

# The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

May 2009

theorderoftheearth.com

Vol. 9 No. 5 Issue 86: To press 4/24/09

\$1.00

## The Forest Wins Environmentalists = 1 (won) Oil Producers = 0

John Stoneman  
Bradford, Pennsylvania

This is the biggest news for North Western PA in years! The ADP won their lawsuit to protect the Allegheny National Forest. It was a big surprise. It's shocking the oil industry!

Wednesday, April 8th, the environmentalists in North Western Pennsylvania got a pleasant surprise! In federal court in Erie PA, the U.S. Forest Service reached a settlement with Allegheny Defense Project, Sierra Club and Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, who filed suit in November after the agency failed to subject 34 proposed oil and gas projects to adequate review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

On Wednesday, a stipulation of dismissal and a settlement was entered in the Federal District Court for Western Pennsylvania which included a number of agreements. One

agreement ensures the public's right to weigh in on all future drilling in the forest before the Forest Service issues a notice to proceed.

Over the past 10 years, thousands of oil and gas wells have been drilled in the Allegheny without environmental analysis and public comments. As a result of drilling, more than 2,000 miles of roads have been built, fragmenting and damaging important wildlife habitat. In addition to the roads, there have been stone pits, tank farms, brine pits and staging areas built on public lands.

Some conservation groups are concerned that drilling will pollute water and destroy habitat for wildlife such as the northern flying squirrel, eastern box turtle, northern goshawk and timber rattlesnake.

"With this settlement the Forest Service is making a commitment to disclose to people living near the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) what impact oil and gas drilling will have on water quality, recreational opportunities and the other benefits they expect from the national forest in their back-

yard," said Andy Stahl, executive director of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. "The Forest Service certainly has the duty to set conditions to prevent damage to the surface land it owns and protect wildlife on that land."

The settlement agreement stipulates that no oil and gas drilling can occur within Wilderness Study Areas, National Recreation Areas, Inventoried Roadless Areas, the Tionesta Scenic and Research Natural Areas and the Morrison Run Area west to the Rimrock Overlook without environmental analysis and public comment and appeal opportunities.

"These areas contain some of the most remote wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities on the Allegheny National Forest," said Ryan Talbott, Forest Watch Coordinator for the Allegheny Defense Project. "Because of this settlement, places like Minister Valley, Tracy Ridge and Rimrock are now protected from unregulated oil and gas drilling."

Additionally, the settlement agreement unequivocally states

*Continued on page 15*



Photo from Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

*A mountaintop removal coal mining operation in southern West Virginia, May 2003. NO MORE!*

## The Mountains Win

CHARLESTON, West Virginia, March 31, 2009 (ENS) — A federal judge today issued an injunction that blocked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from authorizing new mountaintop removal mining operations through its streamlined Nationwide Permit procedure.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Goodwin ruled that the Corps had not fully examined the cumulative impacts of this streamlined procedure on the approvals authorizing mountaintop removal mines that blast away the tops of mountains to reach the seams of coal and then fill the valleys below with tons of waste rock.

"The loss of thousands of miles of streams in Appalachia over the past twenty years . . . and the loss of over 200 miles of streams in West Virginia alone vividly illustrates the impacts associated with mountaintop mining," Goodwin wrote in his opinion.

While Judge Goodwin's ruling and injunction apply only within the boundaries of the U.S. District Court's Southern District of West Virginia, but within the district (sic) the Corps cannot authorize new mines and the mine operators who intervened in the case are restricted.

The judge sided with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition and Coal River Mountain Watch who brought the case to court. They argued that the mining companies should not be permitted to dump mine waste into U.S. waters.

"The court's decision is a victory for our irreplaceable waterways. A nationwide permit to dump coal mine waste into our waters would have been a recipe for environmental disaster," said Jon Devine, senior attorney for NRDC. "This important win will help protect Appalachian mountains and streams from harmful mining practices."

The court found that the Corps had acted unreasonably in two main respects, Devine explains. First, it ignored the past impacts of similar mining in deciding not to prepare an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Second, the Corps assumed, without justification, that the

impacts to streams and other water bodies would be adequately offset by "mitigation" measures, such as constructing drainage channels to replace destroyed natural streams.

The court found that the Corps did not have an adequate plan to monitor mitigation efforts or require corrective action.

"Mitigation is the centerpiece of the Corps' claim that mountaintop removal and valley fills have cumulatively insignificant environmental effects," said Jim Hecker, environmental enforcement director for the public interest law firm Public Justice, which represented the plaintiff groups together with the Appalachian Center for the Economy & the Environment.

"The Corps claims that it can achieve 100 percent success in mitigating the burial of streams by creating new streams elsewhere," said Hecker. "The court correctly found that this claim is an 'unsupported belief' and a 'mere promise' that has no factual or scientific basis."

"In two recent letters objecting to similar Corps permits, EPA told the Corps the same thing," he said.

"Judge Goodwin has reaffirmed that science and law must take precedence over dirty coal profits," said Vernon Haltom, co-director at Coal River Mountain Watch. "Coal companies have assaulted our homes, communities, mountains and life-giving water with impunity for far too long."

Haltom said, "We hope the Manchin administration will also now begin to enforce the laws that are intended to protect our communities and resources."

Janet Keating, executive director of the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition based in Huntington, West Virginia, applauded the judge's ruling. "Aside from the people, the mountains and streams of West Virginia are two of our greatest assets that should be protected fervently for the benefit of future generations," she said.

Judge Goodwin's ruling is the latest of several setbacks for mountaintop removal coal mining. Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced suspension and review of two mountaintop removal mining permits in

Appalachia to ensure they are supported by science. The agency also will review hundreds of other mountaintop coal mining permits to evaluate their impact on streams and wetlands.

Then there are U.S. Senators Benjamin Cardin, a Maryland Democrat, and Lamar Alexander, a Tennessee Republican, who want to stop mountaintop removal mining.

On March 25, they introduced legislation that would prohibit the dumping of mining waste into streams. The Appalachia Restoration Act would amend the Clean Water Act to prevent the dumping of what is known as "excess spoil" from mountaintop mining into streams and rivers.

More than one million acres of Appalachia have already been affected by this practice. Senator Alexander says, "An estimated 1,200 miles of headwater streams have been buried under tons of mining wastes. More than 500 mountains have been impacted and homes have been ruined and drinking water supplies contaminated."

"My goal is to put a stop to one of the most destructive mining practices that has already destroyed some of America's most beautiful and ecologically significant regions," said Cardin, who chairs the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. "This legislation will put a stop to the smothering of our nation's streams and water systems and will restore the Clean Water Act to its original intent."

"Coal is an essential part of our energy future but it is not necessary to destroy our mountaintops in order to have enough coal," said Senator Alexander, also a member of the Water and Wildlife Subcommittee.

"Millions of tourists spend tens of millions of dollars in Tennessee every year to enjoy the natural beauty of our mountains," said Alexander, "a beauty that, for me, and I believe for most Tennesseans, makes us proud to live here."

Mountaintop mining produces less than five percent of the coal mined in the United States, he said. This bill does not ban other methods of coal mining.

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Satellite view from Google Earth

Erie Coke

## Group Wants Polluting Erie Coke Shut Down

DEP Documents Suggest Corporate Deception; Conservation Groups Discover Factory By-Passed Monitoring 23 Coke Ovens for Years

Gaia Defense League  
Press Release, April 8, 2009

A review of files at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Northwest office in

Meadville by conservation groups has revealed that Erie Coke, which has two coke oven batteries (58 ovens), has in fact only been monitoring one battery of ovens for stack emissions. In doing so, Erie Coke has violated federal law by falsely claiming compliance with federal air quality monitoring protocols. The Clean Air Act requires facilities that emit hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) to monitor and report their emissions of HAPs to ensure that the facility does not exceed certain pollutant thresholds.

Microbac Laboratories, which records emissions data for Erie Coke, has never tested one of the coke oven batteries (23 ovens) which DEP corre-

spondence reveals "brings into doubt all of Erie Coke's emissions tests, its RACT (Reasonable Air Control Technologies) analysis and Erie Coke's compliance with its emissions limits in its permits over the course of many years."

The attorney for Erie Coke revealed the discrepancies to DEP attorneys on July 25, 2008 during discussions on the Civil Assessment and Order that DEP issued against Erie Coke in June 2008. The DEP relayed the fact that Erie Coke monitors only one of its two oven batteries to EPA officials on July 28, 2008.

Conservation groups in the area have had enough. Erie Coke's Bayfront stack regularly

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## Towers Dust Indicates Inside Job

Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice Press Release

BERKELEY, California, April 3, 2009 — A new study by independent scientists and researchers suggests the cause behind the catastrophic destruction of the

World Trade Center Towers on September 11th can be seen in the dust itself: active thermite material, a highly engineered explosive.

The study, published today in *The Open Chemical Physics Journal*, describes a finding of "red/

gray bi-layered chips" in samples of dust taken from the vicinity of the World Trade Center following its destruction. Using tools such as a scanning electron microscope (SEM) and x-ray energy dispersive spectroscopy (XEDS) to analyze the material, the study

authors concluded that, "the red portion of these chips is found to be an unreacted thermite material and highly energetic."

The study's finding lends new support to the demolition theory put forth by critics of the official reports.

At a time when the American public is finding it difficult to understand the full story behind the current economic crisis, findings of a demolition raise new questions about how the 'War on Terror' — an enormous source of recent American spending — was

started.

Officials with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), charged with establishing the cause of the buildings' destruction, have stated that they "did not test for the residue

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# Endgame by Derrick Jensen

Hailed as the "Philosopher Poet" of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen's 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."

The San Francisco Chronicle carried an article on page 3 entitled "Scientist's Urgent Warning of World's Ailing Planet in Need of Mass Conservation."

The article disturbed me for several reasons. First, of course, is that the planet doesn't so much need mass conservation as it needs to be relieved of that which is killing it: civilization. Next was the article's placement, on the same spread — implying equivalent importance — with an article, on page 2, entitled "Suit Catches Psychic Line Off Guard: Miss Cleo Accused of Rampant Fraud." On page 1 of this day's paper, just below the masthead, implying far greater importance, was an article with the headline: "Silver Turns to Gold for Canadian Pair: Skating Union Makes Amends for Judge's Misconduct." Above the masthead was a teaser for the most important article of the day, even more important than the one about figure skaters getting ripped off in the Olympics, which was, "Britney Crosses Over: Spears Trods Well-Worn Path from Pop Star to Movie Actress in 'Crossroads.'"

And let's not even compare the importance of the article about the killing of the planet to, say, the entire sections of the newspaper devoted daily to business, travel and sports (Go Giants!). It bothered me also, maybe even more than the placement, that three full paragraphs of even this meager coverage were devoted to a Danish statistician who has gained great

fame by arguing that the global environment is in fact improving, revealing once again the truth behind the thesis of another of my books, that in order for us to maintain our way of living, we must tell lies to each other and especially to ourselves.

It's important to note that the *Chron* followed up this article by giving the Danish statistician an article all to himself that was three times as large as the original (seventy column-inches versus twenty-four — yeah, I know, I've got to get a social life), covering an entire page (with the exception of two ads, one stating that larger Post-It notes give you "More yada yada per note" and one that reads "SEX FOR LIFE! Erection Problems? Premature Ejaculation? Immediate results after one consultation!"), complete with smiling photograph and statistical sidebar stating "it is not cost efficient to spend money on certain environmental problems" because "the cost per year of [human] life saved" is too high.

Perhaps because this person's obscene calculations — his damn lies or, even worse, his statistics, as the saying goes — fit so well with the goals of civil society, he has been named to head a government-funded environmental monitoring agency in his native Denmark.<sup>79</sup>

I think, however, that what bothered me most about the original article was the pull-quote the editors chose to bold, which was, "We clearly will have an increasingly difficult time in



maintaining our current levels of affluence."<sup>80</sup> The world is being killed before our eyes, and these editors are concerned primarily for the maintenance of their affluence?

That's a silly question. Of course the answer is yes.

But it makes me ask again: What is the calculus of casualties? There's no reason to confine this calculus to humans. How many baubles is life on the planet worth? How many salmon, how many generations of salmon — swimming upstream, spawning, dying, feeding humans, bears, eagles, their own offspring, entire forests — are worth the life of one politician, one executive, one lying statistician?

The lives of how many species of salmon are worth the fortune of one politician, one executive? How many salmon are we willing to sacrifice so that an efficient executive can

have a vintage car? How many rivers of fish — and how many rivers themselves, with their once-clean, free-flowing water — are worth sustaining a lifestyle based on exploitation, a lifestyle that will not last, and that violence will, we can only hope (the we in this case evidently not including the editors of the *San Francisco Chronicle*), end very soon.

\* \* \* \* \*

The fifth premise of this book is that the property of those higher on the hierarchy is more valuable than the lives of those below. It is acceptable for those above to increase the amount of property they control — in everyday language, to make money — by destroying or taking the lives of those below. This is called production.

If those below damage the property of those above, those above may kill or otherwise

destroy the lives of those below. This is called justice.

This is all certainly true of our intraspecies relations. Police can and routinely do bust up homeless camps but homeless people are not allowed to dismantle police stations (or the homes of the police). Petrochemical companies are allowed to make people's homes uninhabitable by toxifying the surrounding landscape but the residents of those homes are not allowed to destroy the refineries (or the homes of the owners).

Whites could, should, and would systematically destroy the possessions of the Indians but Indians were not allowed to return the favor. And it's true of our interspecies relations, as industrial production systematically devours the living planet, any nonhumans who threaten productivity must be destroyed.

A functionary for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans expressed this perfectly — to present just one example among an entire planet full of them — in regards to the now-extinct Great Auk: "No matter how many there may have been, the Great Auk had to go. They must have consumed thousands of tons of marine life that commercial fish stocks depend on. There wasn't room for them in any properly managed fishery.

Personally, I think we ought to be grateful to the old timers for handling the problem for us."<sup>81</sup>

If we could change the culture such that this premise were

no longer true, the calculations of the Danish statistician would be recognized for the insanity they represent, prisons would not be stocked with small-scale criminals and civilization would collapse in a heartbeat.

#### FOOTNOTES:

<sup>79</sup> Davidson, Keay. "Optimistic Researcher Draws Pessimistic Reviews: Critics Attack View That Life is Improving." *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 4, 20002.

<sup>80</sup> *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 16, 2002.

<sup>81</sup> Mowat, Farley. *Sea of Slaughter*. Toronto: Seal, 1989.

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**Washington State Program Features Derrick Friday, May 15**

*Derrick will be speaking in Bellingham, WA, at 7PM in Fraser Hall, Room 4 of Western Washington University. The event, "The Impending Ecological Revolution: An Evening With Acclaimed Author and Environmental Activist Derrick Jensen," is part of a Deep Green Resistance weekend with Aric McBay and Lierre Keith. Check www.derrickjensen.org for more details.*

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Special thanks to Matthew Lindberg-Work and Karen J. Bankes for proofreading help and to Kim Stenley for layout suggestions!

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**THANK YOU!!**



Photo by Terry Darling

## A Tribute to the Oglala Lakota People

### Grandfather Teaching: A Warrior . . .

Listen to me carefully and remember every word.  
A warrior is not a soldier.  
A soldier is trained to fight and follow orders.  
A warrior is trained to think for himself and fight only as a last resort.  
A warrior is the first to begin and the last to quit.  
He laughs the hardest and loves the best.  
Stand your ground in all things and only give ground out of kindness.  
A warrior is not a follower, nor is he a leader except at great need.  
A warrior learns from the animals, the hills and the rivers.  
He respects all things of the Earth as if they were his own heart.  
All men and all spirits are equals.  
A warrior never begs or pleads, nor does he give in to hopelessness and despair.  
Whether the warrior is successful or tries valiantly only to have failed, he thanks the Great Spirit for the opportunity and the lessons.  
A warrior cares for the weakest and least of his brothers, humbling himself in their service.  
He seeks wisdom in all things and learns from even the dullest, for all are his teachers.  
A warrior leaves judgment of his brothers and sisters to the Great Spirit but does not tolerate disrespectful behavior in his presence.

"The Voice of the Red Tail" February 2009 Newsletter  
Earthbridge, Inc. Published by Sunny War Eagle, Marianna, Florida

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25 copies = \$20; 50 copies = \$35; 100 copies = \$65

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## 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 Stenley, Christine Maccabee, Arikia Millikan

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

**Printing:** ATJ Printing, Inc., 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 of red bud trees in Shade Gap.

**Contact Us:** HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255; 814-259-3680.

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**10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

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

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**I no longer believe we can use the system to change the system.**

**Let it all fall apart.**

**I no longer want to live in their world so I must create/find my own.**

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

# World-Wide Transition Towns Movement Comes to New Jersey

"This is a time of significant change for our culture. The question is how we deal with it and ameliorate its worst effects."

By Elizabeth Parker  
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Most of us are by now aware that we live in a time of great uncertainty. The social structures and systems on which we have relied for so long are proving insufficient to deal with the present challenges of peak oil, climate unpredictability and ecological and economic instability. This is a time of significant transition for our culture. "We're in for enormous disruption, no matter what," according to David Korten, author of *Agenda for a New Economy*. "The question is how we deal with it and ameliorate its worst effects."

Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey, has been doing the work of 'transition' for the last quarter century, through its community-supported garden and its ecological learning center programs. Now, in collaboration with the New York City Awakening the Dreamer Symposium Community and the Sustainable Ridge and Valley Alliance, the farm is taking a next step by connecting with the world-wide transition movement emerging from the British isles.

Four years ago, Permaculture teacher Rob Hopkins challenged his students in Kinsale, Ireland with this question: How might we plan for moving from oil dependence to local resilience and community self-reliance?

Kinsale town leaders ultimately adopted the students' Energy Descent Plan, a proposal for reducing consumption and carbon emissions, strengthening the local economy, improving environmental conditions and fostering social equality. Since 2006, with Hopkins' leadership, a community-based process for any locality to create such a plan has been spreading around the world. Over 130 officially designated Transition initiatives now exist — cities, towns, districts, villages, islands.

The initial Transition training event at Genesis Farm was an introductory weekend workshop, March 27-29. This workshop offered a philosophical and practical framework for building local resilience and community sustainability. It was led by Michael Brownlee and Lynette Marie Hanthorn, cofounders of Transition Boulder County

(Colorado), the first Transition initiative in North America.

The training focused on working with information about peak oil and climate change, envisioning a future world, raising awareness and understanding stages of transition. The inner world of transition and the psychology of change were also addressed. Throughout the training Genesis Farm founder and director Miriam MacGillis connected the learning to a cosmological perspective on transition.

Because the Transition movement "puts faith in ordinary people (to shape) their world through conversation and action," as United Kingdom theologian and professor Timothy Gorringer says, the training allowed time for the 40 participants to process and apply the information through active engagement with the workshop leaders and with each other.

During group 'technologies' such as open space, participants formed groups based upon their interest in a particular question regarding Transition and creatively approached this question by brainstorming ideas.

One group addressed the role of the business community in transition and emerged with many ideas for how local businesses might evolve to both serve and receive support from their communities. The group discussed local currency, formation of cooperatives, bartering systems, micro-investing and business partnerships for repurposing waste.

As one participant reflected, "It is clear that in order to respond effectively to the mounting environmental challenges, we all must find ways to turn individual action and concern into community wide changes . . . changes that reach to the system level and have the ability to change our culture over time. The Transition Town movement is based on solid and well tested principles of community organizing and democracy building. The process respects the differences in each community and reflects an understanding that the basic approach can work everywhere but will play out differently and, to be successful, it must proceed at its own pace. Transition starts with facing the challenges head on and then moves toward building a shared, positive vision for the future."

This process was evident throughout the training, as participants, many already involved in work for local community sustainability with organizations such as Business Alliance for Local Living Communities, Community Green, New York Interfaith Power and Light, Hudson Valley Sustainable Community Alliance and Sustainable West Milford, made plans and shared visions for bringing Tran-



Photo by Elizabeth Parker

During the Open Space activity, Bert Cohen and group members discuss how to cohesively work with "The Natural Step" decision-making process, The New Cosmology and Transition concepts.

sition ideas to their communities. Bert Cohen, co-founder of Piscataqua Sustainability Initiative and adjunct professor in the department of natural resources at the University of New Hampshire said, "A great outcome of the workshop is what I am able to do with the materials that were supplied to participants. I have already shared (the information) with two colleagues and will be presenting it to our class on Systems Thinking for Sustainable Living this evening. The workshop helped me consolidate many ideas I had and added more in-depth material in regard to the structure and viability of how the Transition movement can and is spreading."

Further evidence of the training's success is the formation of two local Transition initiating groups who have plans to meet again in late April.

Genesis Farm is offering an updated and expanded Training for Transition Times on Sept. 10-13, 2009. To register, contact Genesis Farm at 908-362-6735 or info@genesisfarm.org.

For more information on Transition, see www.TransitionColorado.ning.com. and www.TransitionUS.org.

Elizabeth Parker is an intern at Genesis Farm. She has been living and working there for the past seven months, with a special focus on learning the new cosmology through *The Universe Story*. She is an aspiring writer who wants to use her talents on behalf of Earth.



Photo by Elizabeth Parker

Following the Open Space activity, groups presented their ideas to the larger group. These folks are discussing the philosophical and practical framework for building local resilience and community sustainability during the Transition training. Michael Brownlee is a cofounder of Transition Boulder County (Colorado).



Photo by Elizabeth Parker

The Business Group gets down to business making plans and sharing visions for bringing Transition ideas to their own communities. Some groups worked on Peak Oil issues and problems.



Which do you trust — intact rainforests or industrial charcoal — as the best use of terrestrial ecosystems to keep carbon out of the atmosphere? Will the techno-fix madness to climate change and associated ecological crises never end?

## Addendum: New Article Shows Bio-Char May Not Be So Good for the Planet After All

By Glen Barry  
www.ClimateArk.org

Industrial scale "bio-char" is the latest dangerous planetary geoengineering proposal (replacing now discredited ocean iron fertilization as the flavor of the month) to save the Earth and humanity from climate change without personal sacrifice or social change.

Bio-char (charcoal) enthusiasts intend to burn biomass to produce and bury charcoal in order to manipulate land use and the biosphere on a vast scale. As if the world's land, 25% of which is already becoming seriously degraded, does not have enough pressures from deforestation, industrial agriculture and sprawling human settlements.

Charcoal proposals forestall sufficient climate change measures such as ending the use of coal, protecting and restoring old forests and reforming industrial agriculture.

Biochar depends upon cooking wood and grasses to gain fuel from their volatile compounds, while the charcoal residue is buried in the soil. The idea is based upon Amazonian indigenous practices where highly fertile terras pretas (black soils) were created by burying charcoal over hundreds of years.

Biochar and agrofuels are closely linked. Charcoal is a by-product from a type of bioenergy production which can also be used to make second-generation agrofuels from wood, straw and other plant fibers — and even burning toxic plastics and coal plant residues.

## 13 Countries Join to Study Living Whales in the Wild

SYDNEY, Australia, March 23, 2009 (ENS, excerpt)

— The world's first international workshop on non-lethal whale research opened in Sydney today in an effort to counter the Japanese lethal "research" whale hunt that kills hundreds of whales in the Southern Ocean and the North Pacific every year.

Environment Minister Peter Garrett said Australia is taking the lead to better manage the whales of the Southern Ocean and, in the process, show the world that scientific research on whales can be done without resorting to lethal measures.

"This is about building the world's most comprehensive whale research partnership with countries interested in developing an agreed scientific approach to research — one that doesn't involve killing whales," Garrett said at the opening session.

Garrett envisions the new Southern Ocean Research Partnership as the first in a system of regional research partnerships that will counteract the bitter split in the International Whaling Commission between the whaling nations and the whale conservation nations that has stalled the work of the commission for years.

"This week, 13 nations with a common interest in the Southern Ocean will work with scientists and specialists on an agreed approach to take us to a future where conservation of whales is the focus of science. "This is an opportunity for us all to examine current Southern Ocean research efforts, discuss research priorities, identify knowledge gaps and map out how to build a scientific research program based on non-lethal methods," Garrett said.



Photo Courtesy Australian Antarctic Division  
Minke whale in the Southern Ocean

The partner nations will use modern research technologies such as genetic and molecular techniques, satellite tagging, acoustic surveys and aerial surveying of cetacean populations.

"By the end of the week, we hope to have a draft five-year plan to present at the International Whaling Commission when it next meets in Portugal this June," he said.

Countries from four continents are participating in this week's workshop at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Darling Harbour — Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, South Africa and the United States.

Australia has committed more than \$14 million to develop and lead the Southern Ocean Research Partnership and to ensure it has sufficient support in the form of research platforms, scientists and equipment to continue until 2013...

## Watch Whale Wars on TV

Captain Paul Watson and Sea Shepherd Battle Whalers, the Elements and One Another in Dramatic Series

(see April OE for story and photos)

NEW YORK, New York, April 8, 2009 WORLD-WIRE — Last month, when the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society vessel The Steve Irwin docked in Hobart, Tasmania, it was met by two dozen members of the Australian Federal Police. They were there to confiscate hundreds of hours of videotape, launching an investigation into what was one of the most intense and dramatic campaigns ever conducted by the Sea Shepherds in their 30-year history. It was a life-changing experience for those on the boats and will be an extraordinary television series for audiences when WHALE WARS returns for a new season, premiering on June 5, 2009, at 9 p.m. (ET/PT).

Those seized tapes and hundreds of hours of other footage comprise the second season of Animal Planet's WHALE WARS, the best-performing series in the network's history among adults 25-54 and men 25-54. And Season Two looks to be even stronger than its freshman campaign as Animal Planet follows the 10-week voyage that proves to be more dangerous, more drama-filled and more controversial than last season.

This year, there were collisions at sea; tense times as The Steve Irwin, with its non-ice-worthy



Photo courtesy of Sea Shepherd  
Captain Paul Watson on the bridge of the Steve Irwin attempting to interfere with the Japanese whaling fleet.

hull, was trapped in ice fields; harrowing nautical maneuvers and use of more aggressive defenses against the Sea Shepherds, including the use of high-powered water cannons and Long Range Acoustical Devices (sonic devices that cause intense pain and could cause permanent hearing damage). The Japanese whaling fleet suffered a deadly loss as one of its workers slipped and fell overboard (not during an engagement with the Sea Shepherds) and whose body was never recovered. Watson and Sea Shepherd offered to help in a rescue mission for the missing worker but the whaling vessels claimed they did more to interfere than assist.

[Ed.: Anyone who knows me (Iona) will be astonished to see me advocating watching TV but I believe it will be an important show.]

# REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT ARTICLE!! FORESTS ARE THE ANSWER

## Saving Trees is More Important Than Most Other Climate Fixers

By Fred Pearce  
New Scientist via DailyClimate.org

THE acres upon acres of lush tropical forest in the Amazon and tropical Africa are often referred to as the planet's lungs.

But what if they are also its heart?

This is exactly what a couple of meteorologists claim in a controversial new theory that questions our fundamental understanding of what drives the weather. They believe vast forests generate winds that help pump water around the planet.

If correct, the theory would explain how the deep interiors of forested continents get as much rain as the coast and how most of Australia turned from forest to desert. It suggests that much of North America could become desert — even without global warming. The idea makes it even more vital that we recognize the crucial role forests play in the well-being of the planet.

Scientists have known for some time that forests recycle rain. Up to half the precipitation falling on a typical tropical rainforest evaporates or transpires from trees. This keeps the air above moist. Ocean winds can spread the moisture to create more rain.

But now Victor Gorshkov and Anastassia Makarieva of the St. Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute in Russia say that forests also create winds that pump moisture across continents.

How can forests create wind? Water vapor from coastal forests and oceans quickly condenses to form droplets and clouds.

The Russians point out that the gas takes up less space as it turns to liquid, lowering local air pressure. Because evaporation is stronger over the forest than over the ocean, the pressure is lower over coastal forests, which



Image: Kim Eijdenberg/Flickr/Getty  
The rainforests may be the heart as well as the lungs of the planet.

suck in moist air from the ocean.

This generates wind that drives moisture further inland. The process repeats itself as the moisture is recycled in stages, moving towards the continent's heart.

As a result, giant winds transport moisture thousands of kilometres into the interior of a continent.

Coastal forests create giant winds that push water thousands of kilometres inland

The volumes of water involved in this process can be huge. More moisture typically evaporates from rainforests than from the ocean.

The Amazon rainforest, for example, releases 20 trillion litres of moisture every day.

"In conventional meteorology the only driver of atmospheric motion is the differential heating of the atmosphere. That is, warm air rises," Makarieva and Gorshkov told *New Scientist*. But, they say, "Nobody has looked at the pressure drop caused by water vapor turning to water."

The scientists, whose theory is based on the basic physics that

governs air movement have dubbed this the "biotic pump" and claim it could be "the major driver of atmospheric circulation on Earth."

This is a dramatic claim.

The two Russians argue that their biotic pump underlies many pressure-driven features of the tropical climate system such as trade winds and helps create intense local features like hurricanes.

To back up their hypothesis they show how regions without coastal forests, such as west Africa, become exponentially drier inland.

Likewise, in northern Australia, rainfall drops from 1600 millimetres a year (about 63 inches) on the coast to 200 mm (about 8 inches) some 1500 kilometres inland (about 931 miles).

In contrast, on continents with large forests from the coast to interior, rainfall is as strong inland as on the coast, suggesting the trees help shuttle moisture inland (Ecological Complexity, DOI: 10.1016/j.ecocom.2008.11.004, in press).

In the Congo, for instance, around 2000 mm (about 79

inches) of rain falls each year at the coast and the same amount falls inland.

The same is true in the Amazon, the Siberian Arctic and the Mackenzie river basin in northern Canada.

But the U.S., largely forested until recently, now seems to be headed for desert. Makarieva and Gorshkov told *New Scientist* that without rapid reforestation "the degrading temperate forests of North America are on their way to desertification."

The Russians' ideas have languished since they were published in a small journal in 2007. "We are facing enormous difficulties in overcoming the initial resistance of the scientific community," they say.

Antoon Meesters of the Free University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, recently described it as "an untenable result of confused principles." Meesters does not dispute the physics behind the Russians' theory but claims the effect is negligible.

This week, a leading British forest scientist based at the Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation in Kabale, Uganda, came

to the Russians' aid.

In a review of the work in the journal *Bioscience* DOI: 10.1525/bio.2009.59.3.12), Doug Sheil and his co-author Daniel Murdiyarso underline the importance of the idea. "Conventional models typically predict a 20 to 30 per cent decline in rainfall after deforestation," Sheil says. "Makarieva and Gorshkov suggest even localized clearing might ultimately switch entire continental climates from wet to arid, with rainfall declining by more than 95 per cent."

Sheil explains that current theory doesn't explain clearly how the lowlands in continental interiors maintain wet climates.

"There is a missing element," Sheil says. The biotic pump "may be the answer."

He calls the Russians' findings "a most profound insight into the impact of forest loss on climate. They will transform how we view forest loss, climate change and hydrology."

Many forest scientists are intrigued by the idea. "It makes perfect sense," says Andrew Mitchell, director of the Global Canopy Programme, Oxford, United Kingdom. "We know that coastal rainforests are critical to maintaining rainfall deep inland." He says it could offer a more convincing explanation for how Amazon rainfall is typically recycled six times.

The implications are global, he adds. "We think some of the recycled Amazon moisture is taken on a jet stream to South Africa and more maybe to the American Midwest. Gorshkov and Makarieva are looking at the front end of an absolutely critical process for the world's climate."

If their theory is correct, it means that large forests help kick-start the global water cycle. However, because forest models do not include the biotic pump, it is impossible to say what wiping the Amazon off the map would mean for rainfall worldwide.

The theory suggests that past civilizations could have had a much greater impact on global

climate than we thought.

Australia once had forests but is now largely desert. Gorshkov and Makarieva argue that Aborigines burning coastal forests may have switched the continent from wet to dry by shutting down its biotic pump.

Climatologists are already worried about the state of the Amazon rainforest. Last month, the United Kingdom's Met Office warned that if the planet warms by 4 degrees, 85 per cent of the forest could dry out and die.

If Gorshkov and Makarieva are right, the Amazon will be gone before warming kicks in. They predict that even modest deforestation could shut down the pump and reduce rainfall in central Amazonia by 95 per cent. The same could happen in the world's other large rainforest regions such as central Africa.

According to Richard Betts, head of climate impacts at the Met Office, "The jury is still out on whether the mechanism is significant or not. But the role of tropical forests in protecting us against climate change is severely underrated."

It's not all bad news. If natural forests can create rain, then planting forests can, too. Sheil says if forests attract rain, then replanting deforested coastal regions could re-establish a biotic pump and bring back the rains. "Once forests are established, the pump would be powerful enough to water them. Could we one day afford the world's deserts? Makarieva and Gorshkov's hypothesis suggests we might."

[Ed.: There is a huge difference between planting little trees and saving existing forests: the first is child's play; the second is what must be done. It is impossible to plant a forest with all its native diversity so the focus needs to be placed on protecting forests. That is why "The Order of the Earth" publishes so many articles about people all over the planet working hard and even risking their lives to save forests in one way or another.]

## Point: Forest Owners Can Sell Carbon Credits for Trees

By Andy Mead  
Herald-Leader via DailyClimate.org

IRVINE, California, March 30, 2009 (excerpt) — Justin Maxson admits that the concept he's been explaining to Appalachian landowners is a little difficult to wrap your mind around:

"There's an odorless, colorless gas that is sucked out of the air by your trees and somebody's going to pay you for that."

The gas is carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>, which contributes to global warming. Industries that produce it and want to reduce their carbon footprint are willing to pay when healthy trees do what they do naturally, which is absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> and store it.

Because the trees must be in forests that are well-managed, a side benefit is that the region's long-abused forests could finally get some respect. That, in turn, is good news for wildlife and water quality.

No money has changed hands yet, mostly because the program is voluntary and the recession has lowered the amount of money that companies are willing to spend. But legislation is looming that could limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and push up prices.

Maxson is executive director of the Berea, Kentucky-based Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), which is lining up people with forest land and walking them through the steps needed to sell carbon credits. In the emerging world of carbon credits trading, MACED is called an aggregator. It calls its

program the Forest Opportunities Initiative.

Aggregators are especially needed in a state such as Kentucky, where nearly half the land is forested but 89 percent of the forests are owned by private landowners. The average woods is just 26 acres. MACED's plan is to group many parcels together and, when the price is right, sell their credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange.

So far, MACED has signed up 30 people who own altogether more than 16,000 acres of woods, nearly all of it in Eastern Kentucky.

The organization figures that wooded acres already enrolled are taking up 57,300 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in a year. Using the Environmental Protection Agency's online Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, that equals the emissions used to generate electricity for nearly 8,000 homes for a year, or from burning 299 rail cars of coal.

MACED began working on the carbon credits program about 2½ years ago but only started signing up landowners about 16 months ago.

The first person signed up was Jack Stickney who, with wife Teresa and son Caleb, owns a farm that stretches over 133 knobby Estill County hills.

Stickney is what Tina Marie Johnson, a MACED program associate, calls "an early adopter."

He has a geology degree and works for the Kentucky Rural Water Association. On the farm, he raises a few head of cattle and cuts some hay and inoculates rows of oak logs so that they

produce shiitake mushrooms.

About 100 acres of the farm is in woods. When he bought it two decades ago, the forest suffered from two centuries of what is called "high-grading" — cutting the best trees and leaving those that were crooked, broken or of little commercial value.

Now blue paint marks trees that will be taken out so that those remaining will get more light and water — and absorb more carbon dioxide.

Landowners often wait until their forests are 70 or 80 years old before high-grading. Being in the carbon credit program will allow limited logging of higher quality timber. Scott Shouse, a MACED forester, estimated that the equivalent of one oak tree with a trunk 18 inches in diameter can be cut from each acre each year. Because the timber will be from a sustainable forest, it will bring more money.

That, and the money from selling the carbon credits, is expected to make the program popular.

"I think it's going to get me and other woodland owners to say 'Hey, maybe there's a reason to manage my woodlands,'" Stickney said. "You know how it is when it comes down to money. That gets people's interest."

In Estill County, Frank Olson also says he sees a lot of high-grading. In 1971, he and his wife Ann bought 100 acres across the road from where she had lived when she was a VISTA volunteer. The only time trees have been cut on their land since was for salvage logging after a couple of storms.

By Vanessa Gera  
AP via DailyClimate.org, March 30

Environmental group Greenpeace on Monday criticized plans by some countries to tackle global warming by letting polluting industries in wealthy nations offset carbon emissions by replanting tropical forests.

Greenpeace said that the idea is deeply flawed and may worsen global warming by allowing polluters to spew out more greenhouse gases and detract from efforts to promote new clean technologies in countries like China and India.

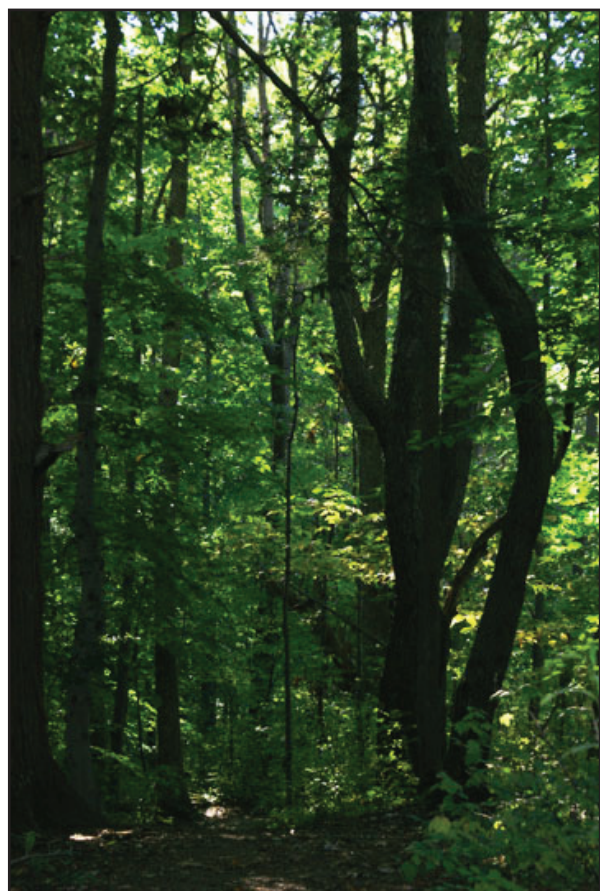
In a report released on the sidelines of U.N. climate talks in Bonn, Greenpeace said that "including forest protection measures in carbon markets would ... derail global efforts to tackle global warming."

"Cheap forest credits sound attractive but a closer examination shows they are a dangerous option that won't save the forests or stop runaway climate change," said Roman Czebiniak, a forest expert with Greenpeace. "Of the many options for forest financing currently on the table, this one ranks as the worst."

Delegates from 175 countries met in Bonn in April for the latest round of talks aimed at crafting an ambitious global treaty that would bring both rich and developing countries on board to fight global warming.

The deal, expected to be sealed this December in Copenhagen, would replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

While Kyoto deals narrowly with cutting polluting emissions,



The woods in Scott Park, Erie, PA which offer so much to so many people and is now threatened (in part) by a proposed cell phone tower (see story on page 13, "One Woman Takes Action to Protect Park.") Photo by Terry Darling

negotiators are looking at how they can broaden a Copenhagen deal to include other issues.

Forests are seen as key because living trees, which contain carbon, absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, compensating for some of the pollution caused by cars and factories. But when cut or burned, trees release their carbon back into the atmosphere. Not only is a powerful absorber of pollution lost, but the released carbon contributes further to global warming.

The destruction of forests

now contributes close to 20 percent of the overall greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere, according to estimates from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Ending deforestation "is one of the quickest and most cost-effective ways of tackling climate change," Greenpeace said, but argued that forests in developing countries should be preserved with greater financing from rich countries and not made into a commodity worth credits in the carbon market.



Photo by Jim Bensman, Heartwood

Participants at the 2003 Heartwood Forest Council in Kentucky.

# Friends of Forests to Meet

## 19th Annual Heartwood Forest Council Defending the Earth

Memorial Day Weekend  
May 22-25, 2009  
Camp McKee  
Near Red River Gorge  
Appalachian Kentucky

By Jillian Borchard  
Owings Mills, Maryland

The Heartwood Forest Council is the largest annual gathering of citizens from across the Eastern, Midwestern and Southern United States who care about the health and well being of our nation's forests. The Forest Council provides an opportunity for people to address the issues that threaten the health of our forests and human communities in an atmosphere of collaboration designed to strengthen personal and organizational connections. While addressing the issues we face and celebrating the work that we do, the Forest Council is an opportunity to identify lasting solutions and action steps that will move us as a community toward a shared vision of a healthy, just and sustainable society.

The Forest Council will consist of three days of workshops, discussions, keynote speakers and field trips — interspersed with ample social time, leisure, lively local music, dancing and great food (sourced locally and from organic sources to the greatest extent possible, and lovingly prepared). The Forest Council will be family friendly — kids of all ages are encouraged to attend.

### Defending the Earth, Sustaining Ourselves

This year's Forest Council will explore the whole cycle of coal from extraction, processing and transport to combustion and disposal of wastes. New threats to our forests and communities will also be addressed, ranging from global warming to



Photo by Jim Scheff, Kentucky Heartwood  
View from Pilot Knob, Powell County, Kentucky.

the proliferation of biomass combustion plants and agro-fuels which convert forests and food into electric power and fuel.

Equally important, we will address how we can sustain ourselves and each other in this time of great challenges and threats to the planet we call home.

### What is Heartwood?

Heartwood is a cooperative network of grassroots groups, individuals and local businesses working to protect and sustain healthy forests and vital human communities in the nation's heartland. Heartwood has a nearly twenty year track record of bringing people together to share information, coordinate efforts and devise a common approach, not just to the challenges we face but perhaps more importantly to the positive future that inspires the work we do.

### Cosponsor Forest Council

We invite you to become a cosponsor of the 2009 Heartwood Forest Council. Funds raised will be used to underwrite the event and make it affordable for those who might otherwise be unable to attend. As a cosponsor, you or your organization or business will be listed in all applicable promotional materials and have the option of setting up a display table with merchandise and information at the event. Cosponsors may choose to remain anonymous. Cosponsorship also entitles you to a one-year organizational membership in Heartwood with full member benefits.

To find out more information about the Forest Council, including registration, co-sponsorship fees, speakers, event schedule and more, visit the Heartwood Web site at:

[www.heartwood.org](http://www.heartwood.org).

## Maine Group: Forest Zone Would Slow Climate Change

PORTLAND, Maine (AP via DailyClimate.org, February 17, 2009 *excerpt*) — Millions of acres of the state's woods would be designated as a special forest zone in order to draw more pollution from the air and slow the impact of climate change under a campaign proposed Tuesday by a Maine environmental group.

Jonathan Carter, director of the Forest Ecology Network, said he hopes such a designation would be the first step toward a national effort to mitigate the effects of what he called the "climate disaster" of global warming.

The thrust of the plan is to encourage landowners to manage their forests in a way that would maximize how much carbon would be drawn out of the air to counteract the pollution that is put into the air from power plants, vehicles and other sources, Carter said.

His proposal would use federal funds to pay landowners to manage their lands using specified forestry practices. Foresters recommend eliminating clear-cutting, using methods that don't cause erosion and chopping down old and dead trees.

"The climate catastrophe is upon us. The question is not whether we can stop it, but how to mitigate it and adapt to the inevitable change," Carter said at a news conference where he unveiled his campaign.

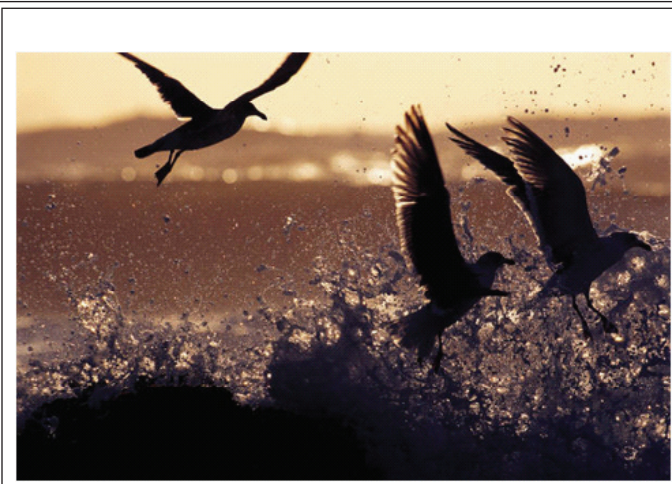
Maine is the nation's most heavily forested state. More than 17.7 million acres, or 90 percent of the state land base, are covered with trees, according to the Maine Forest Service.

Under the Forest Ecology Network's proposal, about 10.2 million acres would be put into what Carter is calling a designated "national carbon sequestration forest." Maine's woods, he said, have the potential to double their level of carbon storage, which would remove a huge amount of carbon from the atmosphere.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air as part of the photosynthesis process in making wood, Carter said. At the same time, the process helps reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere that is contributing to global warming, he said. Carbon absorption rates can be affected by the age, health and density of the trees as well as soil conditions.

Besides helping the trees and climate issues, the plan will also help the forestry industry by resulting in higher-quality timber and better forestry management, Carter said.

He has met with small woodlot owners, conservation groups, the Maine Forest Society and the state forester to discuss the plan and will travel to Washington this month to talk about the plan with Maine's congressional delegation and other members of Congress.



on waves in mists  
birds surf the world --  
in crisp turns  
join their bodies to water  
and embrace the seas  
and snows and  
in the skies surf high  
upon the wind

Sandy Chilcote  
Newfoundland, Canada

## State of the Birds

Summary from  
*New York Times*  
Editorial, April 1

A nationwide survey in March by the Department of the Interior showed that one third of the bird species in the United States are endangered, threatened or in serious decline, especially birds which rely on grasslands for habitat.

Vanishing bird populations are a "direct result of human activity — of development, of global warming, of air and wa-

ter pollution and of our failure to set aside the habitat these birds need to flourish. Every threatened species reveals some aspect of our lives that could be adjusted."

But the research also proved that when humans act to preserve habitat, things get better.

"The remarkable recovery of ducks and geese and other wetland species — thanks to strong conservation efforts — should remind us of what is possible. The only other outcome is too grim to consider — a landscape steadily emptying of birds."

### "The Order" is for sale in PA at:

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Burnt Cabins
- Gap Mini-Mart  
Shade Gap
- Harvest Moon, Orbisonia
- Health by Choice  
New Enterprise
- Miller's Diner  
Mill Creek
- Neelyton Post Office
- Sandy Ridge Market  
Orbisonia
- Sunny Ridge Restaurant,  
Shade Gap
- Weavers Natural Foods  
Manheim
- Wholesome Living Marketplace  
Bedford

### And in New York at:

- Magnolia's Cafe  
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**North**  
Image courtesy of NASA  
This data visualization from the AMSR-E instrument on the Aqua satellite show the maximum sea ice extent for 2008-09, which occurred on February 28, 2009.

## New Data Shows Arctic Ice Cap Thinning

BOULDER, Colorado, April 6, 2009 (ENS) — The Arctic ice cap is thinner than ever and this winter the Arctic Basin had the fifth lowest maximum ice extent on record, scientists who track sea ice cover from space announced today.

The latest Arctic sea ice data from NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center show that the decade-long trend of shrinking sea ice cover is continuing and new evidence from satellite observations shows that the ice cap is thinning.

Thicker ice, which survives two or more years, now makes up just 10 percent of wintertime ice cover in the Arctic Basin, down from 30 to 40 percent in the 1980s and 1990s, the scientists told reporters on a conference call today.

Since satellite monitoring began in 1979, the six lowest maximum winter ice measurements across the Arctic Basin have all occurred in the past six years (2004 to 2009) the scientists said.

The maximum sea ice extent for the 2008-09 winter reached on February 28 was 5.85 million square miles. The scientists said that is 278,000 square miles less than the average extent for the years 1979 to 2000 — an area about the size of Texas.

Walter Meier, cryosphere scientist with the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder, said the decrease in sea ice “goes hand in hand with warmer temperatures.” He said it has been linked to global warming by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which reviews and compiles climate science from around the world for its periodic consensus reports.

“There is no other mechanism than climate warming that could cause the sea ice changes we’re seeing,” Meier said.

Now, arctic sea ice extent has begun its seasonal decline towards the September minimum and the scientists said this melt season has begun with a substantial amount of thin first-year ice, which is vulnerable to summer melt.

“Ice extent is an important measure of the health of the Arctic but it only gives us a two-dimensional view of the ice cover,” said Meier. “Thickness is important, especially in the winter, because it is the best overall indicator of the health of the ice cover. As the ice cover in the Arctic grows thinner, it grows more vulnerable to melting in the summer.”

Until recently, the majority of Arctic sea ice survived at least one summer and often built up over several years. But now, thin seasonal ice that melts and refreezes every year makes up about 70 percent of the Arctic sea ice in wintertime, up from 40 to 50 percent in the 1980s and 1990s.

Sea ice thickness has been hard to measure directly, so scientists have used estimates of ice age to approximate its thickness.

But last year a team of researchers led by Ron Kwok of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California produced the first map of sea ice

thickness over the entire Arctic Basin.

Using two years of data from ICESat, NASA’s Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite launched in 2003 into an orbit 70 miles high, Kwok’s team estimated thickness and volume of the Arctic Ocean ice cover for 2005 and 2006.

The older, thicker sea ice is declining and is being replaced with newer, thinner ice that is more vulnerable to summer melt, says Kwok. The thick, multi-year ice cover has not been able to recover from recent declines, he said.

Kwok’s team found that seasonal sea ice averages about six feet in thickness, while ice that had lasted through more than one summer averages about nine feet, though it can grow much thicker in some locations near the coast as the ice piles up on itself and against the coast.

Sea ice grows and melts within the ocean so it does not change sea level directly, Meier said, but it has an indirect effect. As the sea ice melts, it exposes the ocean to the Sun so warming is amplified.

Meier explained that the open ocean is a source of moisture which could get picked up by the atmosphere and be deposited on Greenland as snow, growing the mass of Greenland. But, he said, if temperatures get warm enough, Greenland will lose a lot of land and the melting of land ice does raise sea levels.

To restore the amount of older ice to pre-2000 levels, large amounts of first year ice would need to endure through summers for several years in a row.

But each winter, winds and ocean currents move some sea ice out of the Arctic ocean. This winter, some second-year ice survived the 2008 melt season only to be pushed out of the Arctic by strong winter winds.

Based on sea ice age data from Jim Maslanik and Chuck Fowler at the University of Colorado since the end of September, 150,000 square miles of second-year ice and 73,000 square miles of ice more than two years old moved out of the Arctic.

The prediction of an ice-free summer as early as 2013-2014 is “not totally out of the realm of possibility,” Meier said. “Five years ago that suggestion would have been laughed out of the room; now scientists say it’s very unlikely but possible.”

“We’ve already lost over one-third of our summer ice cover from the 1980s-1990s,” said Meier. “We’re already seeing impacts, we don’t have to wait for the sea ice disappear during the summer.”

The Bering Sea experienced a cool winter, with temperatures 1 to 2 degrees Celsius (1.8 to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) below average but that is not enough to recover the thick multi-year ice cover of the 1980s, the scientists said.

“In terms of long-term health of the climate we’re still in a very precarious position,” Meier said. “One or two cooler years could slow things down for a while but long-term trends are for a warmer Arctic and thinner sea ice cover.”



**South**  
Photo courtesy of NASA

Antarctica’s Larsen Ice Shelf is melting.



National Snow and Ice Data Center  
An iceberg drifting in the Southern Ocean near Antarctica.

## Antarctic Ice Shelf Disappears

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 3, 2009 (ENS, *excerpt*) — One Antarctic ice shelf has completely disappeared and another has lost a chunk three times the size of Rhode Island, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report prepared in collaboration with British and German scientists.

The USGS study focuses on Antarctica, the Earth’s largest reservoir of glacial ice. It shows that Antarctica’s glaciers are melting more rapidly than previously known because of climate change. “This study provides the first insight into the extent of Antarctica’s coastal and glacier change,” said U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. “The rapid retreat of glaciers there demonstrates once again the profound effects our planet is already experiencing — more rapidly than previously known — as a consequence of climate change.”

“The scientific work of USGS, which is investigating the impacts of climate change around the world, including an ongoing examination of glaciers, is a critical foundation of the administration’s commitment to combat climate change,” Salazar said.

Using historical and recent satellite imagery, aerial photography and other data, as well as the newest mapping techniques, the USGS study released today maps recent glacier retreat along Antarctica’s Larsen and Wordie Ice Shelves.

Scientists previously knew that the Wordie Ice Shelf has been retreating but this study documents for the first time that it has completely disappeared.

Moreover, the northern part of the Larsen Ice Shelf no longer

exists. An area more than three times the size of the State of Rhode Island — more than 8,500 square kilometers (5,278.5 square miles) — has broken off from the Larsen Ice Shelf since 1986.

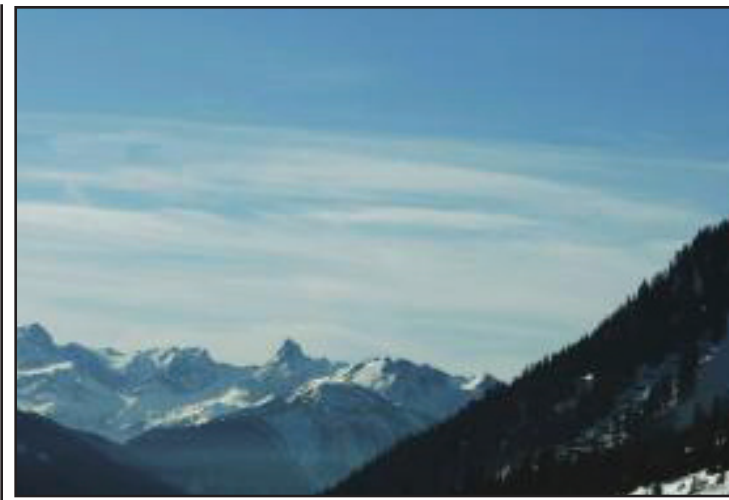
USGS scientists report that these floating ice shelves are especially sensitive to climate change, so their rapid retreat may be a forecast for losses of the land-based ice sheet on the Antarctic continent if warming continues. This could result in sea-level rise, threatening low-lying coastal communities and islands, they warn.

“This continued and often significant glacier retreat is a wake-up call that change is happening in our Earth System and we need to be prepared,” said USGS glaciologist Jane Ferrigno, lead author on the study. “Antarctica is of special interest because it holds an estimated 91 percent of the Earth’s glacier volume and change anywhere in the ice sheet poses significant hazards to society.”

The research in Antarctica is a collaborative effort of the USGS and the British Antarctic Survey with the assistance of the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge and Germany’s Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie.

The new report and map of the Larsen Ice Shelf are part of a project to research the coastal change and glaciological characteristics of the entire Antarctic coastline.

The research is also part of the USGS Glacier Studies Project that is monitoring and describing glacier extent and change over the whole planet using satellite imagery.



Getty Images  
The zones affected include areas around the Matterhorn.

## Melting Snow Prompts Border Change Between Switzerland and Italy

By Peter Popham in Rome  
DailyClimate.org, March 24, 2009

Global warming is dissolving the Alpine glaciers so rapidly that Italy and Switzerland have decided they must re-draw their national borders to take account of the new realities.

The border has been fixed since 1861, when Italy became a unified state. But for the past century the surface area of the “cryosphere”, the zone of glaciers, permanent snow cover and permafrost, has been shrinking steadily with dramatic acceleration in the past five years. This is the area over which the national frontier passes and the two countries have now agreed to have their experts sit down together and hash out where it ought to run now.

Daniel Gutknecht, responsible for the coordination of national borders at Switzerland’s Office of Topography, said “the border is moving because of the warmer climate”, among other reasons.

In Italy, the change in frontier requires that parliament approve a new law before it can happen. Franco Narducci, an opposition member of the foreign affairs committee, is preparing the bill to be put to MPs. The draft law has already been endorsed by the Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini, and was expected to become law before the end of April. In Switzerland no new law is required to make the changes.

The zones affected include areas around the Matterhorn, the 4,478-metre-high mountain known in Italy as il Cervino. The frontier will have to be shifted between a few meters and a hundred meters but there will be no impact on border communities as the frontier, which is more than 4,000 metres above sea level, is well above any human habitation.

The new border will address changes that have been noticeable for at least 20 years, according to Luca Mercalli, a well-known Italian meteorologist and

climatologist. “But the melting of the glaciers has been accelerating since the very hot summer of 2003,” he said. “That heatwave caused a lot of changes in the landscape and many landslides resulted from the melting of the permafrost. For the first time ever the zero-degree altitude went higher than 4,000 meters and the morphology of many parts of the mountains began to change.”

Mr. Mercalli says it is not only glaciers but other points of reference used in delineating the border that have changed their position under the impact of global warming. “In places the conventional border fixed in 1861 followed water courses and where glaciers have melted these may have changed significantly,” he said.

The decision to redraw the border is a dramatic reminder of how seriously mountains are affected by climate change, he added. “The mountains are particularly sensitive to change. And they are also areas that teach us a lot: effects of climate change that you don’t notice in the cities are vividly apparent in the mountains. Increased incidence of mud and rock slides, caused when soft ground previously covered by permafrost is exposed to rain, is only the most dramatic consequence.”

The redrawing of the borders brings together the geological and geographical experts of two countries which have adopted drastically different approaches to global warming. In Switzerland the government has been fully aware of the problem for years and is actively engaged in reducing atmospheric pollution and energy use to minimise human impact on the atmosphere. In Italy, on the other hand, scepticism prevails. The Berlusconi government threatened to veto the EU Energy and Climate Package last October and Italy is among the worst-performing states in the Climate Change Performance Index.

## CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

By George Monbiot  
...Apart from the sheer animal panic I felt on reading these reports, two things jumped out at me... The first is that governments are relying on IPCC assessments that are years out of date even before they’re published... The second is that we have to stop calling it “climate change...” It’s a ridiculously neutral term for the biggest potential catastrophe humankind has ever encountered. I think we should call it “climate breakdown.”

# Landmark Global Warming Lawsuit Settled

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Friends of the Earth press release, February 6, 2009, *excerpt*) — A federal lawsuit that sought to force two U.S. agencies to address the global warming implications of their overseas financing activities was settled today after more than six years; the suit established important legal precedents related to global warming.

Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the city of Boulder, Colorado filed the suit (Friends of the Earth, Inc., et al. v. Spinelli, et al.) in August 2002 and were later joined by the California cities of Arcata, Santa Monica and Oakland. The plaintiffs alleged that Export-Import Bank of the United States and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation illegally provided more than \$32 billion in financing and insurance to fossil fuel projects over 10 years without assessing whether the projects contributed to global warming or impacted the U. S. environment, as they were required to do under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Fossil fuel projects financed by the two agencies from 1990 to 2003 produced cumulative emissions that were equivalent to nearly eight percent of the world’s annual carbon dioxide emissions, or nearly one-third of annual U.S. emissions in 2003.

In August 2005, a federal judge found that the U.S. cities suffering economic and other damages from climate change had stand-

ing to sue under NEPA, opening up the courthouse doors for the first time to those injured by climate change. Testimony from the case, which successfully asserted that climate change is real and caused by human activities, later informed the Mass. v. EPA decision, in which the Supreme Court held that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are pollutants that can be regulated under the Clean Air Act.

Under the settlement agreed to today, the Export-Import Bank will begin taking carbon dioxide emissions into account in evaluating fossil fuel projects and create an organization-wide carbon policy. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation will establish a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects by 20 percent over the next ten years. Both agencies will commit to increasing financing for renewable energy.

The settlement represents an important victory in the continuing campaign to hold both agencies accountable for their contributions to climate change. The settlement agreement was filed this morning in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The plaintiffs in the suit were represented by the law firm Shems Dunkiel Kassel & Saunders PLLC (Burlington, Vermont) and Natural Heritage Institute (San Francisco, California) . . . .

Background on the case is available at [www.foe.org/climatelawsuit](http://www.foe.org/climatelawsuit). Contact Nick Berning at 202-222-0748.

# Chemtrails: Hidden in Plain Sight

## Continuing the Discussion

The best covert operation is one that takes place in broad daylight in front of everyone's eyes, yet no one sees it.

--Col. Jack Kingston  
(retired from the Pentagon's Joint Chiefs of Staff)

By Wallace Hoffman  
Idaho Falls, Idaho

For over ten years a secret government program of aerial spraying called Chemtrails has been conducted over the United States and around the world. This program has been carried out without the consent of the American people but at billions of dollars in taxpayer expense. During this time, death from respiratory disease has gone from the eighth to the third leading cause of death in the United States.

The honeybee population is disappearing. Farmers have trouble growing fruits and vegetables. Fish, birds and other wildlife suddenly and mysteriously die in large numbers. Scientists worldwide are puzzled by the fact that the light from the sun has been dimmed by as much as twenty-two percent. And dangerously high levels of aluminum and barium are found in rain water.

There are hundreds of articles (and pictures) on the internet about Chemtrails written by people who are trying to get the spraying stopped. Simply go to Google and do a search on the word "Chemtrails." Two books have also been published on Chemtrails: *Death in the Air* by Leonard Horowitz (2001) and *Chemtrails Confirmed* by investigative reporter William Thomas (2004).

The United States government, the military and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refuse to acknowledge this aerial spraying despite the highly visible evidence in the sky. Anyone who questions official government denials is dismissed and ridiculed as a conspiracy theorist, thus implying that there is no credible evidence for such claims and that they should be ignored.

However, on October 2, 2001 Congressman Dennis Kucinich introduced a bill in Congress (HR2977) titled the "Space Preservation Act of 2001" which mentioned Chemtrails as an "exotic weapons system." Later versions of the bill had the word Chemtrails omitted. (To see the original text of HR2977 go to <http://www.carnicom/hr2977.htm>. Read Section 7.)

Chemtrails can easily be seen and photographed by satellites in space. Such photographs also reveal a white haze covering the earth that does not appear in photographs from space taken over twenty years ago.

William Thomas has said, "As the first journalist to break the Chemtrails story back in January 1999, I have stayed with this frustrating and often infuriating investigation knowing that its answers will ultimately go far beyond aerial spraying to address the fundamental democratic issues of public consent and political accountability."

Most people are unaware of Chemtrail aerial spraying simply because they seldom look up at the sky or, if they do look up and see a Chemtrail, they think that it is simply a contrail and that everything is normal.

So what is the difference between a Chemtrail and a contrail? Contrails form only at high altitudes when the hot exhaust from a jet engine meets the cold moist air of the atmosphere and causes condensation. For contrails to occur, the air must be extremely cold (less than -40 degrees Celsius/Fahrenheit) and the humidity 70% or higher. Yet Chemtrails have been observed under temperature and humidity conditions that would make it impossible for them to form if they were simply contrails. Contrails also disappear within a few seconds or minutes, as they are just water vapor.



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." **CORRECTION:** Last month we said that David Dees lives in Scotland. Not true. He lives in Sweden.

## Chemtrails Petition

We the people request an immediate, thorough and honest investigation into what the substances labeled "Chemtrails" actually consists of and to discover the true purpose of "Chemtrail" operations in this country and across the globe. Such investigations must include independent, impartial experts, as well as individuals and groups. Chemtrail-aware individuals and groups are getting tired of seeing whited-out, man-made skies. Without a credible explanation, many of us have come to the conclusion that a cover-up is underway at some level. The purpose of this petition is to assist in raising public confidence to ultimately demand a serious and open public debate on Chemtrails. Sign on at link below.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/7/investigate-persistent-contrails-aka-chemtrails>

Chemtrails, on the other hand, leave a brilliant white stream that often extends from horizon to horizon and that persists for hours, slowly spreading out until the entire sky is covered in a white haze.

Contrails, unlike Chemtrails, do not make people sick. Hundreds of people have become ill within hours of seeing Chemtrails. Some of the reported symptoms include hacking cough, difficulty breathing, headache, dizziness, lethargy, fatigue, mental fog, nosebleed, gastrointestinal problems, twitching eyelids, aching joints, asthma attacks and death.

When commercial aircraft are seen entering spray zones, they emit no contrails even though they are at the same altitude as Chemtrail spraying aircraft.

Eyewitnesses report that Chemtrails are sprayed from white jets with no identifiable markings. Photographs on the Internet show Chemtrail loops in the sky as aircraft turn around to continuously spray a specific area, proving that this is not normal aircraft activity. Furthermore, military pilots have privately but anonymously admitted that Chemtrail spraying is occurring.

Chemtrail spraying goes on almost continuously. However, even during periods of no spray-

ing, the residue from Chemtrails often leaves the sky in a light blue haze. It is rare today to see a clear, deep blue sky.

It is speculated that some of the possible purposes of Chemtrail aerial spraying are as follows:

- (1) To drug, disable or destroy the enemy in time of war.
- (2) To enforce crowd control upon U.S. citizens.
- (3) To reduce global warming by spraying aluminum oxide into the atmosphere to reflect sunlight back into space.
- (4) To change the electrical conductivity of the air by spraying barium into the atmosphere in conjunction with research conducted by HAARP (High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program) in Alaska. [Ed.: *Sounds Orwellian, doesn't it?*]
- (5) To conduct experiments in global weather control.
- (6) To conduct research by spraying the public with biological pathogens. (That this has been done in the past is well documented in the books mentioned above and on the Internet.)
- (7) To reduce the Earth's population.

While this last might stretch the realm of cred-

ibility, there are actually people and organizations who advocate this agenda. And anyone who has seen a major Chemtrail aerial spraying can testify that it is definitely being done without regard to human life.

Section 1520, Title 50 of the U.S. Code states that the Secretary of Defense may not conduct any chemical or biological test or experiment on civilian populations *unless such tests are for medical, therapeutic, pharmaceutical, agricultural, industrial purposes or for research in general or for protection against weapons or for law enforcement purposes, including riot control* (italics mine). The law states that human subjects must give informed consent. But a loophole in Section 1515 of Chapter 32 allows informed consent to be suspended by executive order during a period of national emergency! [You can verify this law by going to <http://uscode.house.gov> on the Internet and double clicking Search U.S. Code.]

In other words, the military can spray the public for just about any reason they see fit!

This law must be repealed. A law must then be passed which states that U.S. citizens cannot be sprayed for any purpose whatsoever, whether in time of war or peace. Those who break the law must be sentenced to long prison terms, heavy fines and possibly even capital punishment. The government has no right to classify a program as top secret or declare that such information cannot be released to the public for reasons of national security when such a program directly affects the health of the public and the ecology of the entire planet. Note that it is not necessary to prove the reality of Chemtrails in order to pass such a law.

When someone first told me about Chemtrails, I did not want to hear anything about them. After all, who could believe that a secret covert worldwide campaign of aerial spraying was taking place? It was simply beyond belief. However, one morning I was outside about 7 a.m. The morning sky was clear and there was no smog over the Salt Lake Valley in Utah. Then I watched in astonishment as military jets flew from north to south and east to west, laying down Chemtrails in a grid pattern. This continued over a period of about three hours until the entire valley was saturated with smog. It looked like Armageddon. I was astonished beyond belief. I had never seen anything like it. I knew without a doubt that this was a spraying operation and I thought that they must be trying to kill us.

I watched the spraying operation continue for the entire month of June. Then just before the Fourth of July, the spraying let up for about five days. During this time, the sky was clear and I watched the valley to see how much smog would result from normal workday traffic. I was surprised that the sky remained clear and the only smog that built up was dirty, brown smog that hung low over the valley floor. I suddenly realized that eighty percent of the smog over the valley is caused by Chemtrail aerial spraying, not by commuter traffic!

Over the next few years, I continued to watch Chemtrail aerial spraying. I also talked to others across the country who were trying to get the spraying stopped.

Since respiratory disease leads to a slow death, aerial spraying is the perfect murder. It is a means of slowly killing the population by causing them to contract any of a number of diseases, none of which can be traced back to their source, especially since the military is off-limits to any civilian investigation. Furthermore, because it stretches the realm of credulity, most people simply refuse to believe it is happening.

However, regardless of whether you believe in Chemtrails or not, it will affect your health and the health of your children and grandchildren.

**Suggested Web sites:** *AboutTheSky.com; Carnicom.com; NewYorkSkywatch.com; ISeeLines.com; BariumBlues.com; CaliforniaSkywatch.com; Chemtrails911.com; ArizonaSkywatch.com; MissouriSkywatch.com. A Web page which has excellent pictures is: <http://imageevent.com/firesat/strangedaysstrangeskies>*

## Interested Visitors to [www.carnicom.com](http://www.carnicom.com)

Hi Iona,  
Clifford Carnicom has been investigating chemtrails for years. He originated the website [www.carnicom.com](http://www.carnicom.com) to inform people about chemtrails. On Mr. Carnicom's website, there is a list of 126 organizations that have viewed the site and which are listed below. Ask yourself, why are major government, military, and business organizations monitoring an obscure website if aerial spraying is not actually taking place.

You can see the list below by going to [www.carnicom.com](http://www.carnicom.com) and clicking on the Surveillance button, and then clicking on List of Visitors.

Wallace Hoffman

(Here starts the Web site's language.)

Let it be noted that some of the recent visitors to this Web site include the following. Let it also be noted that United States government computer systems are to be used for official purposes only.

1. Desert Research Institute in Nevada (weather modification research institution) (repeat visits)
2. Fort Lewis Army Military Base in the state

- of Washington (home of special forces air squadron)
3. Lockheed Martin (aviation and space defense contractor) (repeat visits)(repeat repeat visits)
4. Los Alamos National Laboratory (repeat visit)
5. Allergan Pharmaceutical Corporation (Allergy Pharmaceutical Research Company)
6. Alliant Techsystems (Space and Strategic Defense Systems contractor)
7. Raytheon Defense Systems (Defense Contractor) (repeat visit)(repeat repeat visit) (repeat repeat repeat visit)
8. BOEING AIRCRAFT COMPANY (100 visits minimum)
9. United States Defense Logistics Agency (supplies and support to combat troops)
10. Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tuscon AZ (home of 355<sup>th</sup> Wing)(repeat visits)(repeat repeat visits)(repeat repeat repeat visit)
11. Dept of Defense Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station
12. U.S. Naval Sea Systems Command
13. Western Pacific Region of the Federal Aviation Administration, Lawndale CA. (repeat visit)(repeat visit) (repeat visit)

14. National Aeronautics and Space Administration Langley Research Center (10 visits minimum)
15. United States Environmental Protection Agency (20 visits minimum)
16. St. Vincent Hospital, Santa Fe New Mexico
17. HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, THE PENTAGON
18. United States Department of the Treasury (repeat visit)(repeat visit)
19. United States Department of Defense Educational Activity
20. ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, PROUD HOME OF AIR FORCE ONE
21. United States Federal Aviation Administration
22. United States Naval Research Center, Washington D.C.
23. Rockwell-Collins (U.S. defense contractor)
24. Honeywell (U.S. Defense Contractor) (repeat visit)
25. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton OH (repeat visit)(repeat repeat visit)
26. Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa, Japan
27. Camp Pendleton, United States Marine

- Corps (mandatory US Defense anthrax vaccination program described at [www.cpp.usmc.mil](http://www.cpp.usmc.mil))(repeat visit)(repeat visit)
28. Ames Research Center, NASA (one of primary missions is to research ASTROBIOLOGY, i.e., the study of life in outer space) (repeat visit)
29. Space Dynamics Laboratory, Utah State University, North Logan, Utah
30. Merck (Pharmaceutical Products and Health Research)(repeat visit)
31. McClellan Air Force Base, Sacramento, CA. (The Sacramento Air Logistics Center at McClellan Air Force Base, California performs depot maintenance on the KC-135 Stratotanker aircraft and is heavily involved in space and communications-electronics.) (repeat visit)
32. TRW (U.S. Defense Contractor) (repeat visit)
33. Teledyne Brown Engineering (U.S. Defense Contractor)
34. United States Navy Medical Department
35. Air National Guard, Salt Lake City, Utah
36. Monsanto Company(Chemical, Pesticide, and Pharmaceutical products) (repeat visit) (Many more on [www.carnicom.com](http://www.carnicom.com))

# Eco/Justice Cafe and Calendar Reborn

Reusing Good Ideas:  
The Return of the  
MetroDC  
Environmental and  
Justice Network:  
MetNet 2.0

By Joe Libertelli  
Washington, D.C.

There once was an organization named "MetNet," the MetroDC Environmental Network.

From the run-up to Earth Day 1990 through mid 1997, a small group of activists produced a monthly newsprint collection of events, resources and information which eventually became known as the Green Calendar.

MetNet also coordinated several regional and national Earth Day events, ran a sliding scale broadcast fax network (this was, after all, the pre-email era!) and, for several years, organized monthly Eco/Justice Coffeehouses in a variety of D.C. church basements. The coffeehouses featured live music, vegetarian food, lots of political information, beer and, on occasion, coffee.

MetNet's goal was to foster communication and cooperation among individuals and organizations across the spectrum of environmental and social justice concerns, helping to bridge the local/national divide by listing local, national and regional events and resources.

It also sought to bridge the political lines that often divided local activists and groups at work on identical issues but focused on different political target audiences. Often these groups didn't even know of each other's existence! While organizers originally thought of the MetroDC area as a "super-saturated solution" — one that had such a conscious/liberal population that it would self-organize if the right crystal were dropped in — that largely did not happen.

While our work helped to forge many connections and to foster many lasting personal and political relationships, the region was either not ready to be catalyzed or the "crystal" MetNet was able to provide was not quite right for the task.

Although the MetNet activists were pretty good organizers, they were largely lousy business people. (As the co-founder and Coordinator, I can fairly take the blame!) Eventually we ran out of money and energy — and I needed a paying job!

In any case, largely for financial reasons, we closed shop.



Photo by Mark Focus

American Sinners band entertains those who attended the Eco/Justice Cafe. Their Web site is [www.americansinner.com](http://www.americansinner.com).



Photo by Mark Focus

A group of listeners at a monthly Eco/Justice Cafe held in Washington D.C. These coffee houses could be held anywhere!

## Gone but not forgotten

Over the years, on many an occasion, I have been approached by individuals with fond memories of Green Calendar and/or the Coffeehouses. Every couple of years the talk of reviving the Coffeehouses has gotten semi-serious and occasional parties have been thrown. And, as Web technology has improved, we began to take baby steps toward visualizing a powerful on-line Calendar into which could be poured the literally thousands of environmental and social justice events taking place regularly — and which could be viewed in a manner that would not be overwhelming.

## The Coffeehouse is Reborn!

About a year ago, thanks in large part to the enthusiasm of our friend Zahara Heckscher and her husband Eric Thiel, we began to plan in earnest.

The reborn "Eco/Justice Cafe" emerged last November and was headlined by our old friend Andy Shallal of Busboys and Poets who consented to a very interesting brief interview. The Cafe is now held on the first Friday of each month from 6 to 10 p.m. at the University of the District of Columbia's Firebird Inn — right atop Metro's Van Ness/

UDC Red Line Station We feature great vegetarian food by Kit's Catering (several of us also bring dishes); free massage has been offered at each Cafe by Lisa Bregman; a second massage therapist, Randy Goldberg, joined us in February and we have a variety of live music, panel discussions, interviews and other delights. We've interviewed activist Nadine Bloch who came with her giant puppets. At the February Cafe, we had a "Slow Food" panel with Ed Bruske, Leigh Hauter and Ayize Sabater. Shahid Buttar, from San Francisco, brought in a band of politically progressive hip hop artists and singer/accordionist Scott

Trowbridge and his American Sinners provided some interesting Eastern European-influenced music.

## Our Relationship with UDC

As a graduate of the Antioch School of Law and Coordinator of the successful campaign to save it and turn it into the District's public law school, when MetNet closed I found work at my reincarnated alma mater and now serve as its Alumni Director. Because the now UDC David A. Clarke School of Law ([www.law.udc.edu](http://www.law.udc.edu)) has continued in Antioch Law's footsteps as a multi-racial, clinically-oriented, public-interest law school, it has created the Advocate for Justice Scholarship program, which provides up to 20 full three-year, full-tuition scholarships for excellent students who are also proven advocates for justice (see <http://www.law.udc.edu/?page=AFJ>). Thus, the School of Law has agreed to host the Cafes because they bring advocates for justice to campus who may be interested in studying law . . .

## Calendar Resurrection

With a goal of bringing into common cause people from hundreds of different organizations, issues and perspectives we face an operational paradox.

On the one hand, based on our experience in the 90s, we know that there are literally thousands of environmental and social justice-related events that could and should be brought together into a single Calendar. And on the other hand, a Calendar with that many events would be overwhelming and oppressive for most people.

As a result, we envision a Calendar for which the user can set preferences: thus, those interested primarily in activities in Maryland can set their preferences to only see Maryland events. Those interested in seeing only recycling, native plants and healing activities would be able to see just those. The user could temporarily override or change their preferences — and the Editors would add to all users' choices the most important events of general interest . . .

## The On-Line Resource Guide

Back in 1990, in the run-up to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Earth Day on the National Mall, the activists who later formed MetNet banded together

in support of the big event. We also demanded that a locally- and regionally-oriented Resource Guide be sold on Earth Day as a way to make sure that a substantial fraction of the energy of the day would be captured usefully by local organizations . . .

While it's admittedly a bit further off on the horizon than the Calendar, we have also been envisioning a "Web 2.0" resource guide that co-ops out responsibility for maintenance of sections to individuals or organizations who would serve as Section Editors and, in return for their hard work, would receive control over a Section Homepage upon which they could post their own articles, run blogs or forums and highlight their "Editors' Picks." The data would be searchable by multiple categories as well as by text and, like the Calendar, individual users would be invited to upload resource items.

This is, admittedly, an ambitious vision but we think such a site would have the potential to serve thousands of non-profit organizations, businesses and government agencies whose information remains difficult to uncover, despite the All-Powerful Google and other modern search systems.

About two dozen people are now working on some aspect of these ideas. We need more help and energy to bring them to full fruition. We seek more people to help with the monthly Cafes. We will need help to populate the Calendar when it's built — steady volunteers who will take responsibility for gathering and uploading information. We'd love help from people who can offer advice in the site design and building processes. And we need visionary individuals or groups who are willing to raise or donate funds to support our efforts.

MetNet 2.0 has been revived to continue the work it started . . . bringing together local and national environmental and social justice organizations and activists to coordinate and connect with each other and the general public — and thereby, to become more effective. Our vision is that this effort will help build a more conscious, healthy and powerful grassroots consensus that can effectively organize for the best progressive policies, which become enacted by local, regional, state and ultimately federal government. We're ready to help unite activists, strengthen allies and build friendships to enrich our communities and our lives and to connect both online and in person.

We hope you'll join in our efforts. For more information, please contact:

Joe Libertelli: [JFL@udc.edu](mailto:JFL@udc.edu).

# World Trade Towers Dust Indicates Inside Job

Continued from page 1

of these compounds in the steel," and that thermite, "or another incendiary compound," would be too difficult to have placed in the buildings without notice.

NIST has stated that such difficulties make demolition unlikely. They concluded that aircraft impacts and the subsequent fires led to the building failures.

Dr. Steven Jones, physicist and author on the paper, says that NIST has refused to test the dust for thermite, super-thermite or any other accelerant or explosive.

"We've repeatedly asked them to follow standard investigative procedure, to perform these tests and release the results. They haven't."

Jones says such tests may be required by fire protection codes.

Kevin Ryan, chemist and co-author on the paper, explained why he thinks NIST is wrong. "What we've discovered is not conventional thermite — which is what NIST continues to refer to — but a highly engineered thermite material, or 'super



Former Manhattan skyline.

Office Publisher Image

thermite', probably designed for just this type of application."

Pre-planned demolition, supporters say, is the 'best-fit' model for the many unusual and unexplained characteristics of the building failures, such as the speed and symmetry of the collapses and the extreme pulverization of the materials leading to clouds of micron-sized dust particles, described in one insur-

ance report as behaving similar to a "volcanic eruption."

"One of the unusual features that piqued my interest," Jones said, "was the pools of molten metal seen in all three rubble piles, WTC 1, 2 & 7."

NIST officials have published a response stating that the condition of the steel was "irrelevant to the investigation of the collapse."

Jones, formerly a Professor of Physics with Brigham Young University and known for his work in muon-catalyzed fusion, published in *Nature*, *Scientific American*, and the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*, began researching the 9/11/01 attacks in 2005.

Jones discovered the curious thermite material in 2007 when he ran a magnet over a dust sample given to him by a Manhattan resident survivor of the attack and found that some particles were attracted to the magnet. "That was very odd to me," he said.

Those particles turned out to be iron-rich microspheres, partially described in a 2001 USGS study of the dust.

But to fully analyze, describe and report on the thermite material would take longer.

Jones was joined in that effort by several others including Dr. Niels Harrit, a chemistry professor with the University of Copenhagen for over 30 years and author of numerous research papers in journals such as *Nano Letters*, the *Journal of the American Chemistry Society* and the

*Journal of Physical Chemistry A*.

Harrit says that he is frequently asked why he researches the September 11th attack. and says has two answers.

"First, I am opposed to crime and second, when my six grandchildren ask me, 'Grandfather, which side were you on?' I will be able to answer them, 'I was on your side.'"

Co-author Dr. Jeffrey Farrer, a materials scientist and Director of the TEM (Transmission Electron Microscopy) laboratory at BYU, says he hopes the paper will "change the way the 9/11 truth movement is viewed by the mainstream public and media."

And chemist and co-author Kevin Ryan, a former Underwriters Laboratories manager, challenged the NIST report in public statements in 2004 and was consequently fired.

"This finding really goes beyond anything that has previously been shown," says Jones. "We had to use sophisticated tools to analyze the dust because this isn't just a typical explosive, RDX or CD4 or something — this is a highly engineered material not readily available to just anyone."

In a 2006 interview with *DeSeret News*, Jones noted that commercial explosives must contain tag elements for traceability, but that no law requires tagging of advanced forms of thermitics.

In 2008, several of these authors published three articles challenging the official reports in U. S. scientific journals, *The Open Civil Engineering Journal*, *The Environmentalist*, and *The Journal of Engineering Mechanics*. Dozens of other papers making similar challenges have been published in the sister publication of the Scholars group, *The Journal of 9/11 Studies*.

Scholars for 9/11 Truth and Justice is a non-partisan organization of over 700 independent researchers analyzing the September 11, 2001 attacks with a strong emphasis on the scientific method.

For information: <http://www.stj911.com> or contact: [stj911@gmail.com](mailto:stj911@gmail.com). or 510-769-5109.



## WW I Weapons Clean-up Tours Offered

### American University Stonewalls Army Corps Request for World War I Archives

By Allen L. Hengst  
Washington, D.C.

In a standing-room-only, work-in-progress screening of her forthcoming documentary, Academy-award-nominated filmmaker Ginny Durrin chronicled 16 years of uncertainty following the discovery of buried chemical munitions in the Spring Valley neighborhood of Washington, D.C.

During a panel discussion after seeing *Bombs in Our Backyard*, U.S. Army Corps (U.S.C.O.E.) historian Mark Baker charged that the American University (A.U.) is still blocking access to its own "confidential" archives — records that could shed light on the existence and whereabouts of additional disposal pits.

"The university sent memos in December of 2008 to individuals who attended classes or worked in areas near the Pit Three Dig," said Bethany Bridgman, the senior associate general counsel in A.U.'s legal office. Nearby buildings included Watkins, Kreeger, Hamilton and Financial Aid. The memo provided details about A.U.'s safety precautions and gave instructions for setting up sealed shelters in the event of a chemical leak. The university has also set up a Web site at american.edu/usace to keep students updated on the status of the investigations.

The last updates on the Web site as of press time were from July 14, when the university gave information about an arsenic soil cleanup operation in the area between Hughes and McDowell Halls."



1918: David Ray Hengst of Bedford County PA, Allen's grandfather and a teacher in Claysburg, Pennsylvania, was gassed with mustard during World War I. Photo supplied by Allen Hengst.

#### Coalition Seeks Support for Law Holding Military Accountable for Pollution

More than 80 affected communities and organizations from across the U.S. have joined together to support federal legislation that will require the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy to comply with laws designed to protect human health and the environment . . .

Also known as the "Military Environmental Responsibility Act," the bill seeks to eliminate military waivers to key environmental laws . . . The Department of Defense is responsible for more than 31,000 cleanup sites on more than 4,600 active and former defense properties.

About one in 10 Americans — nearly 29 million — live within 10 miles of a military site that is listed as a national priority for hazardous waste cleanup under the federal Superfund program.

#### Sign up for Guided Tours of Spring Valley Formerly-Used Defense Site

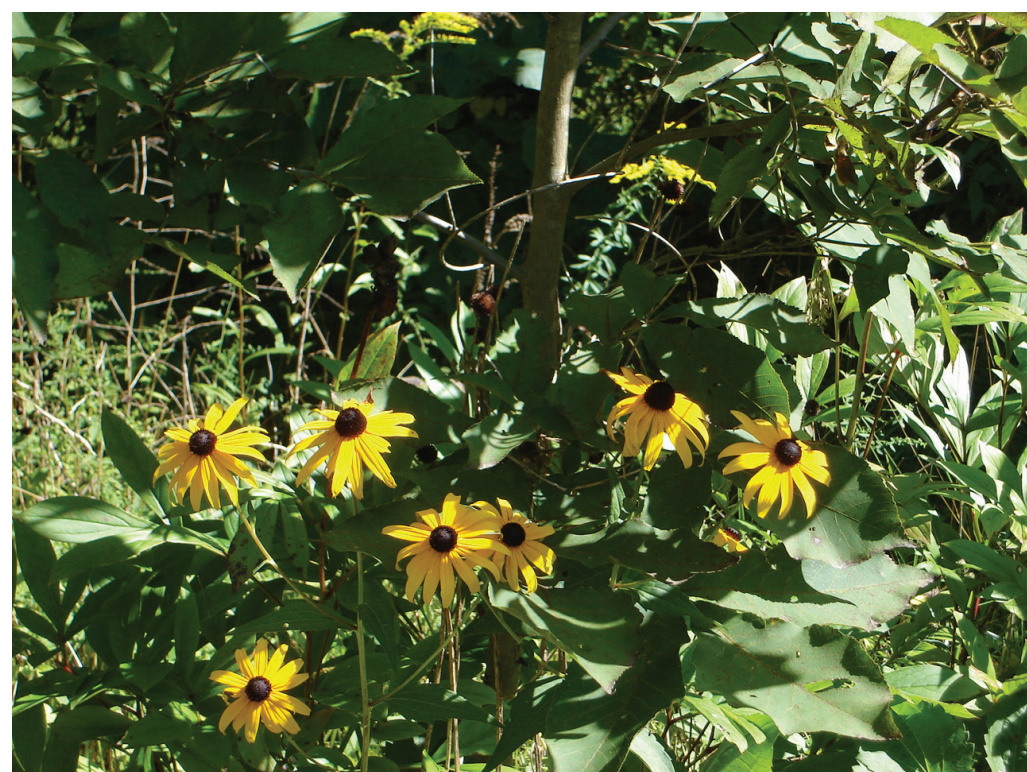
The American University Experiment Station (AUES) Spring Valley guided tours provide context to better understand the issues surrounding this

Formerly Used Defense Site [FUDS]. Tours focus on historical features of the AUES, the current Army Corps of Engineers cleanup operations and residents' health problems. Tours are led by a former Restoration Advisory Board member and Spring Valley resident. Each tour takes approximately one hour.

Small tour groups of five to 10 people allow for opportunities to ask questions. Participants see where testing occurred during WW I and where chemical munitions are being removed today. There is no charge for the tours but donations are appreciated to advance the work of the Environmental Health Group in raising awareness and encouraging a thorough investigation and cleanup. For more information contact wksla@aol.com.

**Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board Monthly Meeting with U.S.C.O.E.:** May 12, 7 p.m. Saint David's Church, 5150 Macomb Street, NW.

**Please join us for an informal discussion about Spring Valley issues:** Sundays, 1:30 p.m. Glover Park Whole Foods Market, 2323 Wisconsin Ave., NW.



## Come to Spring Awareness/Wilderness Survival Class in MD Mountains

By Marie Maccabee  
Sabillasville, Maryland

Spring has begun! It is the perfect time of year to identify plants in their fleeting early stages of growth and to remind the self how amazing life is.

I will be holding weekend nature awareness classes at my valley home in the Catocin Mountains in upper Frederick County, Maryland on 11.5 acres of nurtured land.

I have been teaching wilderness survival for five years now. My intention for these classes is to share with people techniques of observation, help them identify plants and animals native to our mid-eastern portion of the continent and to work with them on ancient, sacred survival skills.

I show students how to make rope using fibers of milkweed and dogbane, shelters using natural materials directly from the ground, baskets from vines, how to collect water and oh so much more!

As a class every weekend we observe life forms as they emerge and animal/plant relationships and so it is to the advantage of the student to come more than one time.

There is always plenty of time for discus-

sion as a group so as to find answers to all kinds of questions and to share each others' thoughts and experiences.

There is a huge library here covering wild edible and medicinal plants and how they can be used, gardening techniques, North American wildlife and animal tracks books, etc. Thus, after a period of teaching there is always opportunity for people to research and take any extra notes they might be interested in.

Awareness will be the underlying theme in every class as I see it to be very important for people to know how they can experience nature in ways which enable them to savor the moment more clearly.

We will have sense-heightening exercises through games, wanders and many more techniques. Keep in mind, wild medicinal and edible plants grow quickly and these precious moments where they show certain phases of growth really do not last long at all.

Let me share with you the beauty of spring-time and early summer and many skills and aspects of the wild world you may not be aware of . . . and of course I am open to learning from you! Give me a call . . .

My phone number: 301-271-2307 and my email is splintfling@gmail.com.

## EPA ADDS 9 SUPERFUND SITES PLUS 13 POTENTIAL ONES

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 8, 2009 (ENS) — In Dayton, Ohio in 2003 and again in 2006, volatile organic compounds were detected in ground water beneath the Behr Dayton Thermal Products factory, which made vehicle air conditioning and engine-cooling systems. To address health risks from the contaminated water, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) installed vapor removal systems in 150 homes in the neighborhood south of the plant. Chrysler Corporation, which owned and operated the facility from 1937 until April 2002, installed systems at 54 homes south of the site.

Today, the EPA announced that it is adding the Behr Dayton Thermal Products site to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites, along with eight other sites.

With the addition of the Behr Dayton site to the Superfund list, the U.S. EPA and state partner Ohio EPA will develop a long-term cleanup plan for the site. The first step will be a new study involving comprehensive sampling of soil, ground water and air in the area near the site.

Nearby, the New Carlisle Landfill, at 715 N. Dayton-Lakeview Road in New Carlisle, Ohio operated from the mid-1950s until the early 1970s. It is now covered with two to four feet of clay but was not designed with a protective liner in the manner of modern landfills.

Ohio EPA data indicates that water from two public wells and two residential wells in the nearby area contain vinyl chloride above the safe drinking water level. Both state and federal agencies are concerned about potential migration of the vinyl chloride toward residential wells within one-half mile of the site, so this site was also added to the Superfund list today.

Also in Ohio, the U.S. EPA proposes to add the Little Scioto River to the Superfund list — one of 13 sites proposed for listing today.

The Little Scioto River lies to the west of Marion, in Marion Township, Ohio. It flows into the Scioto River, a major tributary of the Ohio River. A four-mile

stretch of river sediment is contaminated with coal tar creosote containing hazardous polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, from the former Baker Wood Creosoting facility in Marion, a wood treatment plant that operated from the 1890s to 1960s.

Since 1992 Ohio Department of Health has maintained a health advisory against swimming, wading and eating fish from this stretch of the river.

Using a mix of U.S. Coast Guard Oil Pollution Act and Superfund emergency removal funds, the U.S. EPA conducted substantial excavation work from 2002 to 2006, removing 68,000 tons of sediment along about two miles of the river, also a polluted shoreline area.

In 2006, the federal agency estimated the total cost of the multi-year river cleanup effort at a minimum of \$20 million. Placing the Little Scioto River on the Superfund list would make the site eligible for additional cleanup resources and long-term planning.

A site may be placed on the Superfund list if it meets all three of these criteria:

1. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has issued a health advisory that recommends removing people from the site; 2. The U.S. EPA determines the site poses a significant threat to public health; and 3. The EPA anticipates it will be more cost-effective to use its remedial authority than to use its emergency removal authority to respond to the site.

Or a site can be listed if it scores high in a numeric ranking established by EPA's Hazard Ranking System. Finally, designation by states or territories of one top-priority site will place it on the list.

These nine sites were added to the Superfund List today:

- Raleigh Street Dump: Tampa, Florida
- Arkla Terra Property: Thonotosassa, Florida
- U.S. Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc.: East Chicago, Indiana
- Fort Detrick Area B Ground Water: Frederick, Maryland

•Behr Dayton Thermal System VOC Plume: Dayton, Ohio

•New Carlisle Landfill: New Carlisle, Ohio

•BoRit Asbestos: Ambler, Pennsylvania

•Barite Hill/Nevada Goldfields: McCormick, South Carolina

•Attebury Grain Storage Facility: Happy, Texas

The following 13 sites have been proposed to the National Priorities List:

•General Dynamics Longwood: Longwood, Florida

•Lane Street Ground Water Contamination: Elkhart, Indiana

•Southwest Jefferson County Mining: Jefferson County, Missouri

•Flat Creek IMM: Superior, Montana

•Ore Knob Mine: Ashe County, North Carolina

•GMH Electronics: Roxboro, North Carolina

•Raritan Bay Slag: Old Bridge/Sayreville, New Jersey

•Gowanus Canal: Brooklyn, New York

•Little Scioto River: Marion County, Ohio

•Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation/Church Road TCE: Mountain Top, Pennsylvania

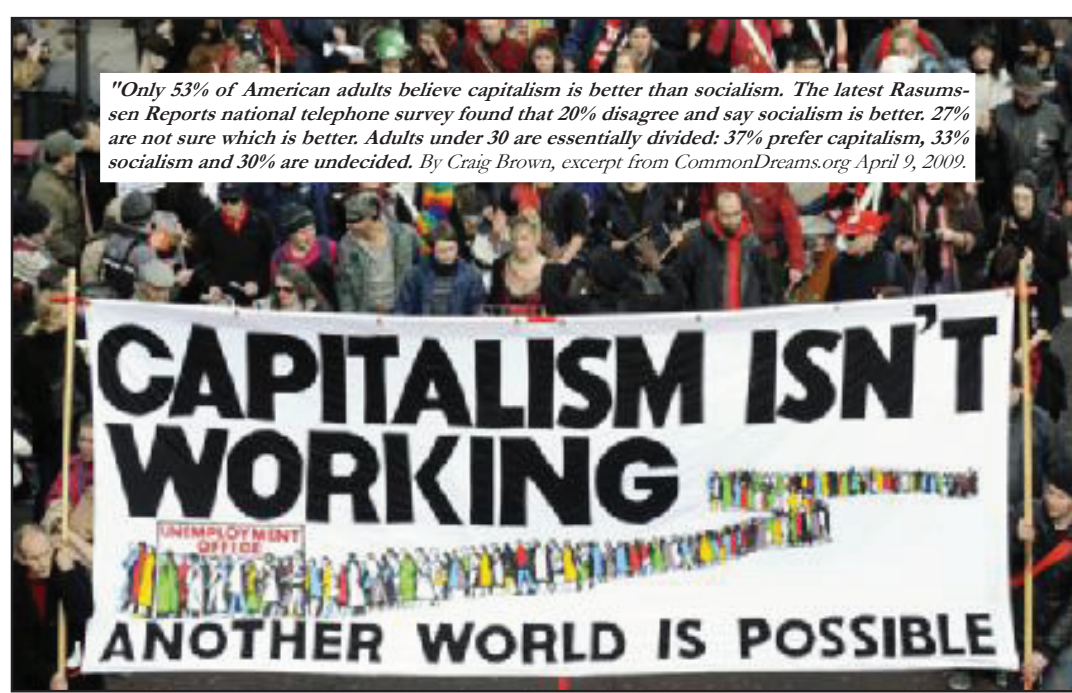
•Papelera Puertorriquena, Inc.: Utuado, Puerto Rico

•Peck Iron and Metal: Portsmouth, Virginia

•Amcast Industrial Corporation: Cedarburg, Wisconsin

With all Superfund sites, the EPA tries to identify and locate the parties potentially responsible for the contamination. For the newly listed sites without viable potentially responsible parties, the EPA will investigate the full extent of the contamination before starting cleanup at the site, so, the agency says, it may be several years before significant cleanup funding is acquired for these sites.

To date, there have been 1,596 Superfund sites listed. Of these, 332 sites have been deleted, resulting in 1,264 sites currently on the list. With the proposal of the 13 new sites, there are 67 proposed sites awaiting final agency action - 62 in the general Superfund section and five in the federal facilities section for a total of 1,331 and proposed sites.



"Only 53% of American adults believe capitalism is better than socialism. The latest Rasumsen Reports national telephone survey found that 20% disagree and say socialism is better. 27% are not sure which is better. Adults under 30 are essentially divided: 37% prefer capitalism, 33% socialism and 30% are undecided. By Craig Brown, excerpt from CommonDreams.org April 9, 2009.

G20 Protesters, London. Seen on www.newamericandream.net 4/7/09

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- Gain an understanding of the meaning of voluntary simplicity
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- Consider how life might be enriched through the practice of simplicity





# The Examined Life On Jubilee

By Marion Stuenkel  
Madison, Wisconsin

The rhubarb is up. Asparagus is available. Yummy spring time tastes served while feasting the eye on bouquets of daffodils, tulips and forsythia. Watching fingers little and big touch pussy willow fur for the second or sixty-second year in a row. Fresh maple syrup to be had for pancakes on still-chilly spring mornings. Morel mushrooms will be followed by strawberries. Sweet corn and later blueberries under gladiola blooms are imagined bounty of summer to come.

Living in season only on local food means fulfillments of many long-anticipated joys. Making rhubarb pie brings my mom's memory into the kitchen. I get a fine sense of being all grown up when I omit the tapioca.

Making family recipes gives me a sense of life cycles around and within the seasonal cycles. Everything seems to fit. I have a place. When I set the morels to soak overnight in salt to lure the insects out, I feel I will be there in the morning to see the result. Traditional ways make food preparation a prayer. Saying grace becomes a true giving of thanks, an acknowledgment of blessings.

Spring brings thunderstorms and I enjoy them. Watching lightening is a beloved pastime. Living the weather, including the hot humid times which make the corn grow while speculating on cloud formations, winds and amounts of rain, roots experience in time and place.

I welcome the first robin, leaf-coming-out day and later the first firefly. Spring is a time of birth and rebirth, a most hopeful time of a year or a life. It is like morning time.

I'm asked how to do what I do, referring to modeling simple living and intentional income reduction. The subtext of that question is sometimes a sense of despair or powerlessness perhaps reflecting a belief that small simple acts don't make a difference especially if only a few people do them.

That leads to depression. Rumi said that depression is a failure to praise. I agree with him. I have, lucky me, this moment, this day, this season, to leave the world a better place for my sojourn. Let us not quibble about what that means. Each of us knows someone, or

of someone, that did. Someone we'd like to be like or remembered as being like.

I have to act. Being gloomed over doesn't get the wars and occupations ended, oppression stopped, hunger eliminated or one's carbon footprint reduced.

Socrates wrote "... The unexamined life is not worth living." One way I think of how and what to do is to keep images before me. One is that of which Sylvia Earle writes in her book *Sea Change*. "... I traveled the burning oil fields at night in May of 1991. ... Poisonous gases erupted from some of the wells and raw oil flowed freely, sometimes catching fire and swiftly engulfing everything combustible in its path. I had thought nighttime would seem vastly different but midnight seemed much the same as midday: black sky, no stars, no sun, bright flames and all around the choking essence of hydrocarbons on the loose.

"By the light of one large, vertical column of fire, I made a promising discovery, a ring of pale sand busily attended to by several industrious black ants. Grain by grain, they were effecting their version of desert restoration."

That is what I envision, circles of pale sand while I think of myself, a busy ant, just one small act at a time effecting a restoration of balance, of harmony, in my habitat.

The other piece of advice I take was given in Beth Green's *Summer of My German Soldier*.

When asked by an emotionally-abused teen girl how the middle-aged African American maid coped with equanimity with the injustice and unfair challenges in her life, the wise woman replied, "I keep my jubilee within easy reach."

When my two-and-a-half-year-old grandson hurriedly pulls out his sipping cup of milk, slams the refrigerator door shouting, "Don't waste energy" and sits down at the table to eat rhubarb pie, I've my jubilee and then some.

I want to keep spring coming. I keep my jubilee within easy reach and enjoy the fruits in season.

*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.*



# True/False Test for Humans Nature's Defense Awareness

By Al Fry  
Garden Valley, Idaho

Answer accordingly:  
T = True  
F = False  
C = Could be

**A. Beached whales and their smaller friends. Cause:**  
1. Lost their navigation ability or sensing from magnetic change.  
2. Being tortured by forced Navy sonar testing and usage.  
3. Human psychiatric drug pollution in water.

**B. Elephants going on the rampage against villagers. Cause:**  
1. Forage territories being taken over by villagers and civilization.  
2. Elephant friends killed for their tusks and meat.  
3. Elephants have caught human war virus.

**C. Chimps and Monkeys go on rampage. Cause:**  
1. Owners try to impart their human lifestyle on them.  
2. Owners give them human psychiatric drugs to calm them.  
3. Constant restraint in cramped quarters, etc., are unbearable.

**D. Snakes that bite humans prob-**



**I. When humans build huge dams they can:**  
1. Increase the 'livability' for Earth human stewards.  
2. Restrict soil replenishment during normal Spring flooding.  
3. Cause quakes as tectonic plates shift under weight increase.

**J. Aborted fetus problems arise because:**  
1. Animal body is not healthy enough to be a suitable mother.  
2. The soul-spirit-body conception is not up to standards.  
3. The mother's mental condition is

**F. Mad Cow diseases caused by:**  
1. Feeding cows feed with farm

animal meat protein content.  
2. Factory farming practices.  
3. Nature's boomerang effect for cannibalization (as in #1).

**G. Fish are toxic or unsafe when:**  
1. Caught in migrations in deep water.  
2. Caught in areas close to humans' habitats.  
3. Eaten raw due to parasitic infestation.

**H. Humans can develop serious lung inflammation, etc., from:**  
1. Fooling around in areas with heavy pollination pollution.  
2. Staying outdoors when there is heavy Chemtrail activity.  
3. Accepting a voodoo curse as valid.

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3. The mother's mental condition is

not up to standards.

**K. Species who go extinct:**  
1. Are no longer adapting enough to changes in environment.  
2. Are not given enough protection by human stewards.  
3. Are subject to too much environmental poisoning.

**L. THIS TEST SHOULD NOT BRING NEGATIVE REACTIONS BECAUSE:**  
1. It is only meant to cause an increase in logic and awareness.  
2. The answers can change with subjects' awareness levels.  
3. How can anyone truly speak for Nature and God?

**ANSWERS:**  
A. 1. F 2. T 3. F  
B. 1. T 2. C 3. F  
C. 1. T 2. T 3. T  
D. 1. F 2. T 3. F  
E. 1. C 2. C 3. F  
F. 1. T 2. C 3. T  
G. 1. F 2. T 3. C  
H. 1. C 2. T 3. F  
I. 1. F 2. T 3. T  
J. 1. T 2. T 3. C  
K. 1. T 2. F 3. T  
L. 1. T 2. T 3. T

# Signs of the Times

By Paul Durrenberger  
Harris Township, Pennsylvania

When I was in San Francisco recently I felt like the city was speaking to me. It was like reading the divination from a fortune cookie. I was getting messages of ideals in the concrete and of failures in the flesh.

The bronze letters at my feet declared, "To promote the social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom." As I copied them out, I was vaguely aware of the hum of an engine but I didn't look up until a voice said, "Shopping for prices?"

"No," I answered the policeman in his cruiser, "Copying the words."

"No problem," he answered. The next inscription proclaimed, "To promote tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors and to unite our strength to maintain internal peace and security."

And the next, "To insure . . . that armed force shall not be used save in the common interest." The symbol of weapons-carrying authority that had accosted me drove over the words of peace and solidarity to keep an eye out for other suspicious characters loitering in the farmers' market at the United Nations Plaza.

Two days before the guard at the Veterans' Building had directed me to the new location of the Art Museum and advised me not to walk as there was a pretty rough area between the civic buildings and downtown. As I walked I found out that he meant the Tenderloin District and the U.N. Plaza.

On the wall of a dry fountain: "The structure of world peace cannot be the work of one man, or one party, or one nation . . . it must be a peace which rests on the cooperative effort of the whole world."

So said F.D.R. to Congress in 1945. A sign warned against sitting or laying near the fountain. The wall reeked of stale urine. The shopping cart-village of

homeless people of all races and genders had disappeared to make way for the Sunday farmers' market, an alternative to California's famous industrial agriculture. The musty organic stench provided lingering evidence a global economy whose only sustainable products seem to be homelessness and joblessness.

There were more messages. A man carried a signboard proclaiming, "Fallen, Fallen is Babylon . . ." and a dire Biblical warning to us all. On the window of a Brooks Brothers store: "It's a personal thing. A suit should be worn how you want to wear it. You want something different . . . three-button, ventless jacket and pleated trousers. . ."

Across the street a sign on a sporting goods store stated, "Never Stop Exploring." Another on the corner of a building commanded, "Change." A second look showed it was a synonym for money, not an instruction. The other corner said "Cambio." But a billboard for Apple Computers ordered, "Think Different."

Words of world peace underfoot in a cleared out camp of homeless that cops patrol to make room for a farmers' market; Biblical words of damnation; words of individuality on the window of the store where you go to look like everyone else; an instruction to change our thinking.

On the way to the airport the next day I saw a billboard advertising Forbes dot com. It said, "Capitalism served fresh daily." Whatever words the Fortune Cookie City offered, that was the reality of the people who lived in the plaza of the brave declarations of freedom and justice for all, that rough area between the government buildings and downtown where the guard had advised me not to walk.

*Paul Durrenberger lives in Harris Township and is the Opinion Editor for Voices of Central PA, Central PA's all volunteer alternative newspaper.*



# Carbon Labels?

## Carbon Footprint Labels should Be Displayed on New Products Say MPs

By Louise Gray  
www.telegraph.UK, March 23, 2009  
via DailyClimate.org

Labels showing a product's carbon footprint should be displayed on goods and services to help consumers tackle climate change, according to an influential committee of MPs

Some foods are already displaying "carbon reduction labels" alongside the ingredients to show how much of the greenhouse gas was produced in the manufacture of a product.

However a report from the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) said a proliferation of different environmental labels are confusing for consumers and allow companies to appear more eco-friendly than they actually are in a method known as "greenwash"

The committee wants a robustly-monitored system of environmental labels to show the impact of each product, including labels showing the carbon emissions produced, so

that consumers can make a more informed choice.

Colin Challen, a member of the committee, said it was essential that goods display carbon content if consumers are to help the United Kingdom meet its target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent by 2050.

"Given the challenge we face in decarbonizing the economy, the committee believes carbon labelling may prove the single most important environmental measure in promoting behavioural change at home, at work and in business," he said.

Euan Murray, general manager of the Carbon Trust, the Government-backed body in charge of helping business cut greenhouse gases, has been piloting a Carbon Reduction Label with Tesco, Walkers Crisps and Pepsi among other businesses.

"The Carbon Reduction Label means that a company has measured the carbon emissions from every stage of the lifecycle of its product," he said.

"Consumers can then make choices about a product or service and understand the impact that their decisions will have on climate change. And the UK will make bigger steps towards Government's carbon emission reduction targets as a result."

# New York's Green Taxi Incentives Approved

NEW YORK, New York, March 27, 2009 (ENS) - The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission Board of Commissioners Thursday approved a financial incentive program to increase the use of fuel efficient and environmentally friendly taxicabs.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the incentive program last November as a part of a series of initiatives designed to further increase the use of clean-air taxicabs.

The commission regulates "lease caps," the amount a fleet or taxi owner may charge for the use of a taxicab or medallion license.

The incentive program will allow fleet owners to increase the lease cap fee charged to drivers in fuel efficient vehicles by \$3 per shift, which will offset the increased cost of purchasing a fuel efficient vehicle.

The driver, while paying the increased lease cap fee, will still see significant savings due to the

reduced fuel costs, which he or she pays.

Taxicab drivers in fuel efficient vehicles achieve an average fuel savings of at least \$15 per shift, which adds up to about \$5,000 a year.

The incentive will generate approximately \$2,000 per vehicle per year for fleet owners.

To further incentivize the use of fuel efficient taxis, the commission will propose to decrease the lease cap fee an owner can

charge a driver by \$12 per shift if the vehicle is a Crown Victoria or another non-fuel efficient vehicle, costing fleet owners approximately \$8,500 per year, per vehicle.

The new lease caps will affect all taxicabs that are leased out for shift work, except accessible vehicles. The commission will strictly enforce taxi leases to ensure drivers are not charged any additional fees by fleet owners.



A few of the 13,000 yellow cabs on New York City streets.

# Who Knows How To Care for the Earth Without Hurting It? Indigenous People Around the World and the Amish — Think About This. A trip through Pennsylvania's Amish Big Valley: Land, People, Market

Photos by Iona



## Wartime Frugality Needed to Fight Climate Change

By Louise Gray  
telegraph.co.uk, April 2, 2009 via DailyClimate.org

The Energy Saving Trust (EST) campaign will revive a number of ideas seen during the Second World War, such as the "Dig for Victory" campaign to encourage people to grow fruit and vegetables and "Don't be Fuelish", encouraging people to cut their energy use.

But this time instead of saving resources because the country is at war, the effort is intended to cut waste and carbon emissions in an effort to slow global warming.

A survey of more than 1,500 people commissioned by the EST found around 70 per cent thought local communities should work together more to help manage resources in an echo of

People should return to the "wartime frugality" of make-do-and-mend, holidaying at home and using every scrap of food to help tackle climate change, according to a Government-funded agency.

the communal nature of the wartime effort.

Examples could include sharing leftover food with neighbours or car sharing.

More than half of respondents thought measures such as rationing or personal daily allowances were needed to help the British public cut down on excess.

Launching the Wartime Spirit campaign at the Imperial War Museum, Philip Sellwood, chief executive of the Energy Saving Trust, said

"frugality" is about to come back into fashion.

"We are certainly not advocating a return to rationing or, indeed, to enforced personal daily allowances," he said. "However if we could adopt just a few of the practices used during the war, such as recycling bath water for watering plants, then it would go a long way towards saving energy and reducing our carbon footprint."

Elderly people who lived through the war

will act as "Great Green Ambassadors" and tips will be available online and in information leaflets.

Already celebrities including Boris Johnson and Trish Goddard have passed on their own tips from sharing bath water to cutting open toothpaste or soap packets to ensure the last scraps are used up.

Mr. Sellwood continued: "People who lived through the Second World War were extremely resilient in the face of extreme hardship. People had very little but they made do. Everyone you speak to who lived through the war always speaks about how they came up with extremely ingenious ways to make life's essentials — food and clothing go that little bit further.

"We can now see an age of 'thrift being the new thrust' and 'frugality the new frontier.'"

## A Message from Mother Earth TRANSFORMATION

Through Douglas Joshua Davis  
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

It is an awesome task to speak to me, isn't it? Or to believe you can speak to me and that I would answer! Most people don't think I'm alive and can participate in a conversation. It may seem magical and mysterious but it isn't. It's a natural thing. There are many natural things that everyone thinks are impossible or downright crazy. I am here to tell you that it is natural to speak with me or with animals, plants and the elements. You would not carry on a spoken conversation but there are other ways to communicate.

Many humans think that miracles are unnatural, rare or nearly impossible. Miracles are very natural. All you have to do is expect them and allow them. When expected and allowed they are everyday occurrences. You simply vibrate yourself in the present moment and love your life as I do mine.

Be still and know you are God. You are the power and the

source for your life. You hold every key. If your life is not going as you wish it, be still and in the moment. Be happy. Be in joy and have fun. Make no plans. Visit my forests, my rivers and lakes. Float through your day with love and wonderment in your heart. As you are being in the Great Presence, as you are focused on the beauty of nature, as you feel in your heart your own soul and as you beat to my rhythm, the magic will begin. You will meet who you are supposed to meet. You will receive materially that which you need. The Animal Messengers will come to you. The Wind will speak and your Soul will guide. And you will know whatever it is you need to know in the moment.

There is nothing you have to do. It is about being. And whatever is supposed to happen will happen. It is an incredible way to be upon Gaia. It is a way for the magic and miracles to occur.

It means you have to get out of your own way, including your

mind's way. It is about opening up to all the gifts the Universe and I have to offer.

If everyone were to be with me in this sacred manner and if everyone saw the beauty about them, the human race would be transformed.

To be in this manner will transform your life. And you have me and the entire cosmos to help and support you. To be in this manner will allow you to be in synchronistic resonance with magic and miracles with planet Earth and with your inner guidance. It is all very natural.

Love,  
Mother Earth

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 [greeneearth-dd@aol.com](mailto:greeneearth-dd@aol.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 cooperation rather than competition? . . .



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

# The Only Way Forward is Back to Gaia's Garden

By Dr. Glen Barry  
Ecological Internet, Earth Meanders

Gaia (or the Earth System if you rather) is not a science project, it is alive (albeit sick) and fully inhabited. To speak of geo-engineering the climate before having exhausted local, national and international efforts to reduce emissions, protect and restore old forests, reform industrial agriculture and other ecologically-sufficient policies to sustain being, is rash and foolhardy. Continued ill-conceived technological, industrial diminishment of naturally operating ecosystems can only hasten and ensure global ecological collapse.

## Human Hubris

Sadly, President Obama's new science advisor, John Holdren, has indicated the administration is investigating geo-engineering — massive planetary alterations such as shooting aerosols into the upper atmosphere — to 'solve' climate change and associated ecological crises. The Obama administration is clearly signaling it is going to take a compromising, technology-heavy approach to climate change policy. Social change and personal transformation necessary to achieve global ecological sustainability have received only a mention.

Obama's climate policies will not be guided by what science tells us is required to stop hazardous warming. Rather, the U.S. government will only pursue policies that do not threaten economic growth and rely upon more industrial technologies at the expense of natural ecosystems. Given America's history of exceptionalism, I suppose such hubris — going from doing nothing to address climate change, directly to seriously considering engineering the biosphere, completely skipping the stages of self-examination and national transformation — is to be expected.

Climate change is exhibiting itself as abrupt and highly unpredictable changes in climate consistency. So what do we now do? Geo-engineering will lead inexorably to more climate variability, biological diminishment and loss of natural ecosystems, precisely at the time when we must stop digging our ecological hole (grave). Surely there will be as many or more losers as winners as climate predictability breaks down further with unexpected outcomes. To even consider such outrageous actions distracts from the urgent measures that need to be taken now on energy effi-

ciency, conservation, renewables and a whole host of ecologically sufficient policies that require sacrifice. Geo-engineering is madness, sheer madness.

Geo-engineering is a lot of malarkey and can never work. The atmosphere and biosphere of which it is part is simply too complex to manipulate in a dependable, predictable way. Humanity is unable to control exotic species, keep plastics out of the oceans, stop illegal logging and fishing or provide clean water for all; yet now we have the ecological expertise and political will to commandeer the Planet?

For 3.5 billion years the Earth has maintained conditions conducive to life and continued evolution; and now, in order to avoid giving up and sharing with the poor our large homes, cars, air travel and other conspicuous consumption, humans (including scientists that should know better) are considering taking the risk of humans ourselves maintaining the atmosphere and all attendant water, energy and nutrient flows. Even considering this as an option puts off the necessary actions to stop climate change and onrushing global ecological collapse by falsely suggesting there are technologies to avoid the necessary social changes required to lighten and reverse humanity's footprint upon natural ecosystems.

Nothing even remotely comparable to humanity engineering the Earth's biosphere has been attempted. Fertilizing the oceans, making charcoal of its ecosystems to bury, space mirrors, aerosol sprays, giant umbrellas — are we crazy or just in denial? Setting aside the ecological uncertainties for a moment, how would such a program be carried out socially? Who makes the rules of who can change the climate?

I would suppose it is American business interests and not peasants more intimately dependent upon natural climatic patterns. What is proposed is similar yet even grander than Mao's Great Leap Forward and numerous megalomaniacal attempts to conquer the world throughout history.

## Age of Ecological Restoration

Gaia is full of unbelievably varied, evolved, co-dependent and precious life. The biosphere (or relatively thin zone of life from under the soil, through terrestrial and marine ecosystems, to the top of the atmosphere) is the finely-honed skin upon Gaia, of unbelievable complexity and sensitivity. Water and oceans are her precious blood. The sum total of over 3.5 billion years of evolution in



Image from Office Publisher

organisms and Gaia, the super-organism, is a habitable Earth.

Eight millennia of forest clearance for agriculture, three hundred years of accelerating industrial fossil fuel dependence and a century of human population and growth in inequitable consumption, have resulted in us all cutting and burning Gaia to death.

We have misplaced our faith in technology, failing to understand it is the Earth System which supplies both natural and technological resources. You cannot eat a cell phone or money.

There exists a fundamental split between those who are willing to use technologies such as the Internet when they are appropriate, while generally proposing ecologically-based policies; and those whose only response to environmental harm is further industrial technology at the continued expense of ecosystem diminishment.

These decisions regarding which is the best path forward to global ecological sustainability — geo-engineering and continued economic growth, or ecological regeneration and powering down to a steady-state economy — are questions of life and death for us all.

Humanity must return to nature, limiting our excesses, not complete her dismemberment. It is beyond our capabilities to dependably engineer a biosphere. At this moment of awakening of our oneness with the Earth and the fact we have done her wrong, I intuit with all my being and ecological knowledge that we must return to nature's fold and not pursue more of the same resource industrialism that has brought us to ruin.

A biosphere cannot be engineered but it may be able to be restored. There is still time to get back to Gaia's garden.

## Restoring Gaia's Garden

Together the human family must commit itself to an Age of Ecological

Restoration, disavowing geo-engineering proposals and minor reforms in order to single-mindedly pursue global ecological protection and restoration.

It is up to our best and brightest to aid ecosystems to regenerate with large-scale, targeted restoration ecology efforts placed to maximally benefit landscapes — both ecologically and in terms of sustainable agro-ecological food and other plant material production.

Significant ecosystems, animals and genetic materials still exist as materials and blueprints for the new garden.

Restoring the Earth is labor intensive and will provide many jobs and means of sustenance from healthy land. This is a sort of geo-engineering but based upon restoring the natural systems that we have ripped asunder.

The hairless ape with opposable thumbs must return to Gaia's garden and restore and expand natural ecosystems while reclaiming the industrial agricultural landscape with agro-ecological farming such as permaculture and other systems of sustainable agriculture that renew natural resources, increase natural diversity and enrich local ecosystems. Land degradation is a much larger component of climate change and general ecological decline than generally supposed.

We must not prematurely give up on Gaia's resiliency and the ability of her ecosystems to be restored and to persevere, even as human industrial society powers down to avoid further ecological collapse.

Now is the time to return to the land, seas and waters and begin rebuilding core, strictly-protected ecosystems and buffering agro-ecological ecosystems of abundance and joy, adequate to maintain being for humanity and all Gaia's creatures.

Natural systems continue to exist that can be restored and aided to regenerate. Important remnants exist as roadmaps and seeds to allow their expansion and reconnection. We must reject further industrial capitalism, brought to a maddening crescendo with ill-conceived geo-engineering proposals and instead allow ourselves to be bioengineered at Gaia's command, creating with natural stocks her new, old garden.

## One Year for Governments and Then a Stewardship Revolution?

We could choose to give one year for the current governments (with plenty of escalating protest action) to

get their act together and start taking ecologically sufficient policy measures on climate, forests, water and oceans and reject geo-engineering or it will be our and the human family's deepest calling to take whatever actions are necessary to destroy the industrial growth machine and begin powering down industrial society.

A Stewardship Revolution to stop industrial ecosystem liquidation, including its intensification through geo-engineering, may best serve humanity and the Earth's long-term prospects. It may be better to crash the global industrial economy now, to relieve unsustainable pressures upon ecosystems, than to allow the technological madness to advance to a state where humanity and indeed all complex life are irreparably lost forever.

A credible revolutionary threat may spur governments to required ecologically sufficient action.

A mighty buck deer comes to my window when the moon is full to tell me these things. And a lifetime of ecological education helps too. I have found my oneness with Gaia. I encourage you to do so too, by seeing the natural world around you and what it is saying to you and by studying and acting upon political ecology. When you understand and feel the enormity of looming global ecological collapse, which if not acted upon will devastate you and your family, I encourage you to act accordingly and with suitable urgency, using all actions within your power.

We are fighting for shared survival. Please start by fully understanding that we will never, ever, ever be able to design and run a biosphere. To try is ecocide and must be resisted using all means necessary by all ecologically knowledgeable, clear minded and free thinkers.

But we may be able to recreate natural ecosystems and new agro-ecological systems. There is one chance for the corporate/industrial/military-complex-controlled governments to get ecological sustainability policy right at Copenhagen in late 2009 and if they fail, it will be up to global citizens to take the biosphere into our own hands.

*Dr. Barry lives in Seattle, Washington. He will be further elaborating on these ideas in his forthcoming book **New Earth Rising**. Discuss this essay at: <http://tinyurl.com/gaiagarden>. **Earth Meanders come from Earth's Newsdesk**, <http://www.ecoearth.info/newsdesk/earthmeanders>.*

## Permaculture Workshops: Building a Sustainable Culture

**Permaculture is an ethical and holistic design system for building a sustainable culture. It offers practical ways to meet basic human needs for water, food, waste recycling, energy, shelter and social connection without harming the environment. Learn how to apply Permaculture wherever you live and work!**

Our spring and summer Permaculture workshops cover many basic topics in the Permaculture curriculum. Tuition for individual days is a sliding scale, \$60-\$100. Work exchange and financial aid is available. For more information or to register contact Karen Stupski at [education@heathcote.org](mailto:education@heathcote.org) or 410-357-9523. All workshops will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Freeland, Maryland. For information about our weekend Permaculture design course see <http://www.heathcote.org/oneday.shtml>.

### Saturday, May 9: Water

Permaculture offers many simple, effective and environmentally sound strategies for managing water. Learn how to manage storm water, catch rooftop water and recycle greywater.

### Sunday, May 10

#### Soil and Nutrient Recycling

Building healthy soil and creating complete nutrient cycles are essential to Permaculture. Learn how to improve your soil naturally, how to build a compost pile and how to recycle humanure



Photo by Karen Stupski, Heathcote Community

*Learn to live sustainably with Permaculture!*

### Saturday, June 6, Mid-Atlantic Food Systems and Annual Garden Design

This workshop explores how we can create a sustainable regional food economy, including growing vegetables for our own consumption.

Learn how to design an annual vegetable garden as well as strategies for growing food in urban areas.

### Sunday, June 7: Sustainable Culture

What would a sustainable culture look like? This

workshop explores social, economic, and personal aspects of sustainability. We will examine the problems with the existing social and economic systems and explore strategies for creating a more sustainable, peaceful and equitable culture. Specific topics include anti-oppression work, skills for community living and tools for creating a vibrant local economy. We will also discuss ways to achieve personal sustainability while doing world change work within the context of dysfunctional global systems.

### Saturday, June 27

#### Sustainable Energy Strategies

Permaculture offers practical strategies for addressing the problems of peak oil and climate change. Learn about renewable energy systems, energy conservation and appropriate technology.

### Sunday, June 28

#### Green Building and Community Design

This workshop will cover energy efficient building design, techniques for building with natural materials and strategies for designing sustainable communities ranging in size from small eco-villages to cities. Includes a tour of Heathcote Community's new straw-bale residence.

*Workshop co-sponsors are School of Living, Heathcote Community, Dancing Green, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, Herring Run Watershed Association and Gaia MARC.*

## EPA Clears Way for Greenhouse Gas Rules

By John M. Broder  
The New York Times, April 18, 2009

WASHINGTON, D. C. (excerpt) — The Environmental Protection Agency on Friday declared carbon dioxide and five other heat-trapping gases to be pollutants that endanger public health and welfare, setting in motion a process that will lead to the regulation of the gases for the first time in the United States . . . The ruling initiates a 60-day comment period before any proposals for regulations governing emissions of heat-trapping gases are published . . .



## Russia Bans Hunt for Young Harp Seals

MOSCOW, Russia (ENS, March 18, 2009) — A ban on the hunting of all harp seals less than one year old was announced today by the Russian government. The ban was imposed by the Russian Federal Fisheries Agency and the documentation has been sent for state registration with the Ministry of Justice, RIA Novosti reports. "The bloody seal slaughter, the killing of defenseless animals, which can't be even called a 'hunt,' is now prohibited in Russia as it is in most developed countries. It is a serious step towards the conservation of biodiversity in Russia," said Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology Yury Trutnev.

International Fund for Animal Welfare's Anna Filippova said that anti-hunting demonstrations held in 25 Russian cities and abroad have helped people gain greater understanding of the issues involved in seal hunting. The public outcry led to mounting pressure on the Russian government to close the harp seal hunt . . . "The time has now come for the Canadian government to follow suit and end their cruel hunt for harp seals...that support the trade in fur and non-essential items."

# Make Way for Bikes!

## Roanoke Could Be More Bicycle Friendly

By Mark Petersen  
Roanoke, Virginia (Letter to local newspaper)

Dear Roanoker:

People of all ages and abilities should be able to cross the street safely. Can they in Roanoke, Virginia?

With a LOT OF CAUTION, they can. But watch out for those distracted motorists and speed demons!

But by doing little at the local level, the Roanoke valley sends the message that pedestrians are not welcome. Is this contributing to our lack of 'coolness'? Does this send a message to potential employers and newcomers that this is not the place to reside if you are seeking out a locale with a great quality of life?

So many Americans in larger cities are seeking out communities to enjoy life. It's not the job that attracts people to your town anymore. Livability and scale are important. These people want to rev down and settle into smaller, more environmentally friendly towns.

Why does Portland rank so high in livability? Because city planners and leaders recognized the potential and planned for it years ago.

Can we do the same in Roanoke, Virginia?

Currently, city and county planners only see the wisdom of building greenways as economic tools for attracting new business and people. They fail to see the draw of a well-planned multi-modal transportation system.

Bike lanes compliment the system. They enhance the transportation system, create connections to local green-



Photo credit: The Complete the Streets Coalition  
High Street in Portland, Oregon (note the bike lanes).

ways, trails, bus stops and employment centers.

They offer predictability to motorists. They also offer accountability — forcing motorists to respect others using the roadway.

Pedestrian facilities do the same — offering the resident an alternative to the automobile without fear of being run down by a careless driver.

By doing nothing, we miss out. We are passed up by those serious about living in an area with outstanding quality of life.

But you can do something now.

Join bicycle advocates during Bike Month (May). Get involved in the planning process at the local level. Give local transportation planners and engi-

neers your ideas. Let them know you expect them to plan for more than the motor vehicle.

Sincerely,  
Mark Petersen

Mark Petersen has not owned a car for 13 years. He has three bikes: a Sierra by Schwinn for hard surfaces, a Mill Mountain (a Giant cross-over with night lights on it he uses mainly for commuting) and a Trek 2600 "...all decked out with lights and fenders." But he keeps getting flat tires "on this one because the roads here are so poorly maintained." Mark rents vehicles from Budget for out-of-town trips. See [auto-free.net](http://auto-free.net).

**MAY IS BIKE MONTH!**



Photo by Terry Darling

Residents of Erie, PA can walk in the midst of the mature trees of Scott Park in north Millcreek near Presque Isle State Park. In recent years, Scott Park has been threatened by timbering, urban development and most recently, technology.

## One Woman Takes Action to Protect Park

### Stand Taken Against Tower — Scott Park Plan Under Legal Appeal

By John Guerriero  
Erie Times-News, April 2, 2009

An Erie environmentalist who opposed Millcreek Township's scrapped plan to remove some trees from a popular park now doesn't want to see something added — a single-pole cell tower.

Cathy Pedler, 43, has appealed the Millcreek Zoning Hearing Board's decision on January 28 that would allow a cell tower to be built at township-owned Scott Park in north Millcreek near Presque Isle State Park.

"It's an important public natural area that should not have private business development of any kind, especially a large metal tower that interferes with the visual beauty of the space," Pedler said.

Representing herself, Pedler filed an appeal in Erie County Court against the zoning board, the township and Cellco Partnership, the developer for Verizon Wireless. The wireless company plans to build a tower no higher than 100 feet on cleared land in the west end of a parking lot on the park's south side.

The zoning board granted a variance, which was required because the tower would be built near homes. Pedler wants a judge to strike down the variance.

Despite a slumping economy, wireless companies continue to build cell-phone towers as stand-alone structures or atop existing buildings or other structures to improve coverage and to meet demand for high-speed transmission of data.

But in cases like this, technology bumps up against nature.

Millcreek Supervisor Brian McGrath said the township tried to avoid putting the tower on park property but added it would not affect any use of the park. McGrath said the tower would take up a 60-foot-by-60-foot parcel.

"The area is underserved as far as cell phone (reception) and the amount of property we are talking about in Scott Park is minuscule compared to the size of the park," he said.

The park is about 108 acres.

Richard Perhacs, the zoning board solicitor, said the board acted properly. But Perhacs said he would first argue in court that Pedler doesn't have the right to appeal because she didn't object before the zoning board and doesn't live "immediately near" the property.

Pedler said she couldn't attend the board hearing because she was in Washington, D.C. talking with members of Congress about an environmental issue regarding drinking water.

Pedler said she lives less than 2.5 miles from the park and uses it regularly for hiking, bird-watching and other activities. Pedler said she is also an active member of local environmental groups that advocate for the protection of public spaces and their environmental integrity.

Her appeal said that when Erie County transferred the park to Millcreek in 1983, it stipulated the park's use would be for all county residents.

Her appeal also said that because Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund money had been used to improve the park, the cell tower needed the approval of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) and the National Park Service.

The township believes that only the DCNR (Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) must approve the tower, a decision that is pending, McGrath said.

No hearing date on the appeal has been set, Perhacs said.

Millcreek would get \$12,000 for the tower lease in the first year with 3 percent increases in each of 24 following years. Millcreek planned to use the money for Scott and other parks.

Now, McGrath said, some of that money could help offset the legal costs of the appeal.

## Close Down Coke Plant

Continued from page 1

spews opaque or black smoke into the air near Erie's downtown and Presque Isle Bay. The DEP files on Erie Coke are filled with notices of violation. DEP notes 76 (officially documented) violations in the past two years alone.

"Anyone who spends any amount of time in or near downtown Erie and its Bayfront has choked on the emissions of that plant," said Cathy Pedler, coordinator of the Gaia Defense League (GDL).

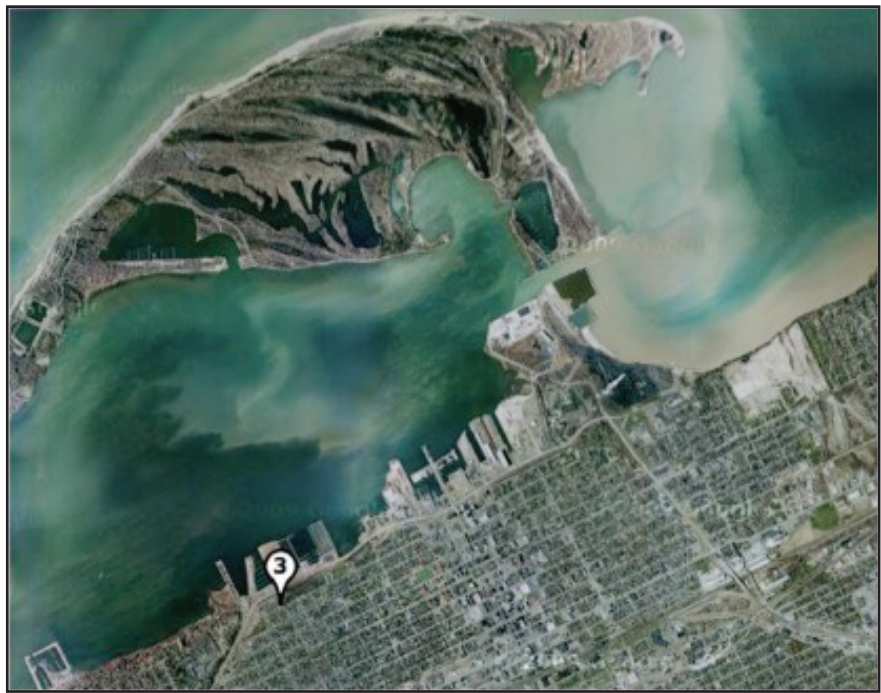
"Administrative orders and fines are apparently not enough. This plant has been harming our community for years. The continuous, brazen pollution and violations of federal law should be met with criminal charges," she said. "At the very least, DEP and EPA need to pull Erie Coke's Title V permit until the public is assured that their facility is operating safely."

The Title V permit issued by the DEP requires the Coke Plant to monitor its emissions for filterable particulate matter (FPM), benzene, toluene, xylene, phenol and other hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), sulfur oxides (Sox), nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hydrogen chloride (HCL).

Other substances emitted by coke ovens include naphthylamine, cadmium, arsenic, beryllium, chromium and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Erie Coke must apply to renew its Title V permit every five years. DEP renewed Erie Coke's permit in August of 2006. The next renewal is scheduled to occur in 2011, two years from now.

"The DEP knows this plant is well past its prime and that there are daily violations from its antiquated and failing equipment," said Randy Barnes of Keep Erie's Environment Protected.

The files also reveal Erie Coke employees have threatened DEP personnel when they have visited to monitor the plant and that Erie Coke ignores the complaints of its citizen neighbors who are forced to breathe Erie Coke's emissions. Many of the compounds emitted by coke ovens are carcinogenic. Particulate pollution has been proven to



Presque Isle and Erie Coke, satellite view from Google Earth

cause asthma and heart attacks.

"We are concerned about what these pollutants are doing to the fishery in Presque Isle Bay, Lake Erie and the creeks and streams within the watershed," said Jerry Skrypzack of the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie. "We are concerned about the health of our membership and others who enjoy fishing in the area. We are on the water and breathing the air around Erie Coke on a daily basis."

"This situation shows very clearly that we can't rely on agencies like DEP to protect our health," said Megan Rulli GDL board member. "We have to become informed about the issues that affect us and learn how to protect ourselves."

On June 19, 2008 the office of the EPA for Region III in Philadelphia issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to Erie Coke for its numerous violations of the Clean Air Act. The Director of the Air Protection Division in the NOV states that, "...the Company is operating and has operated the Facility in violation of applicable federally enforceable air pollution control requirements, including the Clean Air Act, its permit

and the Pennsylvania State Implementation Plan."

"The circumstances dictate a complete and critical review of the operation of Erie Coke by the EPA Region III since J. D. Crane assumed ownership," said Marty Visnosky of the Erie County Environmental Coalition.

"How is it that Erie Coke was unaware of the problems with the A-battery, not to mention the regulators, calls into question years of documents and official reporting. This has led to more air pollution in the Erie air basin," he said. "I urge concerned citizens in the Erie region to contact the EPA Region III Air Administrator in Philadelphia about this violation of law."

The EPA Region III Air Administrator Director's address is Air Protection Division, USEPA Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029.

**For further information contact Cathy Pedler at 814-454-7523.**



## Get to the Root Cause

When a person is sick, is it OK to treat the symptoms and ignore the cause of the sickness? Certainly not. When a society is sick, is it OK to treat the symptoms and ignore the cause of the sickness? Certainly not. If you would like to learn how the Grassroots Coalition is working to get to the causes of the great economic and environmental injustices that are afflicting our society, contact John Conner at [grassroots1@pa.net](mailto:grassroots1@pa.net) or 814-259-3372 or write to us at HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

## Val's Column

# A Special Mothers' Day Look at the World

By Valerie Stanley  
Laurel, Maryland

When I was growing up, there was a beautiful Collie at our family farm who belonged to the family which rented the farmhouse. Every spring, as she got ready to have her puppies (this was before the time that people really pushed for spaying and neutering), she would make an elaborate den for them. She would then carefully select toys that the children of the house would leave around on the lawn and in the garden and carry them lovingly to the den she made for her puppies. She repeated this year after year but I never stopped marveling at her dedication, persistence and planning.

As I set out to prepare this column for the month of May, when we celebrate Mother's Day, I remembered that amazing Collie. I thought it would be interesting to examine maternal behavior of various "farmed" animals and relay my findings (along with a few vegetarian Mother's Day recipes). I soon learned that this was to be no small feat; I came across hundreds of articles of all sorts of experiments and studies that various agriculture schools had undertaken regarding all aspects of birthing and maternal behaviors of various species toward their offspring. They all seemed so cold, so calculating and well . . . boring.

It was then that I came across a wonderful site that has so much to offer: [www.all-creatures.org](http://www.all-creatures.org). The stories of cross-species maternal behavior below are from that site. They will make you smile and remind you of the splendor of the Animal Kingdom!



Photos from [www.all-creatures.org](http://www.all-creatures.org)

### Bunnies and a Pigeon

Noah is a male, non-releasable, one-legged homing pigeon/rock dove who is in rehab. Noah kept going over to the bunny cage (housing orphaned bunnies) and looking in — even sleeping in front of the door to the cage.

Then . . . there were only two bunnies in the cage.

But when Noah moved a bit from the front of the cage to my surprise . . . there was the tiny bunny . . . under Noah's wing . . . sound asleep! That little bunny rabbit had crawled through the cage, preferring a featherbed, no doubt.

Now, they are all together and the bunnies are doing GREAT. When the bunnies scoot underneath Noah's feathers, he carefully extends his wings out to surround them and then they snuggle.

When one of them moves and they start sticking out here and there, he gently pushes them back under him with his beak!



### Cat Mothers Orphaned Skunks

One week after being born, six baby skunks were orphaned when their mother died. Luckily, we had just weaned five kittens off of our resident farm cat a day before and hoped that perhaps she might take them on as her own. She was reluctant at first but she let them nurse — a positive sign. Two weeks have gone by and the six little "Stinkers" are thriving and their new mom couldn't be happier. She has become quite devoted to them and even carries them around to show them off to visitors. This is another of those wonderful stories that prove that Isaiah's prophecy of a Peaceable Kingdom (11:6-9) can exist in the here and now. We just need to help it happen.

## Show Her Love

Here are a couple of easy recipes you might want to try for Mother's Day. Since Mother's Day is really a celebration of life, they seem to fit right in! They are courtesy of [www.living-foods.com](http://www.living-foods.com).

What are "living" foods you might ask? The site explains that "Raw and Living Foods are foods that contain enzymes. Enzymes assist in the digestion of foods. They are known to be the 'Life-Force' and/or 'energy' of food. In general, the act of heating food over 116 degrees F° destroys enzymes in food. (Enzymes start to degrade in as little as 106 degrees F°). All cooked food is devoid of enzymes; furthermore, cooking food changes the molecular structure of the food and renders it toxic. Living and raw foods also have enormously higher nutrient values than the foods that have been cooked."

A "live foods" diet is good for the following reasons, as the site explains:

- 1. Health: Persons embracing this type of diet invariably experience improvements in their general physical and mental status, including more energy, better health, more energy <smile>, weight loss, detoxification and a sturdier immune system that better resists and recovers from just about any kind of disease . . . and the list goes on . . .**
- 2. Energy efficiency: Since you no longer have to cook, you don't waste electricity and therefore save the environment.**
- 3. Since you eat organic agriculture, you help to save the planet. Most become more in-tune with their body; many report definite spiritual improvements.**
- 4. No animal products are used, so the animals appreciate it.**



### Lettuce Wraps

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 very ripe avocados
- 3 tomatoes, diced
- 1/2 jalapeno pepper, diced
- 2 tablespoons yellow onion, diced
- 3 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- kernels from one ear raw organic corn
- 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 6-8 large romaine lettuce leaves

#### PREPARATION:

In a medium sized bowl, mash the avocado. Add remaining ingredients and stir until well mixed. Spread 2-3 tablespoons of this mixture onto lettuce leaves and wrap. Enjoy!

### Fruit Salad

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups raspberries
- 2 bananas
- 1/2 cup raisins (soaked)
- 1/2 of a whole pineapple
- 2 tablespoons coconut

#### PREPARATION:

Soak raisins night before. Mix all ingredients gently to avoid mushing! Serve at room temperature or mildly refrigerated. Awesome as a light meal or a pleasant dessert. Enjoy!

## Animals Gain Rights in California

By Nicholas D. Kristof  
*The New York Times*, April 9, 2009 (excerpt)

One of the historical election landmarks last year had nothing to do with race or the presidency. Rather, it had to do with pigs and chickens — and with over-arching ideas about the limits of human dominion over other species.

I'm referring to the stunning passage in California, by nearly a 2-to-1 majority, of an animal rights ballot initiative that will ban factory farms from keeping calves, pregnant hogs or egg-laying hens in tiny pens or cages in which they can't stretch out or turn around. It was an element of a broad push in Europe and America alike to grant increasing legal protections to animals.

Spain is moving to grant basic legal rights to apes. In the United States, law schools are offering courses on animal rights [Ed.: Like Valerie above teaches], fast-food restaurants including Burger King are working with animal rights groups to ease the plight of hogs and chickens in factory farms and the Humane Society of the United States is preparing to push new legislation to extend the California protections to other states.

At one level, this movement on behalf of oppressed farm animals is emotional, driven by sympathy at photos of forlorn pigs or veal calves kept in tiny pens. Yet the movement is also the product of a deep intellectual ferment pioneered by the Princeton scholar Peter Singer, who wrote *Animal Liberation* in 1975.

### NEWS FLASH

Tuesday, April 14, 2009 — Spiegel Online (Germany)  
**Germany Bans Cultivation of GM Corn**  
Germany has banned the cultivation of GM corn, claiming that MON 810 is dangerous for the environment. But that argument might not stand up in court and Berlin could face fines totalling millions of euros if American multinational Monsanto decides to challenge the prohibition on its seed.

## WILL NEW FOOD BILL THREATEN HOME GARDENERS AND FARMERS' MARKETS?

By Ari LeVaux  
*AlterNet*, April 6, 2009

My inbox has been pummeled in recent weeks by a barrage of emails warning me of the evils of HR 875, a bill currently working its way through Congress. Sponsored by Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn), the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2009 was one of several bills introduced in the wake of the peanut butter-borne salmonella outbreak. Each of these bills ostensibly seeks to improve food safety with increased regulation.

Critics, paranoid and level-headed alike, point to the disproportionate burden that increased regulation places on small farmers and many wonder if the banner of food safety is being used as a Trojan horse to create a more favorable business climate for corporate agriculture.

"If [HR 875] passes, say goodbye to organic produce, your Local Farmer's market and very possibly, the GARDEN IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!!!!" announced one email."

Another warned that HR 875 would result in ". . . criminalization of seed banking, prison terms and confiscatory fines for farmers." And of course, no serious foodie conspiracy theory would be complete without Monsanto as the architect: "DeLauro's husband, Stanley Greenberg, works for Monsanto!" claim nearly all of these emails.

Stanley Greenberg is indeed the CEO of a polling firm that did, indeed, contract with Monsanto. But it's no more true to say he works for Monsanto than it is to say he works for Nelson Mandela — who was also a former client of his firm, according to [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org), which did a detailed dissection of one of the viral emails.

These emails seem to have been propagated largely by well-intentioned foodies after having originated from a cadre of conspiracy theorists and Ron Paul supporters with too much time on their hands.

"There is a perfectly legitimate conversation to be had about how we can have food safety regulation without jeopardizing small farms and local food systems," says Patty Lovera, Assistant director of Food and Water Watch. "But it's hard to have a rational conversation via forwarded emails. It's not happening in a way that's going to change the policy."

Lovera says HR 875 won't regulate seed-saving, backyard gardens or farmers markets. It would, however, split the Food and Drug Administration into separate bodies, one for food and one for drugs. This is a move that Food and Water Watch would support. But unfortunately, she says, it's likely to kill the bill because splitting the FDA might be too daunting a task for lawmakers to take on right now.

Another bill that's more likely to make it to a vote, Lovera says, is HR 759. While this bill, "The Food and Drug Administration Globalization Act," has drawn relatively little attention, she thinks it would be more likely to cause big problems for small farmers.

HR 759 would extend traceability recordkeeping requirements that currently apply only to food processors to farms and restaurants — and require that recordkeeping be done electronically, placing a disproportionate burden in terms of time and money on small farmers. The bill would also establish production standards for fruits and vegetables, which are called "Good Agricultural Practices."

Agriculture practices designed to improve food safety and address environmental, economic and social sustainability, might sound like a good idea, Lovera

says. But as written, the Good Agriculture Practices are mostly relevant to large, corporate farms — which are the source of most farm-related economic, social, environmental and safety problems to begin with.

All of these bills, ostensibly, are efforts to make factory-farmed food safer so we can avoid E.coli in spinach, downer cattle in school lunches, feathers in chicken patties and other food-borne horror stories we've grown all-too used to hearing about. But if these regulations are extended to the small, family farms where the problems aren't coming from, it's more than just a legislative overextension. It's a tilting of the playing field grossly in favor of corporate agriculture. And on this point, we all should be paranoid.

"What people don't realize is that if any of these bills pass, we lose. All we will have left is industrial food," says Deborah Stockton, executive director of the National Independent Consumers and Farmers Association, which is dedicated to promoting and preserving unregulated direct farmer-to-consumer trade and fostering the availability of locally grown or home-produced food products.

One of Stockton's top priorities is stopping the controversial National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Implemented by USDA in 2003 without congressional approval, NAIS is a federal registry program for livestock and for the premises where animals live or visit. The stated purpose of the system is to aid state and federal government response to outbreaks of animal disease.

"NAIS is a safety net for the corporate livestock industry," Stockton told me. "They're the ones with the practices that are creating problems for human and animal health and they're the ones who need NAIS to cover their backs when something goes wrong. The main threats to food safety are centralized production, processing and long distance transportation."

Food and Water Watch shares Stockton's distaste for NAIS. According to its Web page: "The current plan to create a federal animal identification system ignores existing state animal health programs, puts too much emphasis on privatizing the data collection (forcing small farmers to submit data about their operations to trade associations they don't support) and essentially forces small farmers and ranchers to pay for a safety net for agribusiness."

But, says Lovera, the bills currently under consideration are aimed at the FDA and NAIS is a USDA program. While she sees a lot of problems with many of the current bills, strengthening NAIS isn't one of them.

Stockton doesn't buy it. If any of them pass, she says, it would ratify NAIS and strengthen USDA's ability to make it mandatory for all livestock, including your flock of backyard chickens.

**So lawmakers, if you're listening and you want these protestors, ballistic and level-headed alike, to chill out, here is how to get them off your backs: Exempt local food systems from the current bills. Include specific language in the bills that will guarantee that small family farms, backyard gardens, personal livestock, farmers markets and all forms of food self-sufficiency and farmer-direct purchasing are protected. Because the right to buy milk from your neighbor or grow your own food is as inalienable as the right to bear arms. And if you threaten to take away this right, you're going to face a backlash that will make the NRA seem like a bunch of flower-wearing Hare Krishnas. [bold added]**

## Colorado Celebrates Rocky Mt. National Park Wilderness Area

ESTES PARK, Colorado, April 10, 2009 (ENS) — Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar joined members of the Colorado congressional delegation and local officials Thursday to dedicate the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Area, nearly 250,000 acres within the park that will be permanently protected from human impacts under the newly enacted Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009.



Local officials also were there to celebrate, including former Estes Park Mayor John Baudek, Grand Lake Mayor Judy Burke, former Larimer County commissioner Karen Wagner and many other community leaders who have worked for years to convince Congress to designate

the wilderness.

“Exploring this park gives one the sense of the majesty of the west and the solemnity of creation. It embodies the rugged beauty of Colorado and it deserves to be granted this designation and the protection that comes with it,” Senator Mark Udall said.

“I have a personal family connection to this park through my grandfather as an outdoor guide and I have hiked many of its trails, fished many of its streams and climbed many of its peaks,” Udall said. “It has taken a long trek to get here — and it has taken the work of many people. But today we have reached the summit and I’m so proud that the reward is a park that generations of Americans will be able to enjoy.”

“Rocky Mountain National Park is home to some of Colorado’s most special places,” said Bennet. “By designating approximately 250,000 acres within RMNP as wilderness, we’re making good on our responsibility to protect, preserve and pass down some of Colorado’s most treasured landscapes for the enjoyment of generations of Americans to come.”

“This bill represents years of hard work by so many committed stakeholders, from local communities to the federal government,” said Markey. “This measure will do much to protect Colorado’s public lands and water, which are critical to preserving Colorado’s way of life. Wilderness designation for Rocky Mountain National Park will also help bolster Colorado tourism, which is a huge economic driver for our state.”

“The Rocky Mountain National Park wilderness area is one of the crown jewels of the public lands package recently signed by President Obama,” said Congressman John Salazar. “These bills represent years of work and input from communities across my district and throughout Colorado. I was honored to work with my brother — first when he was in the Senate and now as Secretary of Interior — to do my part to help make these projects become a reality. They will help protect Colorado’s land, water, natural beauty for generations to come.”

The Act obligates the federal government to pay 65 percent of the cost of building a 130-mile water delivery system from Pueblo Dam to communities throughout the Arkansas River Valley. The Arkansas River has its origin in the Rocky Mountains in Lake County, Colorado, near Leadville and it flows into the Mississippi River at Napoleon, Arkansas.

“Today is just the beginning. I believe we are at the start of the Obama era of conservation, an era I hope will rival the eras of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy,” Secretary Salazar said. “In coming years, we will have many days like today when we join together to celebrate new partnerships and new successes in conserving our treasured landscapes.”

Protection as a national park was not sufficient to conserve the wilderness values of the area as Keith Keenan of Colorado Trout Unlimited wrote in a letter to the editor of *The Fort Collins Coloradoan* newspaper on July 20, 2005.

“The more educated that we become, the more we understand that the park is under a tremendous environmental attack,” Keenan wrote. “Researchers have more than 20 years of data that tell us that exhaust from the autos, heavy equipment, buses and big rigs locally and on the Interstate 25 corridor threaten our high mountain lakes and the greenback trout that live there.”

“The more educated we become, the more we know that there is a real good chance that we will lose Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) as we know it today if we do not act,” wrote Keenan. “The more educated we become, the more we realize that the window of opportunity for any chance to save RMNP is here and now and rapidly shrinking.”

Secretary Salazar was joined at the dedication ceremony by Senator Mark Udall, Senator Michael Bennet, his brother Colorado Congressman John Salazar, Congresswoman Betsy Markey and former Congressman David Skaggs, all Democrats.

## Forest Wins One

*Continued from page 1*  
that “The Forest Service has legal authority to establish reasonable conditions and mitigation measures to protect federal surface resources from oil and gas drilling. This important acknowledgment signals a new direction for regulating oil and gas drilling on the Allegheny that will better protect water and air quality, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.”

The settlement agreement creates an orderly transition allowing the drilling of approximately 585 oil and gas wells since these projects were already submitted to the Forest Service for approval at the time the lawsuit was filed. The Forest Service will postpone approval of approximately 440 other oil and gas wells that were submitted to the Forest Service before the lawsuit was filed but were considered “incomplete applications” by the Forest Service. Those proposed oil and gas wells, in addition to all future oil and gas drilling proposals, will be subject to NEPA analysis and public comment.

“This is a victory for everyone who enjoys the natural beauty of the Allegheny National Forest. This agreement will shed daylight on a process that has been hidden from public view for far too long,” said Sierra Club representative David Sublette. “Oil and gas development threatens to destroy the sensitive wildlife habitat and spectacular wilderness that draw thousands of visitors to the Allegheny each year. The public should at least

have an opportunity to weigh in before oil and gas companies are allowed to build roads and drill wells in this pristine area. This agreement represents a significant policy shift for the Allegheny National Forest.”

*This ... signals a new direction for regulating oil and gas drilling on the Allegheny that will better protect water and air quality, wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities.*

The Forest Service also agreed to pay the plaintiffs’ attorney’s fees and costs in the lump sum total of \$19,221.60. The satisfaction of the agreement would result in a dismissal of the suit “with prejudice,” meaning that it cannot be revisited. The court also stipulated that the agreement covers only those reserved and outstanding oil and gas resources for development on the Allegheny National Forest and does not affect the management of any other national forest.

The terms of the settlement did not sit well with Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson. According to Patrick Creighton, communications director for Thompson, “Congressman Thompson is seriously troubled by this so-called ‘settlement.’ While we are awaiting clarification from the Justice Department of the exact implications, the Congressman’s position remains unchanged — and that

is the subsurface mineral rights owners have every right to access what they legally own.”

“When the ANF was created 86 years ago, the federal government left the mineral rights in the hands of the private sector. This ‘settlement’ not only tramples these rights, it sets a dangerous precedent for future energy production. The fact that the Justice Department has agreed to pay the plaintiffs’ attorneys, who brought this suit against the government a total of \$19,221.60 in legal fees, is an insult to the taxpayers of the United States. This settlement will result in a loss of employment in the area and is one-sided,” Creighton said.

“Steve Rhoads (POGAM-Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association Members) often called this lawsuit filed by the environmental groups “frivolous.” Now that this suit has been settled in favor of the environmental groups (the Allegheny Defense Project, the Sierra Club and the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics), I hope Mr. Rhoads will stop chanting this empty rhetoric every chance he gets. We may not have won the war, but we may have won one this battle!” says John Stoneman, founder of Allegheny Outdoor Adventures, a member of the “Friends of Rimrock” coalition of outdoors groups. “We won!”

*John “Stony” Stoneman, a lifelong environmentalist, dedicated to helping preserve public lands for future generations to enjoy.*

## News Submitted by Our Readers (excerpts)

Submitted by Mark Petersen, Roanoke, Virginia:

### Off-Road Enthusiasts Charged Over Damage to Forest Areas

By Laurence Hammack

The Roanoke Times

National forest officials have brought charges against 39 off-road enthusiasts who like to gun, spin and slog their four-wheel-drive vehicles through woods and meadows.

The practice, known as “mud-bogging,” has caused about \$30,000 worth of damage to a section of the Jefferson National Forest in Botetourt and Craig counties, said Woody Lipps, law enforcement patrol captain for the forest service.

Most of the people charged were given summonses to appear in federal court on charges of driving their vehicles off a designated road and damaging government property or resources.

### It’s a Wilderness Out There — on 54,000 Forest Acres in Virginia

By Laurence Hammack

The Roanoke Times

Portions of Brush Mountain in Montgomery and Craig counties are soon to be designated as protected wilderness areas under legislation passed by Congress on Wednesday.

After earlier passage by the Senate, the House voted 285-140 to approve the bill, which now goes to President Obama for his likely signature.

[Ed.: Obama signed the Public Lands Management Act of 2009 on March 30 protecting two million acres of wilderness in nine states and a thousand miles of rivers, a 50% increase in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. “What these gifts require in return is our wise and responsible stewardship.”]

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle, Marianna, Florida:

### Native Council Focuses on Green Certification and Training

By Gale Courey Toensing

Indian Country Today, March 11, 2009

BEND, Oregon — A new native initiative has set its sights on green building certification and training specifically geared to meet tribal needs.

The Green Native Council, which formed last summer, has developed a program of standards to help Native communities design and build certified green and sustainable buildings and to train tribal members in inspection and certification practices. In addition, the council hopes to become a center of information for Indian country in green sustainability and environmental preservation.

### Tar Sands are Killing Us

By Kate Harries

Indian Country Today, Vol. 28 No. 40

TORONTO, Canada — Dene, Cree and Metis activists from First Nations affected by Alberta tar sands development made themselves heard in Washington as Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice was making the rounds of Capitol Hill. They hand-delivered a letter to Senator John Kerry, D-Mass., head of the powerful Foreign Relations Committee, and later about 50 young people from Canada demonstrated outside Kerry’s office when Prentice went in. Clayton Thomas-Muller, Canadian tar sands campaigner for the Indigenous Environmental Network, said the goal was to pre-empt Kerry’s meeting with Prentice and ensure Kerry got a complete, undistorted picture of the disastrous effects of tar sands.

## Letters to the Editor

### Newspaper Enjoyed in Belize

Hello Iona,

The newspapers arrived (April “OE”). Thank you very much. The kissing clouds made the day for the villagers and the newspapers are making the rounds of villagers. They get most of their news from FOX news! I will write an article about what is happening down here in a couple of months. I sent information about it to the Earth-aven listserv. Keep up the great work.

Rod Rylander

Belize

### Husband Handles Laundry

Hello Iona,

I can’t remember what the renewal amount is. If it is more than this let me know. [Ed.: Her check for \$30 provided a \$5 contribution in addition to the \$25 subscription fee.]

I am enjoying your articles and book reviews. I wanted to add to the clothes-hanging discussion the news that Bill rigged up clothes lines on our covered, screened porch. On wash day (Monday), he attaches the lines, hangs the clothes to dry and doesn’t have to worry about bird poop or rain. When he removes the clothes, he takes down the clothes lines and stows them until next wash day.

It has been pretty handy. And we can still enjoy the porch since it isn’t a permanent laundry room.

Gloria Hemmy Paull

Severna Park, Maryland

### Thoughts for the New Year and Life

[Ed.: The delay is mine but the message is timeless.]

Happy 2009~

A new year, a new president, new chances to learn, grow, make mistakes and start all over again. We are indeed part of the universal ebb and flow of life, death and rebirth. So the question I am sitting with as I glance into 2009 is . . . what do I want to manifest in 2009?

It would be easy to just say world peace — but our crumbling chaotic world is chock full of lessons to be learned and I feel strongly that the absence of peace is teaching us exactly what we need to grow and evolve. We are being called to awaken and surrender our illusions of grandeur and focus on what really matters. Somewhere along the way

we seem to have forgotten that we CAN create the culture/world we want to live in . . . but WE have to show up and participate. Although our ancestors are probably clicking their tongues and shaking their heads at us in disbelief at the mess we are in, I do believe that ancestral wisdom continues to live on within us.

So back to the question of what do I want to create in 2009? I want to help create a culture that values life. Sounds pretty vague I know, but hear me out. I believe that all of life is sacred — plants, animals, people, the Earth itself . . . and yes even chaos because it too is part of this life.

When we act from a mindful place of seeing all of life as sacred, we make very different choices — choices that not only benefit us and our world but future generations as well. And these choices have a ripple effect.

When we make this shift in seeing, it affects what and how much we consume, what we throw away, what we choose to re-use, what and how we support those things that we value, how we love and interact with others, how we nourish ourselves and on and on the list goes. This is mindful stewardship. May it deepen our reverence and actions for this gift of life.

Hillary Banachowski

New Market, Maryland

### Stand Up for Your Environment

[In response to my email to OE list: Dear Friends, We have been working against oil and gas drilling now for several months. The last thing our planet needs is more oil and gas and fewer forests (which are destroyed to build roads for equipment and pads for their dastardly work). Here’s an action I just took and I hope you will join me.]

Hi Iona,

This is unbelievable!!! Pennsylvania is a dumping ground for these projects. Where are the volumes of people to oppose this, especially Pennsylvanians? Just like the 14 arrested on the West Virginia mountain where the number of people arrested should have been in the hundreds and thousands and not only a measly yet mighty 14.

If we are not involved in an environmental issue, now is the time to get involved.

Thanks,

Lisa Scherer

Marianna, Pennsylvania

## Free Films in McConnellsburg PA to Raise Funds for "The Order of the Earth"

**May 8: Sicko** by Michael Moore  
(Work with us for universal Healthcare in Pennsylvania.)  
**June 12: King Corn & The True Cost of Food**  
(Learn more about what you eat these days.)  
**All films will be held at 7 p.m. in the Old Fulton Theater (rear entrance) at the corner of Routes 30 and 522.**  
Complimentary refreshments will be served.



**Maidens and Voyages:  
The Painted Journey of Adrienne Stein**  
Spring Solo Exhibition and Sale: Mother's Day, Sunday May 10, 1-5 p.m.  
863 S. George Street, York, Pennsylvania, Kuhner Associates (formerly the Hahn Home)  
Tickets are available at the door by donation to Bridge of Hope, York County. Suggested donation: \$10  
A Mother's Day exhibition of oil paintings by Adrienne Stein, a 23 year-old local artist depicting her world travels and a celebration of life in color with a feminine vision.  
Adrienne will be speaking at 2 p.m. to share her inspiration and experiences. [www.adriennestein.com](http://www.adriennestein.com)

## ELIMINATE DEBT

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We are a Debt Relief Agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

To learn more about All Our Relations Sacred Gardening, Mare is posting on how to approach gardening from a Sacred place with her Cherokee teacher on a weekly basis on Mare's blog. To follow the evolution of a Medicine Garden in Mare's teacher's backyard and get some good giggles, go to <http://mare-cromwell.wordpress.com>.

We're calling it the "Scooby-Doo Garden."



### All My Relations Sacred Gardening Workshop

**Sunday, June 14, 2009. 10am - 5pm**  
**Blueberry Gardens Center, Ashton (south of Clarksville), MD**  
**Cost: Sliding Scale - \$40 - \$60 (Pay what you want or can)**  
(Original fee was \$70)

In these changing times Earth Mother is calling us to heal ourselves and our relationship to nature. Our gardens are where we can intimately rekindle a deeper relationship and reverence for the life around us to promote healing. Come join us at this workshop to learn Native American practices and worldviews that will encourage deeper gardening practices honoring nature energies, garden health and planetary healing. The workshop will commence with a plant and seed swap.

The workshop will cover:

- \* How to bless your garden in early spring and late fall
- \* Claiming your relationship with the Creator and Earth Mother to honor your sacred place in the world and garden
- \* Your garden as an altar
- \* Intuitive gardening
- \* Deepening your relationship and awareness of life around you
- \* Nature as teacher and healer

**Workshop Leader:**

**Mare Cromwell** is a professional gardener, author and speaker. She has apprenticed with a Cherokee Medicine Woman for 13 years. With a Masters in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, she has worked in the environmental field for 28 years both internationally and locally in the Baltimore-Washington region. Her book, *If I gave you God's phone number....Searching for Spirituality in America* was published in 2002. Mare also occasionally speaks on eco-philosophy and eco-spirituality topics such as Environmental Hope, Living Simplicity, Deep Ecology and "Right Relationship". But most of the time, she can be found weeding someone's garden.

Call Mare at: 410-448-3679 for more information.  
Register at [www.sacreddogllc.com](http://www.sacreddogllc.com)

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[www.greenlinepaper.com](http://www.greenlinepaper.com)