating a buffer 1,400 feet long and 40 feet wide. The two efforts

were Eagle Scout Projects for Evan Gover in the spring and Kyle Surovec in the fall.

Focht Farm

The Focht Farm is located on Slab Cabin Run along West Branch Road in College Township. ClearWater partners installed stream bank fencing to plant nearly 1.7 acres of riparian buffer along 2,100 feet of Slab Cabin Run. This project included pasture improvements and grazing plan implementations.

Hall Farm

Nearly 1,400 feet of streambank fencing and 2.25 acres of riparian buffer were installed here.

PFBC Public Access Area

This fall, the PFBC Public Access Area along Spring Creek Road also underwent stream buffer improvements. ClearWater partnered with PFBC, SCTU and students from the Nittany Valley Charter School to plant 125 trees in a previously mowed area. The resulting buffer is 38

feet wide on average, 350 feet long and 0.3 acres in total.

Johnston Farm

Clearwater Conservancy helped the Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship and the Foundation for California University of PA to install a warm-season grass buffer at the Johnston Farm on Halfmoon Creek.

For more information about partnering with ClearWater on your property, contact Katie Ombalski at (814) 237-0400.

Mother Earth Speaks MAJESTIC

Through Douglas Joshua Davis
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

"I am shifting. I am changing. It is like waking up from a dream. The shift is here and you can no longer deny it. You will feel me change. You'll feel it in your bones and bodies. Nothing is ever going to be the same again in my life and in yours. Change is now the Order of the Earth. Yes, it has been like a dream and now I'm waking up and so are you. It will be fun, actually. You will see things with your own eyes you never thought were there before, but were all along. You will feel things you never wanted to feel and you will not be able to hide from your own truth. You will do things your soul is telling you to do. You will live a 'majestic' life. You will be free like the Eagle and joyous and truly happy. This is all coming. I am feeling ecstatic as this is happening, as my vibration changes and rises upward. I will lift you up along with me and you will soar as the Eagle does. My eagles sing my praises. Eagle says, 'We are one with the Earth and all its inhabitants. It is our sacred duty to know this and live it. There is joy in our hearts as we fly across the valleys and mountains and bring you messages of freedom. It is important to know in your daily lives that you are also a part of Earth and one with each other. It is Now you must live for, not the future. The majesty in your lives comes from being in the Now and seeing all the wonders of our Mother. There are so many! Remember to notice them, they are all around you. Wake up from your deep sleep and really see with your eyes and hearts. Don't destroy what is beautiful and



Eagle says, "We are one with the Earth and all its inhabitants."

Office Publisher Image

sacred. And, if you see us, rejoice in the energy that we



bring. It is part of this world and very much part of you and your power and presence on this planet. Be on this planet in a sacred way. We are One. When you see one of us, you are lifted up way beyond your expectations because our presence touches a part of you that yearns for naturalness and reminds you of who you really are: a free spirit. It is that wild

part of you that you've forgotten and are now back in touch with. That's why our presence touches you so. We are encouraging you now to let your soul fly high!

Don't resist my changes. They are for the better. A new day is dawning and I am asking you to celebrate this new day. Here we are on the brink of change. Many of you feel it is negative change, but change is the way of the Universe. To be majestic you must embrace change and go with its inevitable flow. Do not fear for your lives as your old lives fall away and crumble into dust. It is necessary. Allow your inner majesty to take hold, to shine forth and go out under the Sun and smile at the New Day.

Then create your new life in love.

Have you seen my sunsets

and walked through my forests? Have you stood at the edge of one of my waterfalls and felt the water spray onto you? Have you decided it's time to act and follow your heart? Have you felt the Oneness between us? You are a majestic being of light. You are the Eagle soaring high in the sky, in the silence and living free. Have no regrets and no guilt. Just follow your soul to wherever it takes you. You are majestic!"

Douglas Joshua Davis is a clairvoyant and spiritual medium and has been receiving messages for many years. He also communicates with and grows beautiful plants of all kinds. His "homegrown" business is called Sacred Earth Plants. Contact Douglas at greeneearthdd@aol.com.

Response to 'Message from Mother Earth'

Hello, Doug.

I like it. A Lot. I spend a lot of time with this big ball of vibrations (Mother Earth) these days, especially since I've been doing so much shoveling lately. What helps me is to forget about the mental construct, or concept in my mind I have of Earth and **stop looking at Earth as a thought** and start looking at the ground I walk on and everything attached (and unattached too, I suppose) as real physical matter right here in front of me and part of me and actually carrying me. We are spinning together and rotating while we're spinning around this Sun in the vast solar system, which is right here a part of me and in

me. I can now feel that I am made of the exact same stuff that Mother earth is made of and in fact it's the exact same stuff that our stars are made of and, again, it's not some abstract mental thing any more than my feet are! Or my hands . . .

So yes, I really liked what she had to tell you and next time you talk to her please ask her why she doesn't send me flowers anymore!!! (or at least tell her that she can slow down on the freakin' snow!!!)

But mostly, tell her I love her. (sounds like a Mac Davis or Charlie Rich song...)

Namaste'
Don Foley
Youngstown, Ohio

Thoughts from Douglas and Friend

I am wondering if you have heard that climate change and global warming are actually happening on all the planets . . . not just Earth. I think a lot of folks think it is just happening on Earth . . . and that it's all our fault; but, I think what's happening is a vibrational shift with our whole solar system . . . and the Sun has a lot to do with it, too. The Sun, I think, is a major component in our ascension process . . . and I have come to understand that the reason the sun is very weak right now has something to do with needing to change the magnetics on our planet. I just thought I'd ask you if you've heard all of this. I know we all need to take responsibility for our planet... but there is something wonderful happening and there's a greater purpose than most people have heard about.

Anyway, I am very happy to be working with you and your newspaper. Take care.
Doug

Dear Doug,

Oh, my gosh . . . I am so excited to read your next article called Majestic . . . wow! I will sign up for a subscription to *The Order of the Earth* . . . the magazine is serving a great purpose and I want to be part of it as much as possible.

It was hard to read some of the articles — the truth about what is happening to the Earth is heart-wrenching.

I am going to send the magazine to my 12-year-old grandson to read . . . as he is determined to be a scientist who will help the Earth. This will be his area of study and the devotion of his life . . . I think *The Order of the Earth* will be good for him to read as he is growing up.

It is good to read your articles . . . because they are positive and helpful to Earth and humanity.

Sierra
Berea, Ohio

Getting to Know the Neighbors

A True Winter's Tale

By Terry Darling
Warren, Pennsylvania

Another beautiful day in Kinzua Country, a typical Sunday afternoon in the heart of January, snow knee-deep and wind chill like heaven's bullets. A perfect time to try out my new snowshoes.

I had never used snowshoes before. In fact, after having endured nearly fifty winters in northwestern Pennsylvania, I can honestly say that I'm not a winter person. For me, the ideal winter is a soft, snowy blanket dusting the Christmas Eve landscape . . . transforming into a glittering world of diamonds on sunny Christmas Day . . . gently melting/morphing into the arrival of spring's first robin on New Year's Eve. After a half century of wishful fantasizing, my guess is that it ain't gonna happen.

When life serves you lemons, make lemonade. When life serves you snow, make snow cones. So, hoping I would learn to love what I could not change, I bought snowshoes for myself and my husband, Reg. They arrived in April, too late to serve the winter that prompted their purchase.

Reg watched as I attacked the box, tearing the tape away as if my life depended on what was inside. When I pulled my pair out he said, "Do you realize they're bright pink?" I acknowledged his observation was correct and assured him that his own snowshoes were a manly color.

The following January, the stars and weather conditions finally slipped into proper alignment for my first winter wonderland adventure. I retrieved my snowshoes and set of poles from the attic.

The instructions were brief and the snowshoes were amazingly easy to slip on and adjust. I kissed Reg good-bye and asked him to send a search party if I didn't return within the hour.

The day was diamond bright and wicked cold. I decided to trudge around our yard and observe the Conewango Creek, rushing with a river's force behind our house. Chunks of ice, like miniature icebergs, floated along for the free ride to Pittsburgh. "Good rid-



dance." In my typical winter mood, I bid them well.

Onward . . . how easy to walk in deep snow! I soon broke a path that criss-crossed the length and breadth of our property a dozen times. Onward . . . the park across the street beckoned.

The street had been plowed thoroughly and salted heavily, which made crossing cumbersome. When I reached the park, for the first time in my adult life, I welcomed the plentitude of snow and reveled in breaking path across, up, down and all around.

Not accustomed to the particular demands of snowshoes, my legs and arms tired in short order. Heading toward the benches in the park's pavilion, I noticed that someone had lost a furry hat in the snow, just ahead.

Thank heavens I touched the fur hat with one pole a few feet ahead of me before reaching it. It rose and proudly displayed its big yellow teeth — a muskrat! She quickly resumed her hat-like pose and I scurried home, quicker than you could say, "There's a muskrat in Morck Park!"

I tapped on the living room window (very handy, these poles) and signaled for Reg to join me outdoors. "There's a muskrat in Morck Park! Come see," I beamed.

Our pace slowed as we approached her. She was so tightly curled we couldn't determine head from tail.

"What's she doing up here in the park?" I asked.

"I don't know. Maybe this cold weather drove her up," Reg replied.

"Maybe she's wounded."

Continued on page 16

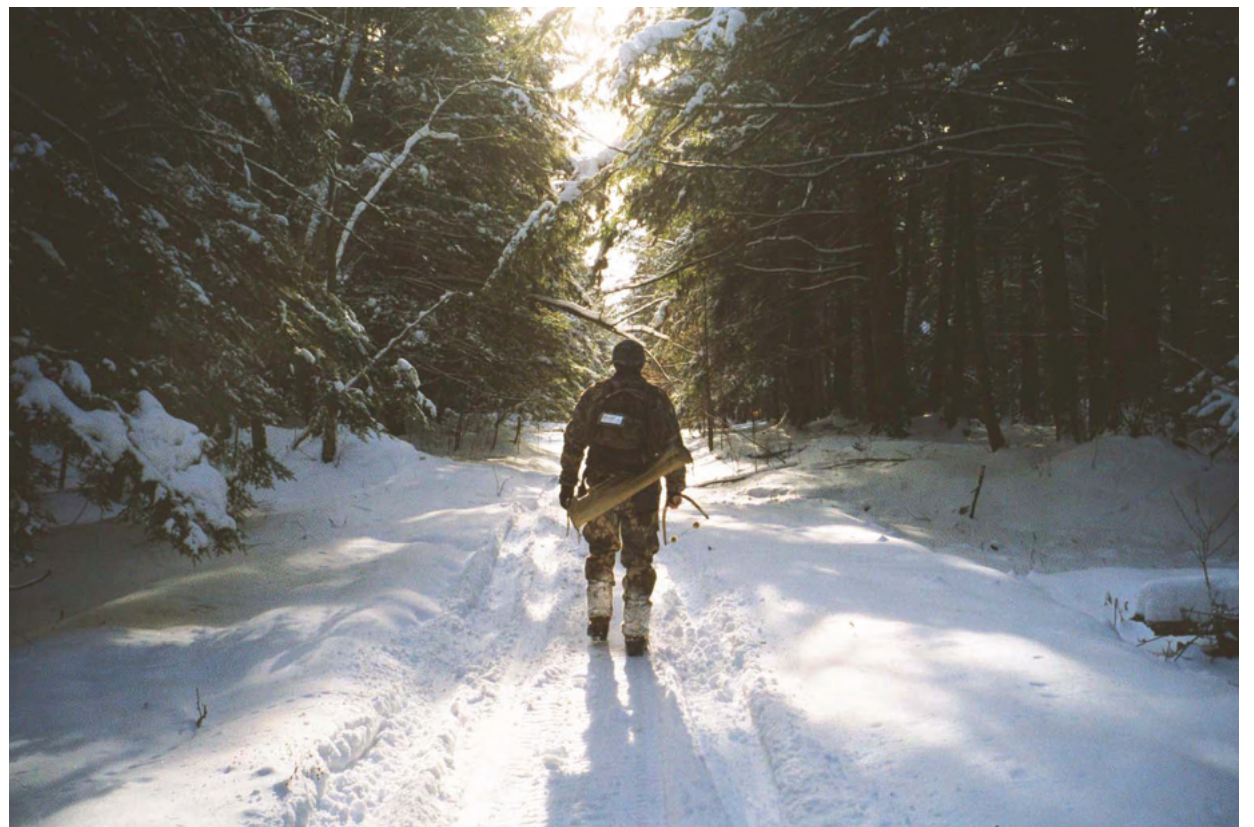


Photo by Oren Darling

Three Poems from a Hunter

By Reg Darling, Warren PA

Wound/Loss Ratio

After futile searching the clumsy inadequate consolation of a survivable wound. A hunter should do better. Hunger assuaged must exceed agonies inflicted lest karma fall into bloody red debt. When a bankrupt hunter dies and blinks into wide-eyed rebirth the cosmic loan shark comes calling. A soul howling with broken thumbs makes silent stalking difficult. Hunger rises toward a balance the hunter usually fails to understand even when ravens try to explain.

Winter Food

Blue crisp pre-dawn light Waiting filled with anticipation Trees rain golden leaves Waiting filled with watching and listening Ground sparkling with frost Hands stiff and aching Waiting filled with cold Movement graceful, silent and brown Heart beating hard and fast Arrow glistening with warm blood Here is where we have always lived.

Almost

Our land had almost healed we could feel its wildness rising we could hear it sing the ospreys and eagles returned we ate venison and made quivers from deerskin we fried brook trout on stone-ringed campfires and toasted their flame-orange savagery with cheap beer we began to feel native in a new way our spirits healing apace with the forest we could feel wildness rising in our hearts and then the price of oil went up

The Examined Life: On 'No to Nukes'

By Marion Stuenkel
Madison, Wisconsin

Nuclear power is not the solution to global warming. The reasons why include the fact that, when you take the whole fuel cycle into account from mining uranium to disposing of the highly radioactive waste, a very great deal more carbon is expended than the nuclear industry advertises. Not to be forgotten is that what a reactor produces is plutonium. Boiling water is secondary.

The defining problem of the nuclear industry is what is to be done with the radioactive waste. Since the first cupful of reactor waste was produced on December 2, 1942 under Stagg Field in Chicago, no solution exists. The legacy of nuclear energy is poisonous waste. The fact that human capacity is limited is certainly never admitted in carefully crafted advertising campaigns to promote nuclear energy or nuclear weapons, let alone that we humans have a propensity for doing things because we can and then being unable to undo them.

Though we know cars cause around half of the carbon spewing into the atmosphere, we don't limit driving unless gasoline prices cost too much. Why don't we consider the cost of air pollution and global warming? Is it because we can't see it?

We can't, alas, see radiation either.

Nuclear energy is not the solution to global warming because reactors take years to build with massive technical problems and ever-rising costs. The capacity to produce huge reactor components is limited to several pieces a year done by only half a dozen corporations in a handful of countries of which the U.S. is not one. Large volumes of steel and concrete are required and uranium is in short supply.

The indigenous people on whose land it would be mined and milled are protesting with the disastrous results of uranium mining on the Navajo Nation in mind. The negative health effects of ionizing radiation, right now, are in the high incidence of childhood leukemia in the close vicinity of nuclear power plants.

There is a lack of qualified engineers and inspectors. When all the nuclear power industry's problems are considered, nuclear reactors are not the solution to global warming; rather they are a formidable problem to the Earth's well being in themselves.

One large reactor can produce 200 kilograms of plutonium every year. The Nuclear Information Service and Institute for Energy and Environmental Research are excellent sources. See www.nirs.org and www.ieer.org.

Socrates wrote "...The unexamined life is not worth living . . ."

On June 23, 1975 my father, Leon H. Stuenkel wrote in his limited appearance statement before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board:

"I oppose the Perry Nuclear Power Plant because of the great nuclear catastrophes which are possible because of the basic fallibility of designers, equipment and personnel. No equipment designed and manufactured by man is fail-proof and no amount of redundancy in safety systems can insure that there will not be a failure. There is no evidence that I know of that indicates a reliability of equipment and personnel which is commensurate with the magnitude of the catastrophe possible."

Four years later, on March 28, 1979, the accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Reactor occurred. The magnitude of the effect on the community is still a secret 30 years later as the reports were sealed. Epidemiological studies of cancer rate increases after the radioactive elements were released have been discounted. Anecdotal evidence of the proportions of damage is pooch-pooched and people's experiences have been downgraded to psychological reactions. Reports of radiation sunburns, fogged dental films, animal and plant malformations, are given no or skeptical press. Successful lawsuits resulted in gag orders. Most folks in the nuclear industry will tell you not much damage was done.

The conversation switches to the Chernobyl accident but there also the nuclear industry downplays the consequences of the disaster, even as Bechtel, a major nuclear energy player, builds a cover up of the reactor core.

Nuclear energy is not the solution to global warming. That our addiction to electricity is so intense that such a solution is even thought of is a measure of human weakness.

We need to "Just Say No!"

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

[Ed.: When we were house-hunting, a trustworthy toxicologist/medical doctor named Janette Sherman advised us not to move within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant because of the increased cancer rates within that circumference. She wrote *Life's Delicate Balance: Cause and Prevention of Breast Cancer*, a book for all of us. Go to www.safe2use.com/dr.sherman.]



Don't Forget to Smell the Flowers

By Sunny War Eagle
Shawnee Pigwa, Earthbridge, Inc.
Marianna, Florida

For several years now, living in Federal Housing here in Marianna, i (sic) have had to do my gardening in pots that fit the concrete slabs at front and back doors.

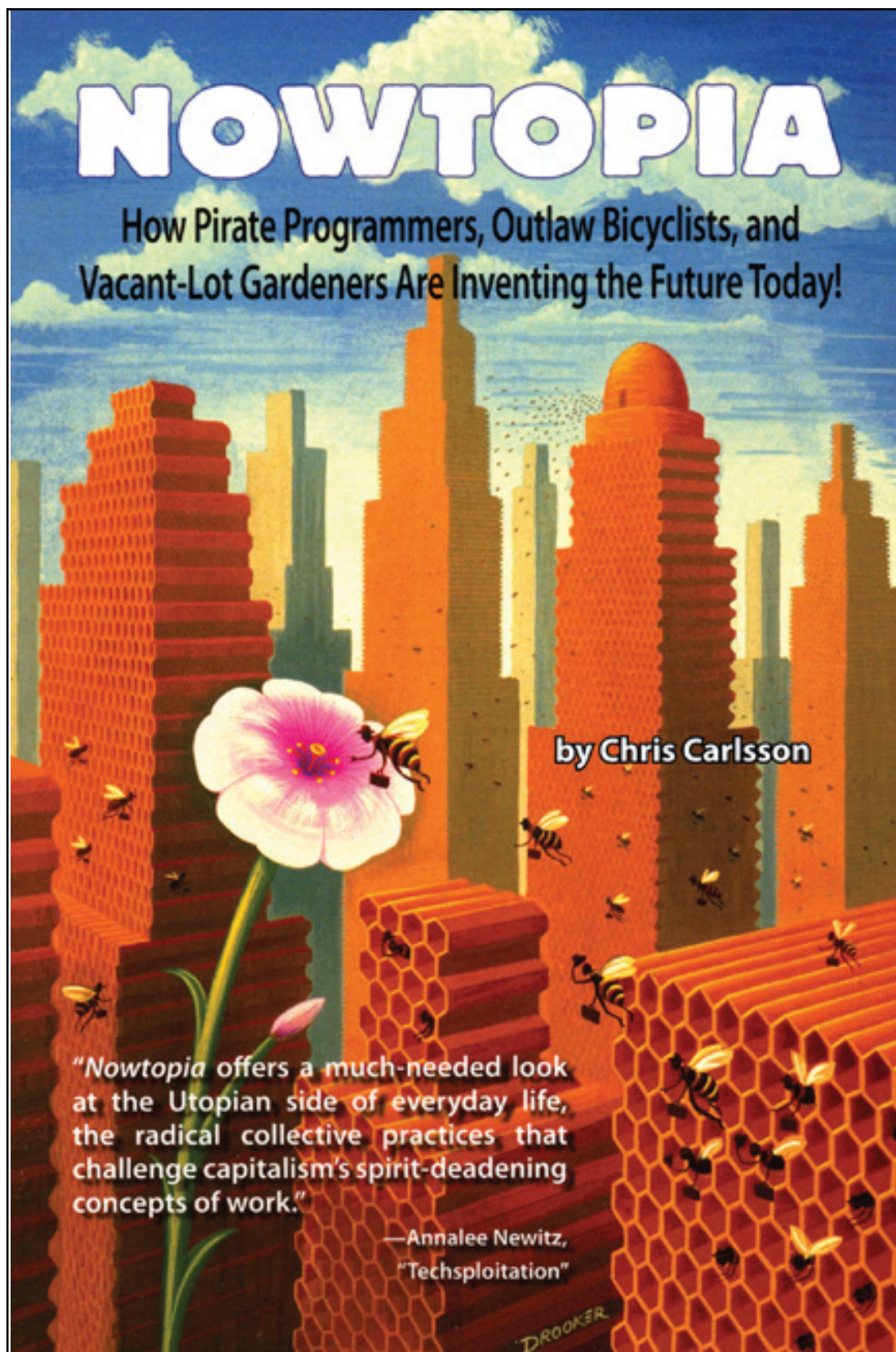
Amidst the collection of flower pots and such is a pottery turtle. Mr. Turtle stands on hind legs to about a foot tall. He holds a sign that says, "Don't forget to smell the flowers." This year I put him on the edge of the lawn out front facing all who might walk by or come to visit.

Today, on September 5th, it was another of our recent delightful cooler

mornings. As i prepared to leave to do some errands, i stopped as is my habit, in gratitude and appreciation of the many beautiful flowers in bloom there.

It was then i noticed that just in front of Mr. Turtle was a Wildflower that had its bright yellow bloom just nose-height so he could 'smell' the flower himself. The pretty little wild beauty was the only one i could see in the lawn so was amazed and full of wonder that she had chosen Mr. Turtle to honor with her simple wildflower beauty for his long service of reminding us to stop and appreciate all that is around us.

It is good!



Review by Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

I was looking for a book which laid out a vision for an alternative, yet possible, way to restructure our society that would light up my heart.

I found it!
Nowtopia by Chris Carlsson is a fabulously-written book that places these ideas in an historical context of labor and capitalism in an easy-to-understand and digest form. The four major areas Carlsson covers (bicycling, permaculture gardening, making your own fuel and using the Internet) are not exactly new, but you will see that they are powerful in their potential to drastically change things at home in the U.S.A.

Here's an example of Carlsson's writing: "Prevailing wages in India and China for computer programming, architectural drafting and other professional skills are a fraction of the going rate in the U.S. or Europe. That alone would explain the shrinking security that middle-class professionals have come to take for granted.

"Concomitantly, it is no longer so easy to move laterally from job to job. Instead, steady work is beginning to resemble musical chairs,

and the great fear of professional workers is to be between jobs when the music stops."

A common thread in the book brings to life this sentence: "Do-It-Yourself tinkering is rooted in ecological principles as well as an urgent desire for high-quality human connections based on conviviality and pleasure." Carlsson continues, "This is the early glimmer of a recomposing working class after three decades of dispersion, defeat and disillusionment — based not on wage-work but on freely chosen, self-directed collaborations."

"The DIY ethic seeks to overthrow the idea that we will be provided for. We will provide for ourselves, through educating each other, through collective decision-making. It fits into this larger concept of an ideal society." (Ben Gillock)

I have so many stars, footnotes, underlings and notes in my book that I decided to ask the publisher if it would be all right with them to continue this "Book Review" as a series of short essays pulled from the book so we have negotiated that. This may be the shortest Book Review we will ever publish but it will continue next time.

Carlsson's blog is <http://www.nowtopians.com> and you may order the book from AK Press at www.akpress.org (\$18.95)

Democracy for the Few

Review by John B. Conner
Grassroots Coalition for Environmental & Economic Justice

In 1982, while leading a comfortable life working for the Baltimore City Housing Department, a book appeared which changed my life by revealing to me the great need in our society for change. That book was called *The Fate of the Earth* by Jonathan Schell and it focused on the consequences of all-out nuclear war between the two then-superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union.

After several years of working with ordinary American citizens in what was then called 'citizen diplomacy' to reduce the threat of such a war and seeing the departure of the Cold War in the late 1980s, I shifted my emphasis to economic and environmental injustice, where I have remained since then.

During all of those years, I have felt the need to become knowledgeable about the great economic and political injustices caused by powerful elements in this country. This need has been satisfied primarily by reading political science books and articles in magazines, newspapers and Web sites. Of the magazines, far and away the best is *Z Magazine*.

Some of the authors specialize in one thing and some in another. And some focus on the entire economic, political and environmental situation.

Of the latter, one person, Michael Parenti, has made an attempt to produce a single book which sums it all up — *Democracy for the Few*. And in my opinion, he does a remarkably good job of it. For two reasons: 1) his knowledge and 2) his values.

The major drawback is the price of the newest edition. It's an average-sized paperback, about 300 pages. You would typically pay about \$25-30 for such a book but this one costs \$90! Because the publishers saw a way to make a killing — by classifying it as a textbook, which means that college students who are required to buy it as a textbook are forced to pay an outlandish price, which is good for the publishers but bad for potential readers of average means.

Some of the remarkably tragic elements of our society which Parenti describes at length:

- The chasm between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots,' between the working class and those who do not work but benefit from the labors of workers. The 'haves' possess the obscene wealth they obtain by inheritance or by exploiting and oppressing the workers, both in the United States and in the Third World. That millions of Americans are forced to live in abject poverty means nothing to those who run the country. "What's good for me and me alone now" is their watchword.

- The FBI and the CIA and their allies in the Armed Forces go to any and every length to render harmless anyone and any organization — the AFL-CIO, anti-war groups, civil rights organizations, feminist groups, to name a few — which opposes the accumulation of wealth by Corporate America — engaging in imprisonment, torture, murder of millions of people, both in this country and in the Third World. The average American is dimly aware (to the

extent that the mainstream media permits) of what is happening now and did happen a few years ago. If he/she were to look at these goings-on throughout American history, they would be appalled.

- Stolen elections in 2000 and in 2004. The Republican Party used every means it could think of to win: undistributed ballots, disappeared ballots, denial of the vote to 'felons' who were not felons, making voting virtually impossible for Democrats, reporting false numbers of votes — too high for Republicans and too low for Democrats — excluding poll watchers and, perhaps most significant of all, adjusting the numbers from touch-screen voting machines (in some places the number of votes for the Republicans exceeded the number of registered voters).

- Ownership of the media by a small number of big corporations which distort the truth. Parenti has another book which focuses on the media: *Inventing Reality*.

- The environment. Parenti has come late to the realities of Climate Change but still does a good job, recognizing that all of life is seriously threatened by Climate Change, using the word Eco-Apocalypse.

One could go on and on, and he does, pointing to virtually every aspect of society in need of change and all because a small number of people control the economic and political systems, seeking only to maximize wealth and power for themselves, regardless of the damage they do to humanity and the environment.

If one reads his book carefully and thoughtfully and reflects on the gap between where our society is today and where it should be if you share Parenti's ideals, the obvious question that comes to your mind is: Where does hope lie?

He answers by pointing to what he calls "the 'third sector' of the economy, consisting of more than 30,000 worker-run producer cooperatives and thousands of consumer cooperatives; 13,000 credit unions; nearly 100 cooperative banks and more than 100 cooperative insurance companies, plus about 5,000 housing co-ops; 1,200 rural utility co-ops and 115 telecommunications and cable co-ops. Employees own a majority of the stock in at least 1,000 companies. Construction trade unions have used pension funds to build low-cost housing and to start unionized, employee-owned contracting firms."

He surely believes that if only these kinds of institutions were to increase dramatically, society would enter into a new and higher form, one in which justice, peace and democracy would reign.

Of all the current efforts by social change groups to move society in the right direction, we at the Grassroots Coalition understandably like ours best. We recognize, as Parenti does, that corporations run the world, and nothing will get better until economic power is shifted from the big corporations to smaller, democratically-run, worker-owned cooperatives.

We are in the process of working with churches, colleges and civic organizations to achieve that objective.

Contact John at grassroots1@pa.net.

Plant Secrets

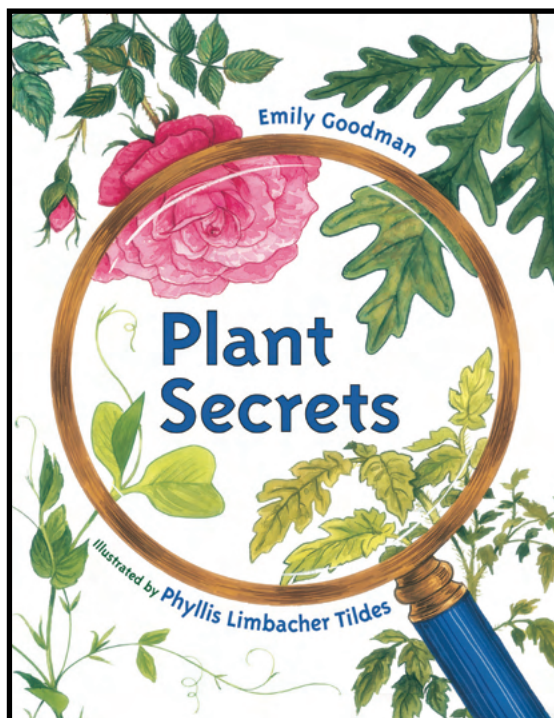
Review by Alyssa Balles
Three Springs, Pennsylvania

Plant Secrets is a children's book about the various stages of plant life and the secrets of each stage. It was written by Emily Goodman and illustrated by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes. It discusses how plants grow from seeds to mature plants and finally produce fruit. The title, *Plant Secrets*, describes the theme of the book.

It is said that each stage of a plant's life contains secrets which help it progress to the next stage of its life. Four plants are given as examples of the different stages of plant life throughout the book. *Plant Secrets* can easily spark a child's interest in nature and is a great introduction to such material.

The last few pages contain information on plants such as the families which the plants belong to and their common uses. The text in this section is worded in a way which makes it more advanced than the other information in the book. Even so, the information is still interesting to younger readers. The included information adds a sophisticated element to *Plant Secrets*. This is one factor among many which makes the book pleasing to an older age group as well as a younger one.

Vivid pictures created by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes accompany the text throughout *Plant Secrets*. The pictures make the book appealing to younger readers. Each of the plants is drawn with much detail to provide accurate information to children. The last page of the book names the plants featured throughout the book. *Plant Secrets* is designed in such a way that young readers can identify with the information given to them even if they browse through the pictures.

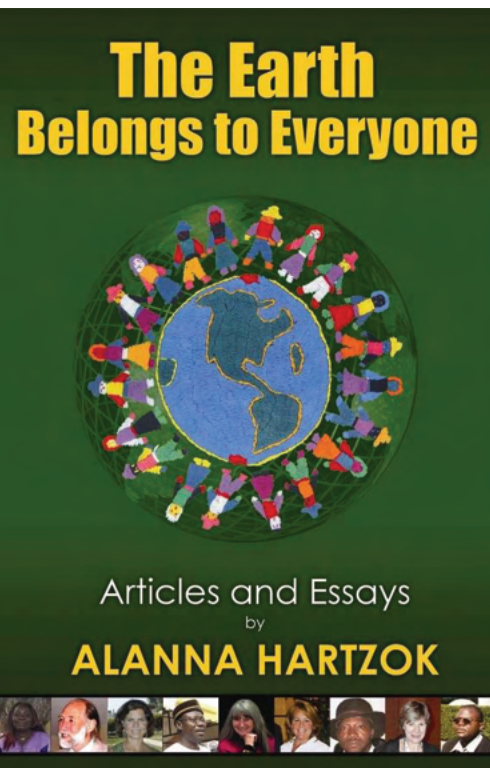


Plant Secrets by Emily Goodman (\$16.95 for the hard cover and \$7.95 for paperback) uses a common theme of surprises and secrets to keep the reader interested. Pictures of plants in various stages accompany the text, adding a layer to the story. It is an informative and interesting book that can be appreciated by readers of all ages.

Alyssa Balles is a senior in high school, involved in many things, including journalism and the environment. She is looking forward to college so she can share her ideas and views with a new group of students who share her interests.

Earth Rights Institute Announcement

EDITOR'S NOTE: IN MY EARLIER EARTH WORK I READ ABOUT THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF THOUGHT AND NOW HERE'S A BOOK STEMMING FROM THAT. I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE TITLE SO I'M PRINTING THIS TO SHARE WITH YOU. TO ORDER (\$25 PLUS \$5 SHIPPING) CALL 717-264-0957.



The Earth Belongs to Everyone by Alanna Hartzok, co-director of Earth Rights Institute, sets forth the vision and policy foundation for "earth rights democracy". Following an introduction containing glimpses of the author's fascinating journey through life, this compilation of her articles and essays describes how to establish political-economic systems based on the human right to the planet as a birthright. Her key theme is that earth rights democracy is an essential ethical basis necessary to secure other economic human rights and to create a world of peace and plenty for all. She places this core perspective into an integrated local-to-global framework that balances the need for global cooperation with the necessity for building demilitarized, decentralized, and sustainable local-based economics.

The Earth Belongs to Everyone presents a large and hopeful worldview with profound possibilities for transformational action for peace, economic justice, and environmental restoration.

Themes of the book include: Democracy, Earth Rights and the Next Economy; Sharing Our Common Heritage; Land for People, Not for Profit; Financing Local to Global Public Goods; Women, Earth and Economic Power; Restructuring Economic Relationships; Economics of War and Peace.

What people are saying about the book:

"More and more people are convinced that the only way to a just, prosperous and ecologically sustainable future is to share the value of Earth's resources more fairly. One of the many merits of Alanna Hartzok's collection of writings is to ground that conviction in practical proposals. She inspires us to do something about it." - James Robertson, author, The New Economics of Sustainable Development, co-founder, The Other Economic Summit and New Economics Foundation, consultant, European Commission, London

"Alanna Hartzok has deeply researched tax issues with equity and ecological-sustainability firmly in mind. This book is a storehouse of wisdom and insights on these and many broader issues relating economics to the larger planetary ecology." - Hazel Henderson, author, Founder, Globalization and Building a Win-Win World, member, President's Commission on Sustainable Development, founder, Ethical Markets TV

Team Warms Up "OE" Home in the Cold

Rob Smith scales a ladder to blow additional insulation into our attic. The men also created two vents so the attic wouldn't get moldy or mildewed. Throughout the day we asked questions and they helped us understand weatherization and how we can keep working to tighten up our home and reduce our energy use. Photos by Iona



Bollinger Builders arrives to help the Connors use less energy and save on their electric bills.

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

Last month we described the initial steps in the free weatherization program we qualified for by 1. having a low income, and 2. being rated as a high-energy user despite our best efforts at conservation and inexpensive tactics we thought would lower our electric bills.

The money for this work is federal but it filters down to the state where the

program is implemented and monitored.

On a very, very cold day three men from Bollinger Builders of Mill Creek, Pennsylvania spent about four hours doing all sorts of work on our home.

When they performed a second blower test to see how much air leaks through the house, they were pleased that the number had dropped from 1927 to 1781 cubic feet per minute. They said that a level of 1500 is the lowest they go; otherwise, you end up with too much indoor air pollution. A house needs to breathe a bit.

We haven't yet gotten our new electric bill so it's hard to compare, but with all that work, we are convinced that our bills will be lower in the winter months from now on.

The photos and captions tell the story.



Paul Smith organized the work. Here he is shown with a truckload of paper insulation for the attic. He also replaced three thermostats, a fan and a basement baseboard heater that was coming on sporadically, wasting energy in summer as well as winter.



John Wilson worked hard to seal up our basement door. He put foam-filled weather-stripping around the door and a "sweeper" at the bottom to prevent cold air from coming in. He also plugged up our dryer vent since we will never own a dryer and a lot of cold air was coming in through it. It had been "out of sight and out of mind" during all our earlier efforts.



Rob Smith put styrofoam sheets all along the perimeter of the basement above the cinder block and caulked them to tighten up the ground level.



A healing place in the natural beauty of Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Photo by Iona

Polarity Healing Sessions in Nature

By Sally Klein
Bedford, Pennsylvania

With the breeze surrounding me, rustling leaves and bird-song floating gently on the breeze, a stream gurgling, singing or drumming in the background and my feet in solid contact with Mother Earth, I enjoy my favorite healing forum — outdoors surrounded by the elements. Sharing a Polarity bodywork session in a natural setting is a powerful healing experience. For ten years now, I have offered subtle energy work and bodywork at outdoor events. My first experience working in nature was at a spiritual retreat in the mountains of West Virginia, which set the stage for my future as a traveling practitioner.

The therapeutic effect of doing bodywork in the elements and “fields” is often profound. Although I did not systematically document these experiences, I notice patterns.

One of the differences, compared to in-office sessions, is that therapeutic benefits seem to manifest more quickly. Recipients often experience symptom relief in shorter sessions focused on a specific condition that needs immediate attention. Even deeply held emotional issues are sometimes able to attain full or partial resolution rather quickly. One contributing factor may be the conscious commitment of the participant to intentionally seek change by attending the event in the first place.

Most therapeutic bodywork relationships involve repeat appointments. Working with clients I might never see again and offering spontaneous treatment is challenging. With few reference materials at hand, I must trust my intuition, experience and observation skills. I engage less from the mental plane and more from the physical and energetic levels. Occasionally, I get to see clients more than once. Some seek me out at annual or repeat events and we pick up where we left off with ease.

One client was attending a rustic event where tents were the only accommodations. She was hardly able to walk when fibromyalgia and back problems flared up. She was about to leave

the event, which had barely begun, unless she could get relief from the intense pain.

As she initially approached me, I received a mental image of the gentle cranial work to be done. During this rather brief treatment, she was able to deeply relax. After the session, she reported feeling free of pain and was able to stay to the end of the event.

A year later, at the same event, this client's daughter sought me out to report that her mother had been pain free for months following the session and that no other treatments she received had ever had such a long-lasting effect. I believe the specific treatment technique was not the only factor in this healing response, but the close connection to the elements and the natural world contributed to this healing outcome.

When working outdoors, I sense the elemental energy flowing from the surroundings. Seeing, hearing, feeling and smelling the elements helps keep me in the moment, fully present to the recipient. We both feel renewed by this direct connection to the elements.

Here's another example of an experience where the elements impacted the healing session with great power.

Late on a summer afternoon, while working with a client in a screen tent under the shade of a huge sycamore tree, a storm arrived. I was using a treatment protocol for the element of water to release blocked energy. Just as the session came to completion, the intense thunderstorm rolled in, blew rain into the tent and reverberated thunder off the mountains. We both got drenched and ended the session soaked and laughing, which was exactly what the client needed at that moment. Her shields were cracked open by the thunderstorm!

If my inner guidance is unclear about what treatment to use, I begin basic energy or massage work and open my attention to the surroundings. I pay attention to the creatures that appear. Sometimes a butterfly, bee, bird or spider will enter the work space. Once a hummingbird flew into the tent. Sometimes my cat wanders in to “help”. Praying mantis, “walking sticks” and various insects

show up to reflect an aspect of the work needed by this client. I keep copies of Ted Andrews, *Animal Speak*; Jamie Sams & David Carson's, *Medicine Cards*; Philip & Stephanie Carr-Comm's, *The Druid Animal Oracle* and Susan Seddon Boulet's, *Animal Spirits Knowledge Cards* nearby and offer clients an opportunity to research animals and insects that appear during the session or show up in imagery or meditations. Insights can often be gained from the animal's traits and behaviors or their adaptations to the environment.

The elemental aspects of sounds are notable, too. Drums beating connect to the earth element; birdsong, a change in the wind or rustling leaves enhance the air element; fireworks, lightning, laughter or children shrieking with joy invite the fire element; fog, river sounds or falling rain reflect the water element. At first, the lack of ability to control the aural environment surrounding the treatment space seemed like a problem. I soon discovered these sounds were actually helpful in reflecting something essential during the session. Even the otherwise distracting ‘noise’ of robust singing, loud music, chatter or children's exuberant playing usually creates just the ‘right’ background for the work. I no longer play background music in my portable studio. I allow the sounds of the surroundings to support the session.

As a lover of the outdoors, I seek appropriate events to do my work and enhance my own inner spirit. Keeping my personal energy strong and clear allows me to assist others who want help on their healing journey. I absorb strength, grounding and insight from the natural world. I pay close attention as I hike and feel the earth support me. I swim in the flowing water of a river or stream and feel the cleansing as it flows over me. I gaze at the infinity of the stars and allow my spirit to soar. I feel the vibration of the drums and gaze at a crackling fire to renew my passion for life.

Many individuals have become so entrenched in their indoor electronic lives, by choice or circumstance, that they are often alienated from the natural

world. When we lose regular contact with nature, we diminish the ability to balance our bodies, minds and spirits. Humans receive nourishment from natural sunlight, long vista views, deep quiet of virgin forests, the sight of billions of stars in dark night skies, birdsong, fresh air, scents of flowers and trees or farm fresh food eaten from the vine. Lack of these “nutrients” compounds our stress-related dis...ease state. Natural healing practices, such as those offered through Polarity therapy and other holistic healing systems, can help regain our balance.

I encourage everyone to seek the healing energy in nature. Pay close attention the next time an opportunity arises to be present at an event in a natural setting. Notice how the surroundings and the elements affect you. Tune in to the wind, rain, river, thunder, sun, heat, cold, sounds, trees, sky, stars, rocks, bugs and creatures. Acknowledge the elements surrounding you and the messages they may offer. Reflect on how these affect your internal energy. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to enjoy the opportunity to give or receive a bodywork session outdoors.

May you share in the discovery of how miraculously it all weaves together for healing!

Sally Klein is a Registered Polarity Practitioner and currently resides in Bedford, PA. She's been involved with holistic health care practices and yoga since 1982. Sally also works with Reiki, Craniosacral therapy, yoga, homeopathy, sound healing and therapeutic massage. She co-created three holistic healing centers, prior to moving to the mountains to be closer to nature. Sally offers body and energy work at outdoor events in southern Bedford County at Four Quarters farm and camp (<http://www.4qf.org/>). She can be contacted at starflwr5@aol.com.

To learn more about Polarity Therapy see American Polarity Therapy Association at <http://www.polaritytherapy.org/> and The Polarity Network at <http://www.polaritynetwork.com/>

Val's Vegetarian Column The Hidden Costs of Dairy and How to Dine Deliciously Without It

By Valerie Stanley
Laurel, Maryland

“What's wrong with dairy?” I asked some 25 years ago.

It was an innocent enough question. After all, we grow up being told we need to drink a certain number of glasses of milk a day. And the cows do need to be milked twice a day. Everything meshed so well, or so it seemed. Since then, I have learned of the tremendous costs to the animals and the environment, much less our health, from dairy production and consumption. Before getting to the novel concept of being able to have a nutritious cheese substitute, I'll discuss some of the reasons for foregoing dairy.

they are given reconstituted milk (from another dairy cow) fed to them from a pail.

I once visited a barn with row upon row of veal calves in their standing-stall-size crates.

The sadness of these sweet creatures was beyond comparison; as I walked by they all reached out to my hands, trying to satisfy their natural desire to suckle, a desire that has no bottom-line benefit and thus is ignored.

Cost to the Environment

I knew from trying to fight the proliferation of confinement veal-calf operations in Pennsylvania in the mid-1980s that this off-shoot of the dairy industry had deleterious effects on the



Photo supplied by FarmSanctuary.org
These calves in a Pennsylvania veal farm are confined in crates two feet wide with no space to walk or stretch their limbs.

The Cost to the Animals

For cows to produce milk, they must be kept pregnant continually. Heifers (young, female cows) are assimilated back into the dairy production herd but what about bull calves? There is no “need” for male calves on a dairy farm; instead they are raised for “milk-fed” veal.

The unfortunate truth is that male calves never get to nurse and are not milk-fed via nursing from their mothers. Instead, they are taken from their mothers at birth; oftentimes, they can be taken to auction with their umbilical cords still protruding. In some locales, male calves are not even fed after birth; they await a truck which comes once a week to pick up the calves from local farmers to take them to veal-calf operators or auction. Once they arrive at the barn where they are to be kept,

surrounding land. First, the smell from the liquid waste of these operations is very strong and sickening. The waste is stored in lagoons which overflow when there is a large amount of rainfall. Alternatively, farmers spread the liquid waste on their crop land.

According to Food and Water Watch, “[E]ach of the 9.1 million dairy cows in the United States excretes approximately 120 pounds or 14.475 gallons of manure per day . . . One 2,500-cow dairy produces as much waste annually as a city with 400,000 residents.”

The report points out that, “Manure contains nitrous and phosphorus [and] when too many of these enter waterways they prompt the rapid growth of algae and other aquatic plants that consume much of the oxygen in the water, [smothering] fish and other animals.”

Non-Dairy Cheesy Topping and Sauce

It's possible to enjoy cheesy sauces and other recipes that traditionally contain dairy. One of the most frequently used products to simulate cheese in cooking is “nutritional yeast.” It is not Brewer's yeast nor the type of yeast used to make dough rise; rather, it is a yeast that is highly nutritious, containing good amounts of B vitamins. It has 18 amino acids, making it a complete protein and 15 minerals. Nutritional yeast is carried in most health food stores.

Nutritional yeast has a unique taste. You may want to introduce it into your diet in the following ways that are favorites in our house. My daughter, Katie, and I love it sprinkled on top of warm toast spread with margarine and we also like it mixed with margarine on warm angel hair or other pasta.

Cheesy Gravy*

1/2cup nutritional yeast
1/3 cup flour
1/4cup oil
1 to 2 cups stock or water
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon each: paprika, basil and oregano

In a medium saucepan combine yeast and flour; place over low heat, stirring until slightly toasted. Add the oil, stirring to make a thick batter. Slowly add the stock, stirring constantly (add liquid until desired consistency is reached.)

Add the remaining ingredients and stir well. Serve over vegetables.

*From *The Cookbook for People Who Love Animals*

a smaller slower simpler life

By Dan Murphy, Moscow ID
The Juniper #11 Winter 2008/2009, excerpt

I'm slow. It's just the way I do things. I'm usually always the last one to finish a task and, if life were a series of races, I'd probably always come in last. It's not because I'm incompetent or because I lack skills. It's simply because I have never seen the point of being in a continual rush. Take it easy and, it's easy, take it twice. Life flies by fast enough as it is; if you learn to take your time, you might discover a more satisfying and enjoyable existence. De-clutter, de-junk and slow down.

Part of the reason why I'm slow is because of my

disposition. I'm a reserved and mellow guy with a lot of patience and I don't appreciate large amounts of drama or stress. Some people are fueled by chaos and danger, getting all worked up and anxious seems to feed their fire. Not me.

I like to relax and be small. The slow life is the high life as far as I'm concerned. Each moment is important and I want time to take it in rather than running frantically from one moment to the next. This is part of the reason why I talk so much about slow and simple living. I realize that it's not for everyone, but it's perfect for me.

These past several months I have come to many realizations. I may even be so bold as to consider them epiphanies. And now I feel as if I am in a state of transition

(a metamorphosis, if you will) as I attempt to carry out these new findings and settle into this newfangled way of living. I really believe that this is what life is for: to continually reexamine yourself and your life, each day trying to live a little better according to your own judgments about what “better” is. It can take a whole lifetime to finally get it right, but the most important part is the journey.

Some of the things I have thought about are urgency, positivity and optimism, and being actively involved in your own life (an integrated existence). Life is an urgent matter, so we should live urgently. This doesn't mean that life should be frantically chaotic, instead we should understand the fleeting nature of life and not take any moment

for granted. We should live like everything matters. Living with urgency can mean taking things slowly or intensely or immediately depending on the circumstances. An urgent life leads to an active life, which should lead to the realization that your life is yours; you are in control. The captain at the helm gets to decide where the ship goes. You get to control your own destiny. This doesn't mean that everything will go your way or that you'll always get everything that you want, but knowing that you are free to choose your own paths and attitudes should help you handle things better when things don't go the way you had hoped . . .

Ed.: Dan's work is anti-copyright and we are so happy about that! It's a real pain to waste time getting permissions.

A PERSONAL TOUR OF INAUGURAL FESTIVITIES

By Michael Tabor
Takoma Park, Maryland

Despite weather more reminiscent of Chibougamau, Quebec than Washington, D.C., the Inaugural weekend seemed more like a celebration of the victory of the forces of light over darkness.

It was important for me, who is mostly involved in Maryland grassroots political organizing when I'm not farming in South Central Pennsylvania, to see and experience the pulse of other groups locally and around the country.

It began for me on Friday, January 16 with a Magpie folk concert hosted by Jim and Alison Colwell in Takoma Park, Maryland, a Washington, D.C. suburb. A rousing crowd cheered on Magpie's original protest songs from the Bush "error." The next morning there was a civil rights service at Fabringen, a Jewish Havurah (fellowship), which meets at the Washington Ethical Society building in Washington, D.C. A young African American and daughter of a Methodist minister explained what led to her choosing a Jewish identity and joining our spiritual community. Those of us of a certain age recalled the '60s civil rights struggle and our personal voyages.

Last year, environmental guru Joe Libertelli encouraged me to attend the Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) annual meeting. This year I again attended and watched in wonder as organizers from around the country reported on their successes and failures promoting the progressive agenda in 435 congressional districts. This year, PDA focused on the Healthcare NOT Warfare campaign to end the war and redirect funds to meet human needs — especially universal healthcare. To get involved with PDA, contact Mike Hersh at mike@pdamerica.org.

The next morning, Monday, January 19th, Alliance for Justice scheduled a panel on "The Role of Activists during the Obama Administration." Conceived of as a modest conference room event, the venue was changed to the University of the District of Columbia's huge auditorium and over 900 mostly-youngish folks attended.



Author Mike Tabor enjoys watching Wiccans as they celebrate President Obama's inauguration.

Photo by Cather Steincamp

Nan Aron, president of Alliance for Justice, set the tone for the morning and the extended weekend's theme when she said, "The election is an opportunity for change only if we do our part," and urged continued grassroots organizing.

Twenty-something Eli Pariser, executive director of MoveOn.org, who raised over \$30 million and backed progressive candidates, credited Obama "for making community organizing really sound cool!" He held out the hope that future collective action taken by millions of people would allow "big change" to happen in a relatively short period of time.

JoDee Winterhof, former Chief of Staff for Senator Tom Harkin and now an executive at CARE, stressed grassroots use of the mechanisms for future change including letters to the editor and blogs.

But the star of the event was an ebullient Van Jones, a senior fellow at the Center for Ameri-

can Progress and founder of the 30 full-time-workers organization, Green for All, that focuses on building a green economy.

Jones radiates charisma, left politics and humor. He reminded the audience of the naysayers and cynics; "While we celebrate, they be scheming." He put Obama's victory in the historical context of the New Deal, mass demonstrations of the '60s and '70s and more recently against the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. He also lauded Ralph Nader's run for office and urged us to acknowledge his role in progressive politics. We must "set the bar high" for Obama and not allow the media and the "cabal of pundits" to portray them as "the cute Huxtables in the White House." We've got to "hold him accountable . . . and keep him engaged." Touching on mythologist Joseph Campbell and archetypes, "Obama's on a hero's journey" and we've got to support and encourage him! For an opportu-

nity to view the whole panel discussion link to www.allianceforjustice.org.

That afternoon there was a gathering of nearly 100 Wiccans at the Jefferson Memorial which was facing the Washington Monument ("Animating the spirit of Democracy with the Ritual of Unity and Blessing").

This friendly, witty, intelligent, intentional cabal of coven Witches, priests and priestesses held a legal and permitted ritual sweeping out of the Bush administration and its resident evils and bad humours and welcoming in the promise of hope, creativity and intelligence. Forming a large circle and pacing to a heart-like drumbeat, the group created a safe space for spokespeople to invoke the Gods and Goddesses to bless, protect, guide and encourage a new era of growth and human potential. One priestess reminded everyone of the importance of activism: "Obama's the sail and we have to be the wind!" I obviously really

enjoyed this gathering. For more information contact mythkenner@aol.com.

That evening at Washington, D.C.'s All Souls Unitarian Church, there was a "Rebirthing King, Rebirthing America" event, celebrating Martin Luther King's vision and dreams and Obama's inauguration. The five-hour program featured Muslim, Baptist, Buddhist, Jewish, Palestinian, Methodist and Unitarian spokespeople for peace. It was divided into four "acts": Racism, Militarism, Materialism and The Beloved Community with liturgies, choirs, recitations and a covenantal pledge. The huge sanctuary was filled beyond capacity, with a mostly youthful and energetic crowd. At the end, we all committed ourselves ". . . to work toward a world-wide fellowship that lifts neighborly concerns beyond any tribe, race, class or nation . . . to choose non-violent coexistence rather than violent co-annihilation." Too many participants to men-

tion specific names but go to www.olivebranceinterfaith.org for the liturgy and information.

Then finally, there was the 2009 Inaugural Peace Ball sponsored by Busboys and Poets restaurant and Washington's impresario of progressives, Andy Shalal. Some 1500 joyful, raucous, grateful celebrants danced, clapped and ate their way through the evening which featured icons Joan Baez, Dick Gregory, Holly Near, Harry Belafonte, Alice Walker, Eve Ensler and others. The delicious food and "Obama" desert cookies kept me on the YMCA's elliptical exercise machine for two hours the next morning. Yummy and thanks for all the energy Andy put into the evening.

So a week later, we found ourselves back at Fabringen and our Saturday morning Shabbat service. During the thought-provoking discussion centering on the Bible portion we read focusing on Moses, Pharaoh and diplomacy, we thought about the danger the Obama administration could face . . . the beginning of his deification. As one of the Wiccan priestesses described, Obama is the sail and we are the wind. Unless all of us increase our personal commitment to the democratic process, the new Administration could be for naught.

Personal involvement in our community, schools and in the electoral process is essential to making real change happen.

President Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

Michael Tabor has been farming since 1972 at the Licking Creek Bend Farm. The farm (that started as a diaspora kibbutz) has a policy of making healthily-grown food available to all income groups at affordable prices through urban farm stands and food co-ops. He also campaigned for getting healthy food into public schools. To view his past columns, visit www.takoma.com, go to "Progressively Speaking."

"...and There Was Peace in the City"

By Cynthia S. Waugh
Sykesville, Maryland

Go ahead — let it be said that I was living for 1-20-09! Most everyone that knew me, at the very least, knew that much about me.

I had spent all of my free moments for the past 18 months campaigning for Barack Obama. I had campaigned at our local headquarters and volunteered my time in two other states. Campaigning is an experience that I will not forget. Promoting one person for the President of the United States should never be entered into lightly. Blueprints were read, running mates scrutinized and reputations of spouses considered . . . these are simply a few inspections that were made.

But my mind had been leaning toward Obama since I read in 2005 his book: *Dreams of My Father* and later (2006) *The Audacity of Hope*. I had read the books when they were 'hot off the presses.'

Having seen Obama speak on the Senate floor in early 2006, I thought to myself, "There he is." I was even so bold as to tell my sons the day that Obama's close up photo appeared on *Time Magazine's* front cover (October 2006): "There is your next President of the United States!" ("Mom!" they said, "Who is that?")

After I answered their question, I said to them: "Just wait and see!" Someone else must have seen the same qualities I did and I am glad. In this case, I like to be right but I want to be right with a whole team of others!

After putting my academic career on hold to campaign, I am now one of those folks with a whole lot of time on their hands with little to do. There were email jokes made about us (former campaigners) and even 'You Tube' spoofs of the Obama campaigner that walked around aimlessly not knowing just what to do now that we could get back to normal. I knew I was one of those characters.

I am slowly getting back into the 'swing



Street musicians during the inauguration.

Photo by Cindy Smith Waugh

of things' but I didn't quit the voracious Obama on-line readings until the official day: 1-20-09 and I simply HAD to be in Washington, D.C. for the landmark date. I didn't care how cold it was or if it was sleeting, raining, snowing or winds howling; I would be there with my camera! And I was. I spent 12 hours in D.C. on 1-20-09, most of it on my feet, and it was worth every moment. I walked with the crowds, stood with the masses, cheered with supporters; however, it was the tone of the day that I will remember the most. Whether standing near the capital, or at the mall, Pennsylvania/New York/Massachusetts Avenues the people were the same — upbeat or reverent, most quiet and respectful. What I marvel about now, even after all of this time has passed, is just how calm, peaceful and enlightening the day was. I never heard an unkind word — no callous remarks amongst revelers, no insensitive situations between law enforcement and the

masses. I remember music, laughter and peace. What I will remember the most from this hard-earned, 'long time coming' landmark day is the peace. I believe that what I experienced was typical of what other attendees experienced on that day.

Peace.

There were 1.7 million people in Washington, D.C. to see a change of power and we had peace.

Never again do I think I will be in a crowd in a major city in the U.S. or abroad with 1.7 million folks and experience a day as peaceful as our 1-20-09 in Washington, D.C. It happened. We came together and it was real.

If you weren't there, this is the one detail that I would like for you to take from my perspective and that is: that there was peace in the streets of the city on that day.

Peace.

If you were there, I know you felt it too.

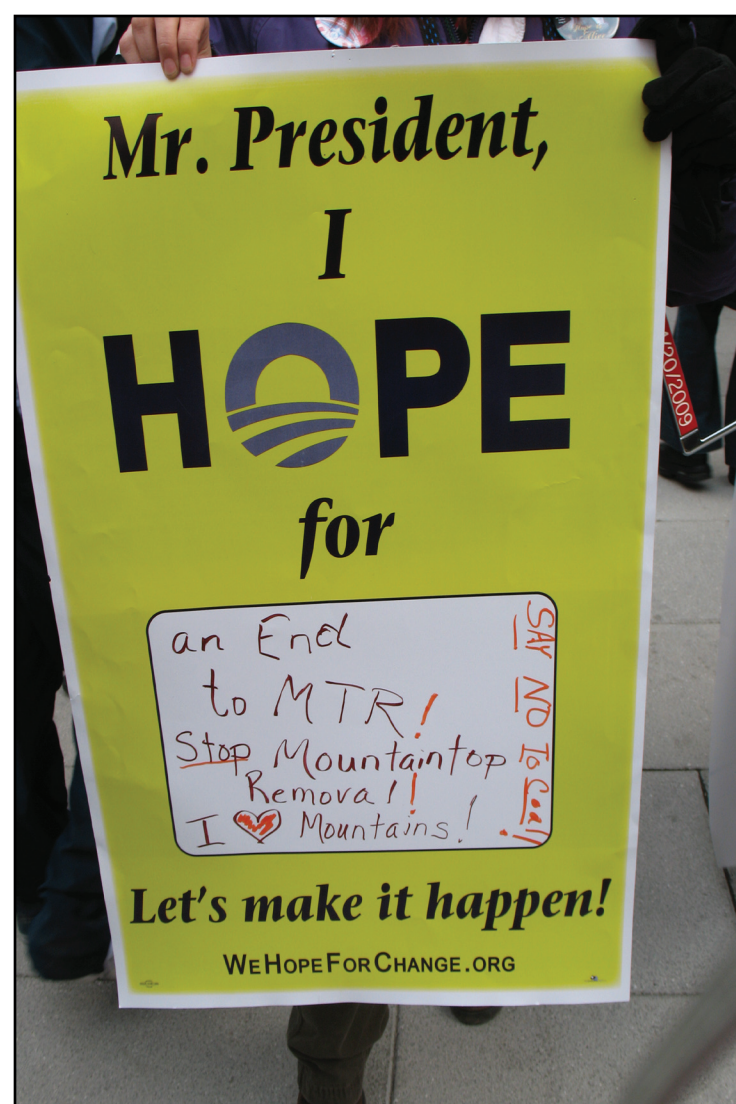


Photo by Cynthia Smith Waugh

Note from Cindy: After President Obama's swearing-in ceremony and before the parade, I stumbled upon The Washington Peace Center's Inaugural Project (a non-profit, anti-racist, grassroots organization working for peace and justice). Four thousand signs were available to the Washington crowds. Imagine HUGE bright-yellow notes, measuring 2 1/2 feet by 4 feet proclaiming to the world: Our Hopes! This looked like a yellow sticky note paradise! I hope for an end to mountaintop removal coal mining.

Know that whatever you are doing
is the most beautiful thing.

Yogi Tea Bag label

Monsanto Uses Terrorism to Destroy Small Farmers

By Linn Cohen-Cole
Op-Ed News, Conclusion

For those of you painfully familiar with what is happening to real milk dairy farmers and the government's use of false "contamination" reports to raid farms, steal products and equipment and terrorize and destroy farmers, it will be important to see how "bioterrorism" has now moved control over normal food even more tightly into the hands of government/corporate agencies, giving them national reach, crushing regulations for farmers, [creating] immense policing power over food and the use of an emergency to be able to seize and destroy anything they choose.

At the level of seeds, it is important note that Monsanto is promoting every part of this.

The laboratories that FERN uses represent the FDA, FSIS, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Defense, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Agency. Other federal members of the FERN include the Agricultural Research Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security, the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

The FDA talks about "a safety net" for human health but it is one defined by corporations and one that is closing in on small farmers' existence.

And even the FDA's basic food safety is being "set" in a way aimed to destroy seed cleaners and (if you will notice in the short list below) organic farming itself.

FDA's guidance on good agricultural practices can be found in the "FDA Guide to Minimize Microbial Hazards for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables" where the key sources of contamination in seed production include:

- Agricultural water sources;
- Use of manure as fertilizer;
- Harvesting, transportation and seed-cleaning equipment; and
- Seed storage facilities.

Please note the FDA does not include Monsanto's petroleum-based fertilizers or pesticides or GE-labs as potential sources of contamination.

In addition to buying up seed companies, suing farmers, eliminating seed cleaners, putting laws against seed cleaning and saving into place, influencing the FDA and Homeland Security regulations on seeds that set farmers up to lose theirs in "food safety" or "bioterrorism" raids, a law in Canada pushed by the FDA, USDA and the WTO (all heavily involved with

Monsanto) would criminalize all natural substances. Though it initially seems to be "only" an attack by the pharmaceutical industry on all natural health substances, it would include seeds and seed banking. And it would become law in the U.S. — and without any ability to vote against it — if the North American Union is passed.

We need to understand that the effort to defend Steve Hixon, a seed cleaner, is an effort to defend the right of all of us and of our farmers worldwide to OPEN access to normal seeds. We must protect those who collect and clean them and we must roll back the massive corporate efforts to utterly control them — by criminalizing any aspect of owning, growing, collecting, storing and re-using them.

Seeds are life and survival itself and our human right to access to them is being taken over. That is why people are coming together now to help defend Steve Hixon, a seed cleaner.

For those interested in joining FarmOn, a list aimed at providing funds to support the legal teams gathering to help Hixon, go to farmon@googlegroups.com and request to sign on.

Linn Cohen-Cole says: "I'm a mother and grandmother. There is no way I can leave my family or anyone else's children, things as they are now."

Reprinted with permission.



Mallow.

Photo by Terry Darling

Letters to the Editor

Dear Friends,

I know people are tightening their belts right now and some don't feel there is much extra. But what I am about to share with you is, I believe, so wrong . . . that I have to ask for help.

It's hard to imagine that there are people in this country who don't have safe drinking water but that is what is happening in a little community in southern West Virginia called Prenter Hollow.

Many of you know that for the past two years I have been showing a film called *Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal and the Fight for Coalfield Justice*. This film shows what is really happening in small coal-mining communities in southern Appalachia and how the people are truly at the mercy of big coal. I grew up in this part of the country and it breaks my heart to see the lush forests being blown apart and pristine clear streams being polluted.

The first two West Virginia activists I met were Judy Bonds and Patty Sebok, both with Coal River Mountain Watch (CRMW). Judy and Patty tirelessly work to educate the rest of the world about the effects of mountaintop removal and the legacy it will leave for eternity.

Judy and Patty were here for a screening of *Black Diamonds* in Baltimore and my being a West Virginia girl . . . we just hit it off right away. Patty came back up when Marc Steiner had a show on mountaintop removal in October 2007. We had a big screening of the film that night at the Charles Theatre.

Patty lives in Prenter Hollow and, like many others there, has many health issues. These health issues are finally being linked to drinking water contaminated by big coal.

I received this in an email from Patty:

"I'm just now getting back to work part time after having my gallbladder taken out in December like many other residents in Prenter Hollow. My husband has worked underground there for 30 years and now he has chronic kidney disease and is in stage 3 damage. I lived there for 30 years and we're now finding out that the coal slurry that the coal companies inject into the old underground works has mixed with our underground water aquifer and contaminated our well water.

We are trying to force our government to put in PSD-supplied water but it is very costly and slow. We also have a lawsuit trying to force the coal companies responsible for this pollution to pay for water. Of course I'm sure you know what a long, hard battle that will be. We feel it necessary to get residents clean water ASAP.

So in the meantime we at CRMW and Prenter residents are trying to supply clean water to the residents to cook with and drink. This slurry can also enter the body while bathing but they have no other choice right now.

We currently have given out 150, 55-gallon, food-grade barrels to store clean water in. We also have a driver who is paid \$10 per hour plus mileage to deliver water each week or biweekly as needed. This has just about exhausted all of our funds so far. We also need around 100 more barrels.

I was wondering if you have any ideas how we can raise more funds or get donations to keep the clean water going to these residents? If so, please let me know.

I'm going to give you the Web site so you can look at the videos and photos and this also has a mailing address for donations and a Paypal button too.

Please check out: <http://www.prenterwaterfund.org>.

Thanks so much,
Patty Sebok

[back to Ginny now] This infuriates me . . . so I'm taking my infuriation and putting it into positive action. If you can help — a little or a lot — all of your donations will go directly to providing water, either for barrels, water or delivery. Anything will be appreciated. When you go to the Web site be sure to check out the Visuals section. In this case a picture really is worth a thousand words.

Maybe this is a cause that your church, synagogue, mosque or other spiritual community could support. That would be really wonderful.

And — if you haven't seen *Black Diamonds* yet, I have scheduled a screening on Sunday, March 1st from 3-6 pm at Mystical Voyage's yoga studio in White Marsh. The filmmaker, Catherine Pancake, will be there to update us on the CRMW wind project and also to take your questions.

Thanks for listening.
Ginny Robertson
Baltimore, Maryland
Live Your Life On Purpose Spirit of Women Entrepreneurs: Real-Life Stories of Determination, Growth & Prosperity
410-252-2703
www.OnPurposeNow.com
www.WomanTalkLive.com

Iona,

I have been so depressed with all of this — it is a sinking feeling. Al Gore has spoken with Obama about it but I don't think Obama gets the urgency just yet.

Our two 'wonderful' West Virginia senators Rockefeller and Byrd are saying that this is just a 'small portion' of the state being sacrificed for coal. I would like to personally invite them for a fly-over of these

mountaintop removal (MTR) coal mining sites and then ask them to call it "small"!!!!!!

Senator Robert Byrd is about ready to step down and we will probably find Governor Joe Manchin appointing His Self to the vacated position. Remember that name? Manchin — old coal family with \$C\$O\$A\$S\$L\$ ties. I wrote about him in my three-part MTR coal mining article. It is sickening to know that he could create a legacy for the state via green power and he chooses an old, dirty-coal habit instead.

This is self-defeating . . . because they do not have the citizens' interests front and center. Their interests are lining their own pockets.

My aunt spent the day again today calling Senator(s) Byrd and Rockefeller listening to C-Span and participating in an on-line forum . . . if only the two of us were paid for all of our behind-the-scenes politicking, we'd have more money than Manchin, Rockefeller and Byrd put together!

If Manchin, Byrd or Rockefeller really wanted to put an end to West Virginia being a sacrificial lamb, they could; and what a lasting legacy it would be!

Personally, I think Rockefeller and Byrd need to be reminded of their words and speeches in the past that outlined how ugly, horrible and devastating Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining is.

That was when they had my support.

Not now.

They are selling the state. Peace and Social Justice,
Cindy Waugh
Sykesville, Maryland

Hello, Iona.

On the mineral rights [re: previous article on oil drilling in the *Allegheny National Forest*], I started trying to eliminate the depletion allowance many years ago along with putting part of the property tax on the subsurface mineral rights with the surface owner having priority to pay unpaid taxes and thereby getting the mineral rights.

If this was accomplished, investors of mineral rights would have to pay taxes and oil companies would have an easier time finding the ownership of the minerals.

The depletion allowance as I understand it is added tax write-offs when you deplete a natural resource. You can get a more accurate definition from the Internet. The taxing of subsurface mineral rights would automatically register the owner with the tax department where it can be easily accessed.

Also many rights are owned by many relatives who unknowing inherited the rights and paying taxes would encourage them to incorporate in some way or not pay the taxes. If the taxes are not paid, the

surface owner would have the first chance of owning the mineral rights by paying the back taxes.

An oil company has to get certified signatures of all people owning an interest in the mineral rights of a particular parcel of land. This can become very expensive, complicated and people can be hard to find. Getting the paperwork of a hundred or more people scattered throughout the world who inherited the mineral rights is a long task. If they could easily find the person who owns the rights in the local tax department and get the necessary signatures, it would save a lot of time and money.

Hope this explains it.
Keep up the great work.

Rod Rylander
Belize

[Ed.: Photos of the wonderful "Hobbit House" we featured last month (designed and built by Rod) are at <http://www.rrylander.com>. They are delightful and I recommend your taking a peek.]

Hi Iona,

I've been meaning to tell you how much I liked the last issue (January). I really think the cover story on the Green Earth Club in Westminster is important. I am so sad their initial presentation wasn't attended by the general public. This message of how coal is obtained must get out! People need to know the destruction that comes from the over-use of electricity.

Keep up the good work. It's hard to single out the best articles but I loved "The Wondrous Worm" and hope Mare Cromwell will write more for "OE."

As you enter your second year publishing this wonderful newspaper, it just keeps getting better and better. One wonderful development is the chorus of new writers and their stories.

Marney Bruce
Bethesda, Maryland

[Ed. re: following letter: I asked John A. Keslick, Jr., Consulting Tree Biologist, to help me with the wording of my testimony to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, part of which we published in our last issue. I thought his responses were worth sharing.]

One thing on the forest topic, the term "forest ecosystems" is redundant. Not to say many people use that phrase. A forest is an ecosystem.

You could say something like "an ecosystem, such as a forest" for example. This was pointed out to me by my professor many years ago.

Ecosystem: Cells are the basic unit of life. All living things are made up of cells connected by electrical currents. A tissue is a group of cells, all of the same kind and closely con-

nected. When we have many tissues that are connected to do a similar function, that is called an organ. When we have many organs that are all connected, we call that an organism. When we have many organisms connected, we call that an ecosystem.

You do make a good point. I like to say "you cannot plant a forest" how about "you cannot plant an ecosystem."

Similarly, many people say they inoculate with mycorrhizae. Mycorrhizae are organs made up of fungus tissue and tree root tissue, a composite structure. The point is that you cannot inoculate with an organ. You can inoculate with the fungus that will, in turn, if things go well, infect a non-woody root and form a mycorrhiza (singular). That fungus that infects to form mycorrhizae is the base of the food web in a forest and the substrate for that fungus is said to be course woody debris.

In tree biology workshops my wife and I were known as the blood hounds for mycorrhizae. During drought we always, always, had provided an abundance of mycorrhizae and non-woody roots. Our secret — find nurse logs in the later stages of breaking down and there, inside, we always found those organs in nurse logs with soil contact.

Watch out for so called "tree experts" that do not understand tree biology.

Storms, fires, floods, earthquakes, tornados, volcanic eruptions and other abiotic forces keep reminding humans that they are not the boss.

John Keslick
Keslick and Son
Modern Arboriculture
Specializing in Organic Tree, Lawn and Garden Care;
610-864-5251 & 610-696-5353
<http://ccil.org/~treeman/> and www.treedictionary.com

Dear Editor,

Ross Gelbspan's article about global warming, 'Beyond the Point of No Return' (February "OE") is so thorough, compelling and scary. He is right that we are incredibly close to having no options to reverse the climate emergency and saving life on the planet.

However there are some incredibly difficult and painful steps that could be taken that I believe have a chance at reversing the trend. They must begin in the U.S., then be followed by the rest of the nations, especially those that are releasing massive quantities of greenhouse gases.

I would start with gasoline rationing, starting slowly and increasing up to some acceptable level. This took place during the emergency of World War II when not only gasoline but other products such as meat, sugar and eggs were also

limited. The effect is to immediately decrease greenhouse gas release, independent of corporations, taxation, cap and trade or the development of alternative energy sources or electric vehicles.

Also, a monumental effort to create a national public transportation system using the funds from the package today being considered to repair roads and bridges. Those billions would create jobs and start to get gas-powered vehicles off the highways. They might even be able to use highway lanes as railroad beds.

President Obama and the Congress must dictate to auto manufacturers an extremely high, yet attainable, fuel efficiency standard for cars, vans, SUVs and trucks, while severely limiting the manufacture of vehicles other than hybrid cars.

A moratorium on new construction of homes, strip malls and office buildings while working to update existing buildings would save enormous amounts of greenhouse gas production.

Reversing the tax code that presently favors families with large numbers of children, along with other methods for limiting or reducing our population, such as required family planning programs, would go a long way to saving the planet.

Large numbers of people consuming large amounts of food and resources is another major problem.

Ending the government subsidies of the corn and soybeans that are used to feed factory-farmed animals used for food and instead subsidizing the edible plant foods would increase our health and greatly limit the release of carbon dioxide and methane. Strongly encouraging a plant-based diet for our population instead of high rates of animal consumption yields much less global warming.

The President and his Cabinet must begin to educate the public about the threats of global warming and outline plans for action. Continue the development of wind turbines and solar panels but tell people just how serious scientists inform us are the predictions for doing business as usual.

These are just a few steps that are possible to take; some thought would lead to many more. There is a chance to stop the last stages of global warming but action needs to be taken NOW.

See www.initiativesfortheclimateemergency.org for action plans described in this letter.

And thanks to Ross Gelbspan for writing the article and doing what he can to avoid the calamity coming down the road.

Len Frenkel
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Getting to Know the Neighbors

Continued from page 10

"Yes, maybe she got caught in a trap..."

"And having torn herself loose, she was confused, in pain..."

"And she lost her way..."

"Or a predator got a hold of her..." "Poor thing! How can we help her?"

Our prattle had no obvious impact on her. I handed Reg one of my poles and encouraged him to touch her. Bingo!

Without hesitation she reared up, bared her yellow teeth once again — this time with great vehemence. As she threw herself into the street at a dead run, clearly favoring one front leg, I heard her warn us, "Steer clear, ass holes!" She took refuge under our new neighbors' front porch.

Reg and I were fully engaged humanitarians now, intent on helping our animal neighbor in her time of need. But how to do no harm in the process? For it is well-documented that when humans intervene to help their wild brethren, 99.9% of the time their wild brethren's suffering escalates to unnaturally cosmic proportions. In other words, though she is sometimes a real bitch, Mother Nature is one very smart broad and we humans would be wise to "steer clear" in any and all attempts to circumvent her.

Though discretion is the greater part of valor, fools blunder where angels fear to tread. We would try to encourage Ms. Muskrat back toward the creek and safety; it was the least we could do.

During the past several winters, we'd tossed scraps of grapefruit, orange, lemon and pineapple onto the creek bank for our muskrat friends and then enjoyed watching them sneak over the creek's edge and feast on the vitamin-rich offerings.

While pondering our next step, I remembered we had grapefruit peels left from breakfast. We would leave a citrus trail

to lure her back home.

I slipped off my snowshoes, ran inside and scooped up the peels, carrying them in our kitchen compost holder's rusty copper lid. Hurry! Back on with the snowshoes! We are humans on a mission!

But wait. Shouldn't we ask our new neighbors' permission before scattering our kitchen scraps in their yard? What an opportune time to introduce ourselves and welcome them to the neighborhood. Reg opted to hold watch for Ms. Muskrat on our property.

Two young lasses watched me from the window as I approached. I knocked on their front door. A thirty-ish woman and the two girls greeted me, the girls all smiles... the woman obviously hesitant to invite me in. It quickly became clear to me the image I presented: a stranger wearing a ratty, green down parka, a black beret and pink snowshoes, holding a rusty metal lid laden with kitchen garbage. I could hear her wheels turning, "What is this nutcase doing? Other neighbors have welcomed us with banana bread..."

Bless her, this woman must have a heart of gold, or a black belt in karate, to open the door to me that day!

I explained my intrusion. "Hi! I'm your neighbor Terry and I just wanted to let you know you have a wounded muskrat under your porch and my husband and I are trying to get her back to the creek where she lives. We think she's lost her way. Do you mind if I scatter these grapefruit peels and what-not around your yard, to try to lead her back to the creek? They like citrus."

My new neighbor replied, "What's a muskrat?"

It had not occurred to me that some people do not know what a muskrat is and therefore I was ill-prepared to explain what one was, especially in my state of heightened excitement. I



Photo by Reg Darling

Terry Darling, heads out on snowshoes to spend some time getting to know her neighbors in Warren, PA.

was at a loss for words and though I could tell that my neighbor was getting cold standing with her door wide open, she was not ready to take the plunge and invite me in.

The two girls looked at me expectantly.

"Well, a muskrat is not a rat, not to worry there." Lord knows

I did not want them to think they had a wounded rat under their porch, not with two little girls in the household.

The woman responded approvingly to my preliminary description. She nodded her head and said, "Good, yes." I was encouraged.

"A muskrat is furry like a

woodchuck, but smaller. Rather cute, but wild. They have yellow teeth and like to eat citrus peels during winter months."

At this the girls smiled and the woman thawed and said, "My name is August and these are my daughters, Heather and Bethany."

I was in! But not inside, which was fine by me. The damage my snowshoes would have inflicted on their hardwood floor would have left a negative first impression and, as a new neighbor, I wanted them to at least entertain the thought that I was worthy of opening their door to me again, at some undetermined future time of need.

Heather, the older girl, displayed more gumption than her little sister. She said, "Joe really likes you, so you must be okay."

Not having seen any gentlemen during our brief encounter, I said, "Joe?"

Brooke enlightened me. "Didn't you hear that guy say, 'Hi, Sweetie' when we opened the door? Joe is our bird and he doesn't like just anyone!"

Naturally, I was flattered. Best of all, at that endorsement, August gave me her blessing to scatter my rubbish in her yard, which I did promptly, then headed toward my warm home, where I would take off my snowshoes and reflect upon all I had learned about my neighbors that day.

snow and bits and pieces of crab apples told the tale our furry neighbor could not.

To be certain of the veracity of the unfolding story, I searched the street and, sure enough, muskrat tracks went back and forth in several places — from under August's front porch to the park, then back across the street, under Reg's truck and then to the apple tree in our front yard, back and forth again and yet again.

What a relief; our muskrat was not wounded! She was perfectly healthy. Reg and I had a good laugh at our foolish anthropomorphism.

This morning while sipping coffee, I watched the icy creek's edge from our kitchen window.

A bufflehead dived for his breakfast, came up successful, but then dropped his catch and took to the air. Three common mergansers flew upstream in a hurry, their wings practically kissing the water. Right on their tails, a mature bald eagle followed. I wondered how Ms. Muskrat was doing.

A moment later, there she was, swimming upstream, hugging the edge of our property. She paused several times, placed one front foot on the ice and sniffed, no doubt hoping for citrus peels. Not finding any offered, our neighbor moved on.

I sighed, finished my coffee and determined that the stars and weather conditions were in proper alignment for another winter wonderland adventure. It was once again time to don snowshoes, get outside and spend time getting to know the neighbors.

Teresa's poetry has appeared in "Green Hills Literary Lantern," "Baily's Beads" and "Hellbender Journal: The Activist Journal of the Allegheny Defense Project." She is currently working on her first full-length poetry collection.

Epilogue

Walking home from the office the next day, I took several minutes to revisit the park where we had first met Ms. Muskrat. To my surprise, there were plenty of fresh muskrat tracks! Her unmistakable footprints followed the crab apple trees that border the park's east side. Her small body had plowed a path through the deep

GoGreenGals.com invites you to embrace your purchasing power through new ways of living, shopping and giving. Each purchase made through the Go Green Gals Directory is from a business that has been screened according to our guidelines of socially responsible and ecologically sound business practices.



Law Offices

Winston Law & Mediation

Wynde Juliet Winston, Esquire

wjw@winstonlaw.net

179 East Main Street Westminister, Maryland 21157

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

THE NEW GreenLine Catalog is here!

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



www.greenlinepaper.com

Anastasia Editor's Notes

by Dr. Leonid Sharashkin

How many times have I heard personal examples of this instant recognition: people who have been searching for years or decades for meaningful answers to questions on the purpose of life, on Man's place in Nature, have finally found them in this book!...

But should it be surprising that the image of a way of life founded on the ideals of love, beauty and non-violence, as presented by Anastasia, would resonate so strongly with our inner self? After all, does not every one of us want to live in a free society of kind and happy people, in a world without wars, crime or oppression? In a world where not a single tear need run down a child's cheek and where families live in love and prosperity?

Do we not want to live without monstrous industries destroying and polluting both Nature and Man? Do we not want to enjoy creative labor for the benefit of both our families and our communities, instead of suffering through boring jobs merely to enrich faceless corporations? Do we not want a society based on mutual help and co-operation rather than competition?...

More and more people in Russia and throughout the world draw their inspiration from the Ringing Cedars, acquire "the courage to dream" and create an image of radiant reality for themselves and their children and then get down to work in this direction....

[Ed.: Now pretend you are reading this book.]

You hold in your hands a flower which will unfold its petals to reveal a most remarkable masterpiece, unique in all of Russia's literature, and possibly the world's as well. Indeed, its significance goes far beyond literature. This book possesses



a tremendous, unprecedented potential to change life on our whole planet for the better.

Inspired by the Ringing Cedars, thousands of people are now planting trees, changing their lifestyles and in search for a mortgage-free existence and spiritual re-connection with Earth, are relocating to new eco-villages which have sprouted all over Russia and beyond....

Even though Anastasia's aspiration to the light can be felt intuitively, nevertheless, we must make sense of everything ourselves and work out the details....

I love this book so much that I decided it would be the only book I would sell through our newspaper. Our price is \$14.95 plus \$3.05 book-rate shipping so please send a check for \$18 payable to The Order of the Earth and write "Anastasia" on the memo line. Mail it to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. If you love the first one as much as I did, you may order the rest of them directly from RingingCedars.com or 800-365-6367.

- Iona -