

'Gasland' Producer Outdoes Industry Rep

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

"When gas drilling takes over, you don't live in this country anymore; you live in 'Gasland,'" Josh Fox, producer of the award-winning and Oscar-nominated documentary 'Gasland', told his audience of approximately 300 at an event held on March 2nd in Frostburg, Maryland. The evening was billed as "Natural Gas and Our Future, a Moderated Discussion about the Potential Benefits and Potential Risks of Hydraulic Fracturing." The ground rules were laid out by a representative of the Maryland Humanities Council and there was a moderator as Fox discussed the down sides of fracking while Gregory Wrightstone, president of the Eastern Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists and president of the Pennsylvania Coalition for Responsible Government (a grassroots political group dedicated to limited government) tried to convince the audience that there were benefits. The audience didn't buy it.

At one point toward the end of the evening, Fox simply stated that, "We've heard it over and over again, 'money, money, money. We don't talk much about money in my film; we talk about health effects, of permanently toxifying underground water for future generations." One of Fox's "favorite things to do is come to

a place where this is not happening yet" (such as Frostburg) and talk with the people in order to help them prevent this assault on their communities.

"The number one lie is that it's OK to live where they're drilling," explained Fox, after nearly two hours of back-and-forth dialogue with intermittent clips from 'Gasland' and the gas industry's visuals.

Wrightstone said, "We have 1,200 wells. We do things in an environmentally-safe manner." This is low-cost energy for America and the second largest gas deposit in the world and six to ten times larger than the largest gas field in the United States. The gas industry claims that the Marcellus Shale gas field is like Saudi Arabia in terms of providing America with a huge energy source. There are [many] wells hydrofracked in Pennsylvania already," he continued, "and they do no harm to freshwater."

[At this point, Fox's eyes started moving side-to-side as he tried to remain quiet until it was his turn to talk again.]

Fox challenged the crowd's imaginations by telling them to go ahead and live in a place like Saudi Arabia; live in an oil field and see how you like that. See how it would feel to have chemical contamination and heavy-duty industrialization of your land. "The area is really not worth living in anymore; not

See **Gasland** on page 4



Photo by Iona

This amazing marquee was a sight for sore eyes for one, like the publisher, who is getting more and more distraught about the horrendous effects of natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania and across the country. The star of the evening was Josh Fox, producer of the film 'Gasland.'



Photo by Dmitry Morochko

Path through a forest about 40 miles north of Moscow, Russia.

Year of Forests Dawns

NEW YORK, New York (ENS, excerpt) — Forests for People is the theme of the UN's International Year of Forests 2011, launched at a ceremony February 2nd at UN Headquarters in New York attended by world leaders, Nobel Peace Laureate Wangari Maathai and forest experts.

While the worldwide rate of deforestation remains "alarmingly high," the UN says in its latest biennial report on the state of the world's forests, the rate of forest loss is slowing. Europe has more forests than any other region due to the vast forests of Russia, while Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest net forest loss over the last decade.

At least 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their daily livelihoods and subsistence needs and the world's forests are home to more than 60 million people, many of them members of indigenous communities, the UN says.

The UN General Assembly designated 2011 as the International Year of Forests and today Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said this year will be used as a pathway to raise awareness about the management, conservation and sustainable development of

all types of forests.

"By declaring 2011 as the International Year of Forests, the United Nations General Assembly has created an important platform to educate the global community about the great value of forests – and the extreme social, economic and environmental costs of losing them," said Ban. Dr. Maathai, who founded Kenya's Green Belt tree-planting movement, said today that the value of the International Year is the opportunity to "explore the value of the trees, the forests and the environment, as well as the value of the environmental services that these resources give us."

Too often forests and the services they provide are taken for granted and seen as resources that are unlimited, said Maathai. "But we all know now that we are facing situations where these forests are disappearing," she told reporters.

Forests cover about 31 percent of the planet's total land area, amounting to just under four billion hectares (nearly 10 billion acres), according to data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which today released its "State of the World's Forests" report.*

Published every two years, the

report stresses that the forest industry forms an important part of a "greener" economy and wood products have environmental attributes that appeal to people.

Today's ceremony, led by General Assembly President Joseph Deiss, is part of the high-level segment of the UN Forum on Forests, an intergovernmental policy forum that consists of all 192 members of the United Nations.

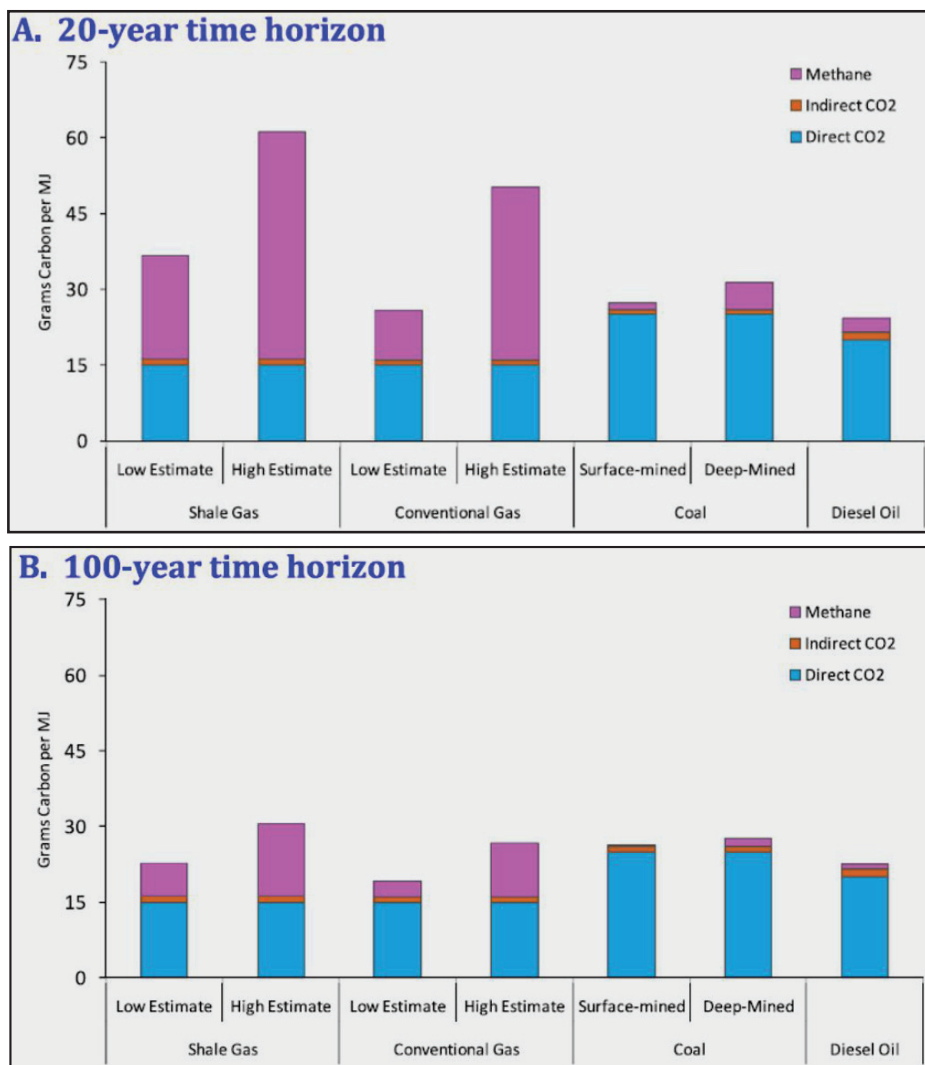
Deiss pointed out that the International Year of Forests follows the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, which concluded with the adoption of a new strategic plan containing targets on significantly reducing, by 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, and sustainably managing forestry to ensure biodiversity conservation.

"Every one of us, all seven billion people on Earth, has our physical, economic and spiritual health tied to the health of our forest ecosystems," said Jan McAlpine, director of the Forum's Secretariat. "Throughout 2011, we will celebrate this intricate, interdependent relationship between forests and people," she said.

See **Forests** on page 16

Methane and the Greenhouse-Gas Footprint of Natural Gas from Shale Formations

Top panel is a 20-year time frame and the bottom panel is a 100-year time frame. Estimates include direct emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) during combustion (blue bars), indirect emissions of CO₂ necessary to develop and use the energy source (red bars) and fugitive emissions of methane, converted to equivalent value of CO₂ for global warming potential (pink bars). Graphics provided by authors.



Robert W. Howarth, Renee Santoro and Anthony Ingraffea
Cornell University, New York
April 14, 2011, excerpt

We evaluate the greenhouse gas footprint of natural gas obtained by high-volume hydraulic fracturing from shale formations, focusing on methane emissions. Natural gas is composed largely of methane and 3.6% to 7.9% of the methane from shale-gas production escapes to the atmosphere in venting and leaks over the life-time of a well.

These methane emissions are at least 30% more than, and perhaps more than twice as great as, those from conventional gas. The

higher emissions from shale gas occur at the time wells are hydraulically fractured – as methane escapes from flow-back return fluids – and during drill out following the fracturing.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, with a global warming potential that is far greater than that of carbon dioxide (CO₂), particularly over the time horizon of the first few decades following emission.

Methane contributes substantially to the greenhouse gas footprint of shale gas on shorter time scales, dominating it on a 20-year time horizon. The footprint for shale gas is greater than that for conventional gas or oil when viewed on any time horizon, but

particularly so over 20 years. Compared to coal, the footprint of shale gas is at least 20% greater and perhaps more than twice as great on the 20-year horizon and is comparable when compared over 100 years.

Many view natural gas as a transitional fuel, allowing continued dependence on fossil fuels yet reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to oil or coal over coming decades (Pacala and Socolow 2004).¹ Development of "unconventional" gas dispersed in shale is part of this vision, as the potential resource may be large, and in many regions conventional reserves are becoming depleted (Woods et al. 2011).²

See **Methane** on page 8

Attending Marcellus Meetings And Sharing Information With Friends

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

When I realized that it would be a good thing for this newspaper to cover Marcellus Shale gas drilling in greater depth, I started going to meetings to learn more and hand out my newspapers. Here is a summary of the first three meetings I attended.

Environmental Protection and Shale Gas Well Drilling

After the article about my first attempt to get gas drilling banned in my hometown appeared in the local paper, someone who liked my story sent me an email about what his college was doing. He is an adjunct professor of geography and his friend had organized a Geography Seminar Series at Shippensburg University called Merging Issues in Marcellus Shale.

On March 4th, I showed up and was delighted to see so many people; we learned later that extra credit was being offered to the students who were there.

Scott Perry, Director of the Bureau of Oil and Gas Management in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was the speaker for the first event. Perry is a lawyer who had been working in the DEP since 2000 on energy and technology development as they affect groundwater supplies.

He described the historic growth of gas drilling in Pennsylvania and said that there were 125,000 sites with oil and gas permits issued and there are 17,000 wells deeper than the Marcellus. Furthermore, hydraulic fracturing (fracking) has been going in in Pennsylvania since 1948.

In 2008, there were 476 permits for gas drilling; in 2009, there were 1,984 and by 2010 there were 3,314. The map he showed us (above right) was so jammed that regular land was obliterated.

"There are more wells in the Allegheny National Forest than in all other national forests combined," Perry said. Drilling is so profitable that a good well can pay for itself in six months.

The Oil and Gas Act stipulates that well pads be 1,000 feet apart unless they are deep wells and they must be 200 feet from homes. The land-clearing permits allow up to five acres to be cleared for the well pad but if less than five acres are involved, there is no permit. Perry wants to see this changed. One well pad (containing several wells) can drain over a square mile of gas underground. If the site is greater than 5,000 square feet, an Erosion and Sediment plan must be implemented.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission requires an approved water management plan because water for fracking is pulled from small streams, which could dry up due to the enor-



People at Dan Moul's meeting in the Gettysburg firehall on March 31. More arrived after this photo was snapped and there was standing room only. Photo by Iona

mous amount of water required for fracking.

The wastewater is 10 times saltier than ocean water and has a significant impact on Pennsylvania streams, so Perry wants to see new regulations in place to protect the streams and rivers. He said that the regulations regarding discharge of wastewater to drinking water standards are the most stringent regulations in the Commonwealth.

Some of the problems Perry mentioned were that underground fracking is not regulated because of the Halliburton Loop-hole, trucks are "tearing up the roads" and 500 gallons of diesel fuel are used per hour. He said that gas migration is the Number One concern because it can cause fatal explosions.

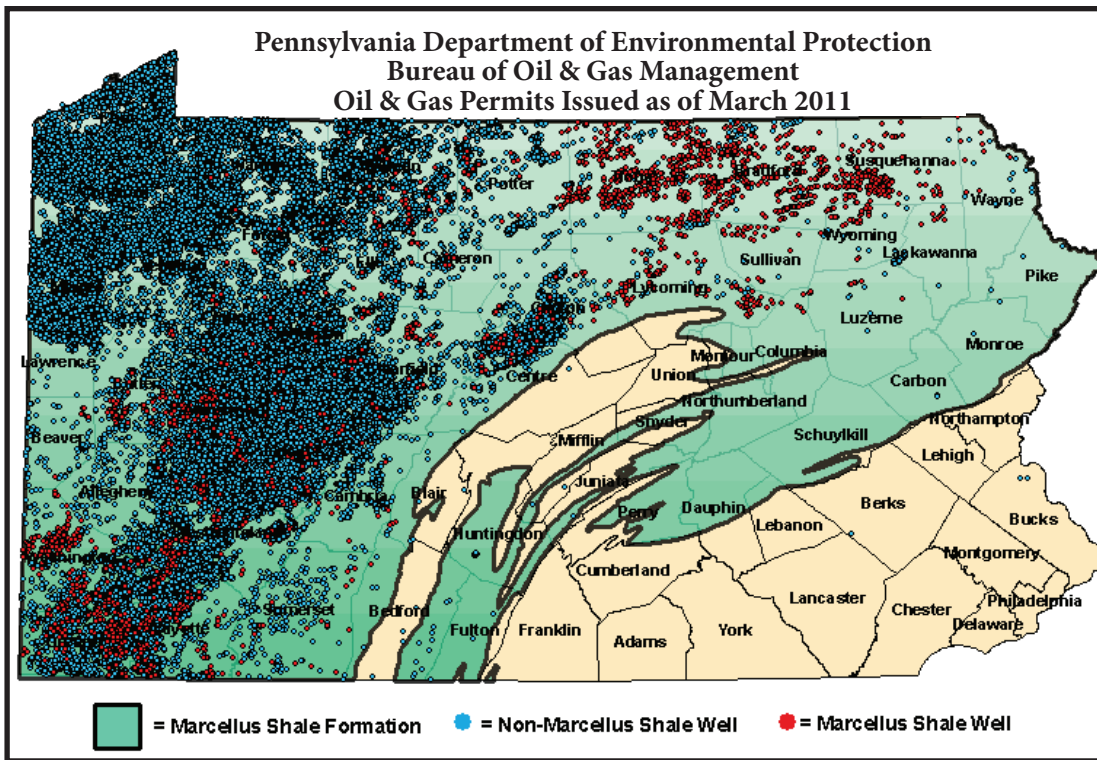
Currently, the DEP has 10 days to investigate a violation and 45 days to make a decision on the penalty.

On February 5, 2011 the most important piece of work (in Perry's opinion) was completed with an amendment to Chapter 78 (Oil and Gas Wells) of the 25th Title (Environmental Protection) of the Pennsylvania Code (all the laws in the state). This establishes new casing standards in drill pipes requiring pressure testing before putting water down the well or pulling gas up.

Kevin Sunday, spokesman for the DEP, said this new law will "make the integrity of the well stand up and prevent gas migration" and stop gas from seeping out of the pipes. Also, more detailed reports are now required to be filed when the well is completed and before fracturing or production occurs. Pressure testing must be done every quarter.

When asked about the effect of budget cuts on DEP staff, Perry explained that the Oil and Gas Program "is impervious to budget cuts." DEP increased well permit fees and doubled the size of its staff so they are completely self-sufficient, he said.

Contact Scott Perry at 717-772-2199 or scpperry@state.pa.us or go to the Pennsylvania DEP Web site at www.dep.state.pa.us.



Trout Unlimited Marcellus Field Organizer Talks to Grange

A tiny article appeared under Area Briefs in our local newspaper. "A presentation will be given on Marcellus Shale by David Sewak of Johnstown." I would never have guessed that such a good speaker would be given such a short article. No mention of Trout Unlimited, an organization with 51 chapters in Pennsylvania and the Marcellus Shale gas drilling "will hit them all," according to Sewak.

"I have a conservation ethic and three little children," Sewak told approximately 30 people at the meeting. His goal is to see that streams are protected from the effects of Marcellus Shale drilling. To accomplish that, he had already done 22 programs in March and it was only the 21st of the month.

The motto of Trout Unlimited (TU) is to "conserve, protect and restore North American coldwater fisheries and their watersheds." Sewak's mission is to educate, train, organize and mobilize people across the state to help meet that goal, whether they are TU members or not. Sewak's slide show included

the map above plus many others. It was extremely interesting. He taught us about how the pipes are cemented and how fracking works. [Ed.: *The Earth is being blown apart underground much like mountaintop removal coal mining blows the tops off mountains in West Virginia.*] Additionally, most of the hazardous chemicals used by the industry are "proprietary" and therefore secret from the public because, if the drilling company finds a good mixture, they don't want to share it with their competitors.

The mixtures vary from site to site depending on the subsurface components of earth and rock. Sometimes this waste is dumped illegally as described in the March 17th timesonline.com article entitled "Pennsylvania Man, Company (Allan's Waste Water Service, Inc.) Accused of Dumping Gas Waste."

"It's your land before they come," Sewak said and, when gas men sign leases with homeowners, the leases are a few pages long; however, when they sign a lease on state land, it can be 78 pages. "They'll put a compressor station 300 feet from your home," he explained.

Sewak's plan is to train volunteers to help monitor stream quality and so far he has prepared 172 people across the state. There are 28,000 miles of streams, which are overseen by a few state agencies like Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife. He is trying to formulate a blueprint highlighting areas to save and preserve for fishermen and all of us. Trout Unlimited has formed the CCC or Coldwater Conservation Corps.

One of Sewak's concerns is livestock walking in toxic frack water or ducks migrating through fracking ponds. "Everything we do up in the headwater streams has an effect downstream in warm water streams," he said. Some animal populations like the Pronghorn deer and Sage Grouse out West have crashed and the Bureau of Land Management has been sued because of this.

After explaining problems with gas drilling, Sewak said that, "The battles to me seem to be to change the laws" because it's like the Wild West now with the drillers descending from all over

the world to find gas in Pennsylvania's shale (which is also true in West Virginia, New York and Ohio). His goal is to increase the number of activists involved.

During the Question and Answer period, one elderly fisherman said, "Every time somebody talks about money it scares me because it's going to affect me."

Another person asked, "Are you guys concerned about taking water out?" To which Sewak answered, "Absolutely." Huge quantities are being siphoned off the streams and waterways in the state. One thousand truck loads of water are used per well. This results in miles and miles of new roads, destruction of normal roads not built to handle such volume of heavy traffic and forest fragmentation.

Contact David Sewak at dsewak@tu.org or 814-535-5030. Ask him for his handouts called "Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling Impacts on Hunting, Fishing and Trapping" and "Sportsmen Alliance for Marcellus Conservation," which includes several other outdoor groups. Also see the ad for the Sportsmen Marcellus Shale Summit on June 4th in Johnstown on page 6.

Rep. Dan Moul (R) Hosts Shale Meeting

This is one I almost missed. Thankfully I got an email from a friend in Gettysburg two days before the meeting with this note: "I don't know if anybody informed you but Rep. Dan Moul of Gettysburg is having a forum on fracking. He hopes to propose legislation which will make Pennsylvania favorable to the process and insure an alternative via natural gas for an independent energy future."

Moul's Web site said: "With the rise in gas drilling in the Commonwealth, the public has many questions about what this will mean in terms of jobs, the environment, quality of life and Pennsylvania's energy future. Rep. Dan Moul is hosting a Marcellus Shale informational forum to address many of the questions, concerns, myths and facts associated with the natural gas industry in Pennsylvania."

"Moul will moderate a panel discussion featuring David Yoxheimer, Penn State University Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research; Paula Ballaron, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (did not get to talk); Brian Grove and Barbara Sexton, Chesapeake Energy and Dan Lapato, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection."

My conclusions after three hours of listening were that 1. The speakers were mostly aligned with the gas industry, and 2. The audience wasn't. The audience was very well informed and asked questions that were difficult to answer.

PADEP MARCELLUS INSPECTORS MUZZLED

By Abrahm Lustgarten
ProPublica, March 30, 2011

Oil and gas inspectors policing Marcellus Shale development in Pennsylvania will no longer be able to issue violations to the drilling companies they regulate without first getting the approval of top officials.

That's according to a directive laid out in a series of emails received by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff last week and leaked to ProPublica. The emails say the new edict applies only to enforcement actions related to Marcellus Shale drilling and that failure to seek prior approval "will not be acceptable."

The memos require that each of the hundreds of enforcement actions taken routinely against oil and gas operators in Pennsylvania each month now be approved by the department's executive deputy secretary, John Hines. The memos are raising concerns that the state's environmental inspectors can no longer act independently and that regulations could be overridden by the political whims of the state's

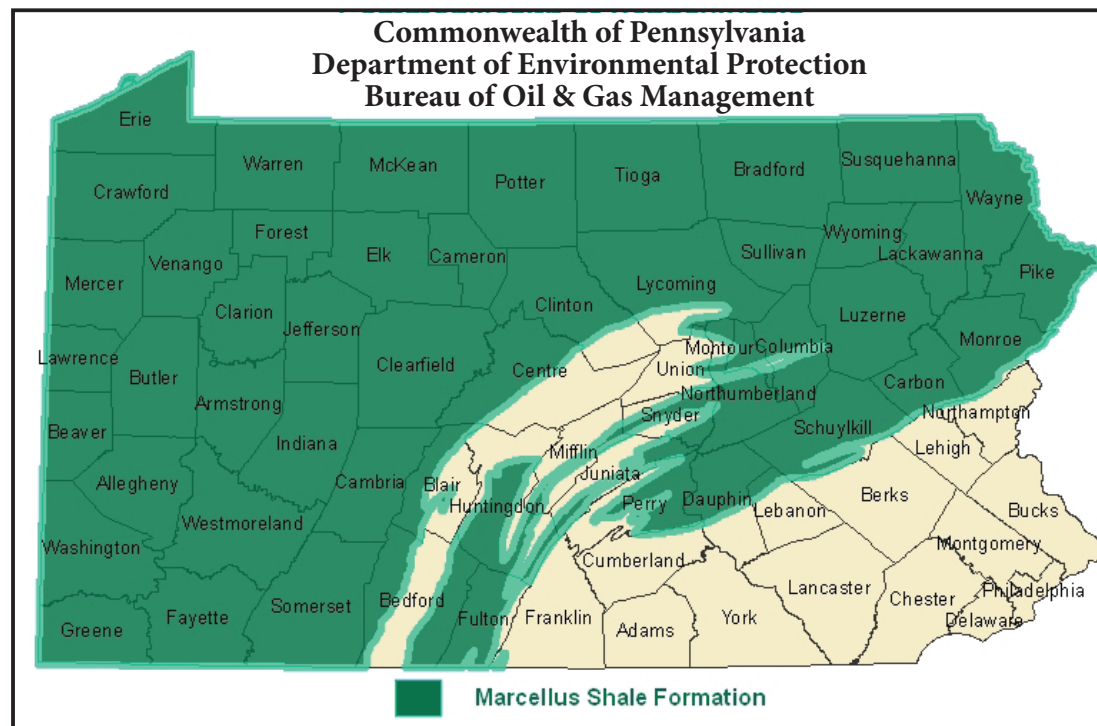
new governor, Tom Corbett.

"What this apparently is saying is that, before any final action, the inspector must get approval by two political appointees: the secretary and the deputy secretary," said John Hanger, who headed the DEP until January under former Governor Ed Rendell and worked to strengthen the state's oil and gas regulations. "It's an extraordinary directive. It represents a break from how business has been done in the department within the Marcellus Shale and within the oil and gas program for probably 20 years.

"It's on its face really breathtaking and it is profoundly unwise. I would urge them to rethink and rescind."

Corbett has made no secret of his support for drilling and has stated repeatedly that regulatory reforms can help spur job creation. *Last month he gave C. Alan Walker, a former coal industry executive and longtime opponent of environmental regulations, authority to override permitting decisions at the DEP in order to encourage economic development.*

A spokeswoman for the DEP



told ProPublica Wednesday that the initiative is not political, will not interfere with enforcement and is intended to clear up confusion and inconsistency in the agency's regional offices. The spokeswoman, Katy Gresh, said there is no connection between

the DEP directive and Gov. Corbett's economic initiatives.

"It isn't meant to be an interference," Gresh said. "It's meant to be a benefit to our constituents and would quite frankly streamline operations."

"There are times that NOV's

(Notices of Violations) have been issued when there is a pop can lying on a site. Yet maybe other things are being missed, things that are truly detrimental to the environment that we want to take action on."

Hanger, however, says that

DEP inspectors need to have breathing room to do their jobs and that forcing a senior review of their actions will only increase skepticism about their enforcement decisions.

"It will cause the public to lose confidence entirely in the inspection process. The oversight process must be professional and independent," Hanger said. "Inserting this level of review means the secretary, if he is going to take this seriously, probably has no time to do anything else."

"I do not believe this is coming from John Hines," Hanger continued. "This is an enormous change in policy and it's impossible for something like this to be issued without the direction and knowledge of the governor's office."

Gresh disagreed. "The governor's office is not behind this," she said. "The governor charged (DEP) secretary (Michael) Krancer with bringing about consistency in his agency. This was a decision made at DEP in order to affect positive change."

Follow Abrahm Lustgarten on Twitter: @AbrahmL.

Learn, Feel, Think and Act

Trying to Get a Gas-Drilling Ban in Cromwell Township, PA: Part II

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania
(in Cromwell Township)

Nine Families Sue Gas Driller, Say Wells Tainted; and Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission Appointed by Governor.

I started going to meetings within a reasonable distance, like the event in Frostburg, Maryland featuring Josh Fox (the producer of Gasland) described on our front page and the Trout Unlimited one sponsored by The Grange (page 2).

These meetings are wonderful because the people attending them are intelligent and concerned. This beats staying home watching TV by a mile. If you are not yet an activist, you do not know the pleasures of being with good people working hard on a good cause.

After Part I of this story appeared in the local weekly newspaper, I received two friendly emails about it. One is on the Letters to the Editor page and one was from a professor at Shippensburg University who sent me a flyer for a three-part seminar co-sponsored by the Geography-Earth Science Organization. The other was from a very knowledgeable man who understood a lot about the geology here. In the next issue, there was a long, long Letter to the Editor congratulating him for publishing it and claiming (among other things) that "the natural gas in the Marcellus and other formations beneath our state is, after all, ours. It does not belong exclusively to drilling companies that are mostly from out-of-state even if they did contribute millions in our last election."

I attended the first seminar (see page 2) and started reading and clipping everything I could find in our local papers. Articles such as: Groups Press Gas Drillers on Fracking; Origins of the Marcellus Natural Gas Boom; Report: Gas Company Paid for Politician's Super Bowl Trip;

I had a long phone conversation with the man from the Huntingdon County Council of Governments who had organized a program for local officials called "Is Natural Gas Exploration and Production in Huntingdon County's Future?" The speaker was Michael A. Arthur, Co-Director of the Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research and a professor of geosciences.

I was all set to go to that when my husband came home unexpectedly shortly after leaving home for his meeting in Balti-

I started going to meetings within a reasonable distance, like the event in Frostburg, Maryland featuring Josh Fox (the producer of Gasland) described on our front page, plus the event at Shippensburg, the Trout Unlimited one sponsored by The Grange and one organized by Rep. Dan Moul in Gettysburg (page 2).

more with a smashed windshield. A huge bird had flown into it as he passed through the local park so he came back to switch cars.

Keeping up my momentum, I decided to get my 'Gasland' DVD back from the Cromwell Township lawyer so I stopped by the office and asked if he had watched it yet. I was shocked when the secretary told me he had not because he would have charged them (us) \$350 an hour!! I could not believe someone living in Pennsylvania working theoretically for the public good would not want to watch 'Gasland' out of curiosity and concern for their state, especially one who earns money from public officials.

Plan B: Get more Cromwell residents interested and hope they will help me accomplish this. I started talking with more and more people about the issue. Interestingly enough, right across the street from the township

office is a garage where we do business and the owners are my friends. I asked if they would like to watch 'Gasland.' They were extremely enthusiastic. In the meantime, I had received an excellent and free DVD called "What You Need to Know About Natural Gas Production" from TEDX (page 7). I was already a huge fan of Theo Colburn (founder and producer of the DVD) because about 15 years ago she had co-authored a powerful book called Our Stolen Future: Are We Threatening Our Fertility, Intelligence and Survival? She is a toxicologist who is gathering concrete data on the health effects of hundreds of hazardous fracking chemicals used by the industry.

I left both DVDs with my friends and they were going to share them with their family and friends. Now, that's the kind of response I was expecting the

township supervisors and solicitor to have!

When I got my DVDs back, my friend told me he had given them to his friend who lives near an already-drilled gas well. He had a contract for a lease in his hands and said the language was so complicated that he needed a lawyer to translate it. Fortunately, he had not signed the contract yet and was very grateful to my friend who told him, "It's not worth making a lot of money if you can't drink your water."

My guess is that we got to him in time and he will not sign that lease, even though he said he could retire comfortably with the royalties they offered him.

Next I passed the DVDs on to the local organic farmer and his wife, who are interested.

I went to my third Cromwell Township meeting April 4 and there were three people from the public there. I talked about the fault in Orbisonia (a town Cromwell surrounds) and mentioned the Trout Unlimited man. They weren't any more interested than last time so I asked them if there was anyone they knew who might work with me on clean drinking water. "No."

"Pitiful," I remarked. Toward the end of the meeting, after all other business was

completed, the Chairman mentioned crafting an ordinance to protect the roads from heavy trucks. Maybe that's a start, although it had more to do with loggers than gas water trucks.

At this point, I'm going to all the meetings I can and will write them up for you - all in the hopes that you might start going to meetings yourself and try to get a gas-drilling ban in your own community. The more bans we have, the quicker Checkmate will come and our water, homes and health will be spared the tragic consequences of gas drilling.

I'm also reading lots and lots of newspaper articles, emails and reports so I can help my readers gather knowledge to enable them to make valid decisions about their own responses to this problem.

Hardly anyone seems to equate natural gas with global warming but the methane in it is a much stronger greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide, the gas most people focus on as the climate-change culprit. Knowing that methane is such a potent greenhouse gas makes me very comfortable doing more Marcellus work in this newspaper, whose original goal was to be a global warming newspaper. It still is.

Other States Look to Pennsylvania to Learn from Marcellus Shale Errors

By Rona Kobell, excerpt
Bay Journal
(Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay)

Maryland natural resources officials are trying to learn everything they can about drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation before granting any permits, saying they hope to avoid the environmental problems that Pennsylvania has endured.

About a year ago, two companies applied to drill for natural gas in Garrett County, in Maryland's far western corner. That county is one of two in the state that overlay the Marcellus Shale, a gas-rich rock formation

about the size of Greece that also stretches across Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia. Already, several companies have leased 100,000 acres of land in Garrett and Allegany counties.

Maryland Department of the Environment Acting Secretary Robert Summers said the department has both the authority and the flexibility to regulate drilling effectively. But as he follows reports of water contamination and wastewater problems in Pennsylvania, he said, he can't help but worry about what would happen should Maryland approve the permits before it had looked at every issue. As a result, Summers

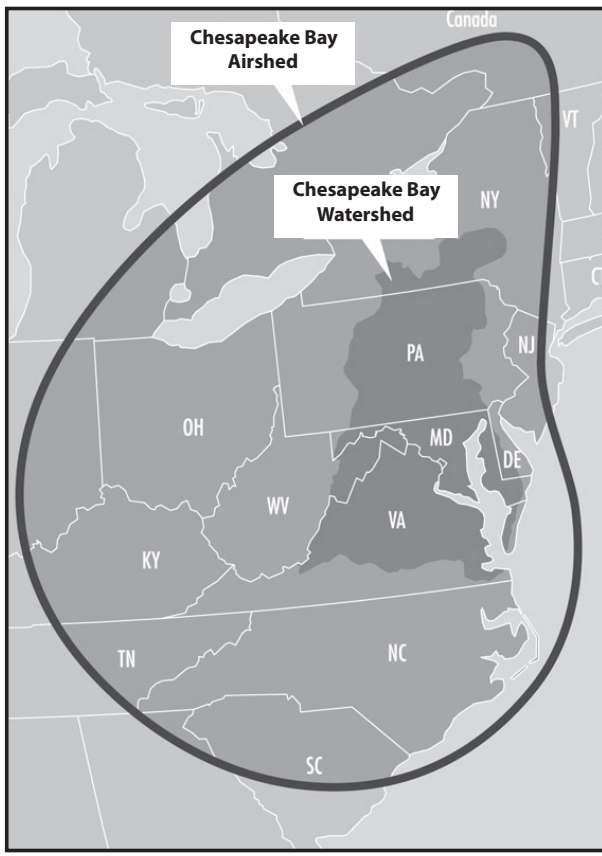
said, he supports a bill winding through the General Assembly that calls for a two-year study before drilling begins.

"All of us, not just the regulatory agencies but the companies as well, have learned from the mistakes made in Pennsylvania," Summers said. "We're making sure we don't repeat the mistakes they've made."

John Griffin, Secretary of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, agrees that the state is not yet ready. He said the department still has to inventory its extensive land holdings in Garrett County and determine where it has mineral rights.

Among his concerns is the preservation of the Savage River, its adjacent state forest and the Youghiogheny River, which remains the state's only scenic and wild river.

"There are a lot of great natural resources in Garrett County," Griffin said. "We're concerned about the overall cumulative impacts on landscapes, forest fragmentation and habitat destruction. The question is where, to what extent and how we can go forward in a more measured way than in the Wild-Wild-West way, which is what is happening in Pennsylvania."



Map courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation/cbf.org

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Global in Scope, "Down-Home" in Nature

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Earth News

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

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

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

Masthead: The masthead photo is one of the many glorious red bud trees which flower in May in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Most High's Council of Elders

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

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:
10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

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

Open Letter from 'Gasland' Director in Response to Attacks

By Josh Fox
tr u t h o u t: February 21, 2011

With the recent Oscar nomination of my documentary film 'Gasland', Big Gas and their PR attack machine hit a new low in its blatant disregard for the truth.

In an unprecedented move, an oil and gas industry front group sent a letter to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences saying that the film should be ineligible for best documentary feature.

We are honored and encouraged by the Academy's nomination. It is terrific to be acknowledged as filmmakers by the film world's most prestigious honor. But perhaps more than that, I believe that the nomination has provided hope, inspiration and affirmation for the thousands of families out there who are suffering because of the natural gas drilling. The Oscars are about dreams and I know that for all of us living with the nightmare of gas drilling the nomination provides further proof that someone out there cares.

Now Big Gas wants to take that away, as they have shattered the American dream for so many. 'Gasland' exposes the disaster being caused across the U.S. by the largest domestic natural gas drilling campaign history and how the contentious Halliburton-developed drilling technology called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, threatens the water supply of millions.

Fracking is a whole-scale industrialization process that pumps millions of gallons of toxic material directly into the ground. Thousands of documented contamination cases show the harmful chemicals used have been turning up in people's water supplies in fracking areas all over the map.

We stand behind the testimo-

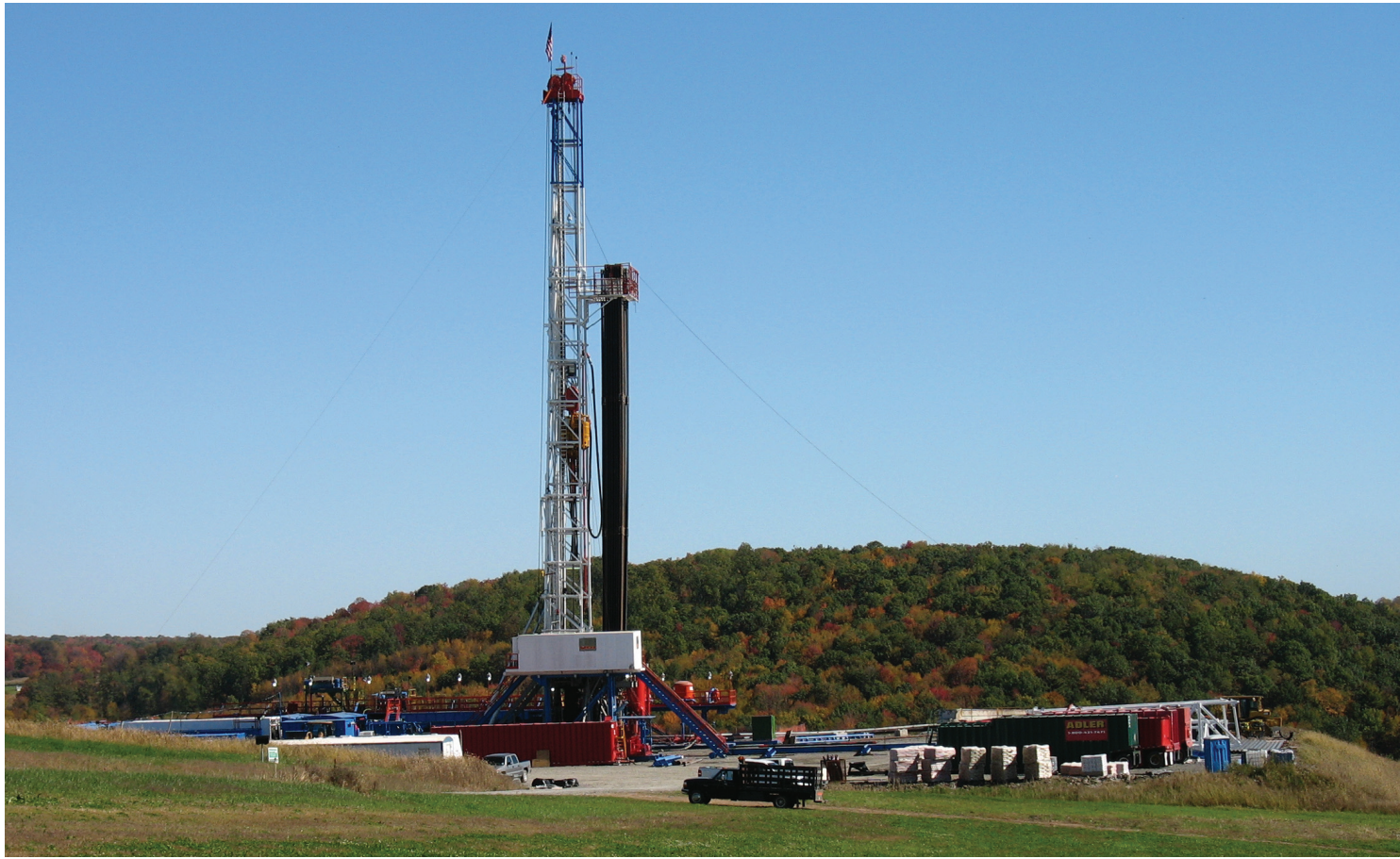


Photo courtesy PA DEP Marcellus Page

"The Oscars are about dreams and I know that for all of us living with the nightmare of gas drilling the nomination provides further proof that someone out there cares," says Josh Fox, producer of the documentary, 'Gasland.'

nials, facts, science and investigative journalism in the film 100 percent. We have issued a point-by-point rebuttal of the group's claims (Affirming 'Gasland'), posted on our Web site.

It's not just us they're after. The gas industry goes after anyone who tries to punch a hole in their lie. Last week the same pro-drilling group, Energy in Depth (EID), attacked an investigative piece on drilling pollution by ProPublica, the highly credible, public-interest journalism organization.

And just last week, T. Boone Pickens, the most visible promoter of gas fracking, went on 'The Daily Show' claiming that he personally has fracked over

3,000 wells and never witnessed any contamination cases, even when Jon Stewart asked him about 'Gasland' point blank. He simply stated over and over again the industry lie, that fracking is safe. Not a single word of acknowledgement or responsibility for the claims of thousands and the threat posed to millions.

The gas industry believes it can create a new reality in which their nationwide onshore drilling campaign isn't a disaster. But no amount of PR money or slick ads can keep the stories of contamination coming from thousands of Americans from being any less true.

On Monday, Congressional

investigators called out frackers for pumping millions of gallons of diesel fuel directly into the ground, exposing drinking water sources to benzene and other carcinogens. This makes EID's specious and misleading attack on the science and data in 'Gasland' especially ironic since Halliburton stonewalled Congressman Henry Waxman's investigation into fracking, refusing to provide data on their use of diesel and other harmful chemicals injected in the fracking process.

There are major watershed areas providing water to millions of Americans that are at risk here, including the watershed

areas for New York City and Philadelphia. The catastrophe has been widely covered not only in 'Gasland' but also by hundreds of news stories, films and TV segments. This is a moment of crisis that cannot be understated.

Even before its release, the power of the film was not lost on the industry. In the March 24th edition of the *Oil and Gas Journal*, Skip Horvath, president of the Natural Gas Supply Association said that 'Gasland' is "well done; it holds people's attention and it could block our industry."

'Gasland' was seen by millions and I personally toured with the film to over 100 cities. In affected

areas, people came to the screenings with their contaminated water samples in tow. They came to have the truth they know shared and confirmed

As Maurice D. Hinchey, U.S. Representative (NY-22) recently said, "Thanks to 'Gasland' and the millions of grassroots activists across the country, we finally have a counterweight to the influence of the oil and gas industry in our nation's capital."

Big Gas is blocking the truth in their pursuit of hundreds of billions of dollars of profit. Their clear goal is to ensure our nation remains addicted to fossil fuels for the rest of this century. They seek to stifle the development of truly renewable energy.

They're playing dirty in more ways than one, attacking the film and the testimonials and science in it instead of taking responsibility and addressing the contamination, destruction and harm that they are creating.

I now know how the people in my documentary feel, to have the things they know to be true and the questions they are raising so blatantly discounted and smeared. It is truly unfortunate that the gas-drilling industry continues to deny what is so obvious to Americans living in Gasland's across the nation.

Josh Fox
Director, 'Gasland'
www.Gaslandthemovie.com

Media Contact: Josh Baran:
icbaran@gmail.com or 917-797-1799. The DVD is about \$30. Buy it on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/'Gasland'-Josh-Fox/dp/B0042EJD8A/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&...

Josh Fox is based in New York City and is available for interviews. DVD screeners for the media are available. 'Gasland' WAS NOMINATED FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY OSCAR!

Gasland continued from page 1

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

worth living in while the gas is being drilled either," he explained.

I've gotten ahead of myself here so I'll revert to my notes and give you a more chronological description of how the discussion went.

Fox spent two-and-a-half years travelling to 24 states and collected enough material for a six-hour documentary. "It seemed like a big story that was under the radar" and he quickly got "sucked in." He wanted to make face-to-face contact with the people who were fighting gas drilling. When he was offered a lease on his own property in the upper Delaware River watershed, he learned that the gas industry was exempt from all the major environmental laws in this country: the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Superfund, etc. What he found when he took his investigation on the road was "more and more and more confirmation that everywhere this industry goes there are problems."

Fox is getting lots of flack from the gas companies who are trying to discredit his film (for obvious reasons) so Fox challenged them: "If you can show me somewhere with more than 100 wells where you don't have these problems (contaminated water and air, sick people, trashed property values, etc.), take me to that town and I'll amend my documentary. [Also see article above.]

Wrightstone explained that the gas from one of the faucets where the tap water was lit on fire in the film was from a coal seam. He also said he had an affidavit from a resident of Dimock, Pennsylvania (where the water was so bad that the Pennsylvania DEP ordered the drilling company, Cabot, to pay for new water lines to the homes) swearing that they had natural gas in their water for a long time. Nine square miles of the people's aquifer was poisoned and it cost \$12 million to build new pipelines for clean water seven miles away.

Fox accused the oil and gas industry of using old test data in their presentations and excuses to the public. "It's a nice dog-and-pony show ... but it's not the standard. There are no standards ... every single attempt to get regulations has been shut down by the oil and gas industries. I don't want this to happen to me or you."

The drillers don't just drill one well, and that's all a family has to deal with who lives nearby, but there are 1,150 tanker truck trips - about one every 30 seconds - for each well. They can drill up to 10 wells on each pad and develop several wells simultaneously so that the industrial process goes on for years and years with emissions of poisonous volatile organic substances 24 hours a day with no regulations. [Ed.: When I was an air pollution inspector in New Jersey, operations like this would have needed a permit for every single source of toxic emissions.]

When Wrightstone kept repeating that no harm had been done by the gas industry, Fox's eyebrows contracted and he had a smirk on his face as he listened to the corporate line.

There are 3,000 Marcellus wells and 8,000 permits have been approved so far; there are 2,000 violations with millions of gallons of neurotoxins (chemicals that harm the brain and nervous system). A clip from 'Gasland' showed Theo Colburn (author of the important book written about 15 years ago, *Our Stolen Future*, and a toxicologist) that there are 500 chemicals used in fracking across the land and many of them can cause peripheral



Photo by Iona

Josh Fox, producer of the film *Gasland* (left), waiting for his turn to speak at the event held in Frostburg, Maryland. Gas industry representative, Gregory Wrightstone is on the right.

nerve damage or permanent brain damage and the pain can be excruciating.

The industry admits it has a 2 to 5% failure rate. "If airplanes had a 2 to 5% failure rate, I'd be dead from all the flying I'm doing." (Fox was in Arkansas the day before this program.) He recommended fracktracker.org as a good source of reliable information.

"It's up to the citizens of Shale Country to make sure things are done right; to keep it from becoming a crap heap," Fox told the enthusiastic audience, who applauded him often.

One of the women we featured in the January issue of OE, Stephanie Hollowich (who had four separate gas well pads next to her home, a 12-million-gallon water impoundment 150 yards away, a natural gas processing plant about 300 yards away, a compressor station and a meter station each about 500 yards away, numerous pipelines and access roads surrounding her home and two young children with toxics in their blood) was finally forced to move when the condensate tank exploded even though nobody wanted to buy her house (except for Range Resources, which caused the harm according to Wrightstone, who added a few more statements about Hollowich), at which point, Fox pulled out his cell phone and told Wrightstone, "I was going to call Stephanie Hollowich because everything you just said about her is not true" but, since he was still in the middle of the program, he didn't make the call.

"The states are not ready for this," Fox said. "You don't have any protections in place to make sure the environment is healthy when you're done gas drilling."

"You paint with a broad brush and you're not backed up by the science," Wrightstone replied. But Fox said that his science is the people on the ground - in every single case - who are suffering. "To deny them, issue smear campaigns against thousands of people who shared their stories, bothers me," Fox said in response. The 'Gasland' team has put together 45 pages in pdf form on their Web site (Gasland.com) in response to the industry's smear campaign.

In one of Wrightstone's film clips, there was a meeting of humble people considering signing leases. He said that one farmer, most of whom he characterized as not having "two nickels to rub together," started crying and said, "Because of you, we don't have to sell the family farm."

Question #1: If you lived in a neighborhood where the Marcellus Shale was being drilled and you started to have physical problems, what would be the best thing to do to defend yourself?

Answer by Fox: "That's a great question. People choose to ban together and sue even though, in Dimock, they weren't the types to go around suing." They said, "It's too late for us; take this message to New York and Pennsylvania."

"That's why I'm doing this every single day - so others don't end up in a legal relationship with guys like Wrightstone.

Question #2: I've been to every Marcellus meeting in the region. I heard about the money and natural gas being a clean source of energy. How can you justify even saying that when the entire process is so dirty? Do you expect us to actually believe you when you say it's clean energy when it's not? It's all bologna.

Answer by Wrightstone: We are weaning ourselves from foreign oil.

Answer by Fox: What you see here is competing with the clean energy people for the world's energy supply. Natural gas is on a par with coal; it is not cleaner than coal when you consider everything, including the external costs that aren't included in the calculations like the radioactive material in the wells, the 800 earthquakes in Arkansas where they shut down an injection well facility, in addition to the health issues. Only 3% of our energy comes from natural gas; 3% from renewable energy. The infrastructure for natural gas is \$350 billion of infrastructure. I don't want to see pipelines crisscrossing these beautiful mountains, like ski slopes all over, that you can't use in the future.

Question #3 from a woman wearing a Frostburg State University sweatshirt: *The New York Times* article backs up everything Josh says. Salt is

damaging sewage systems. In Pittsburgh they were told to drink bottled water. We taxpayers are going to be cleaning it up. It won't be the gas industry. If it gets into rivers, "They hit and run."

Answer from Wrightstone: *The New York Times* piece about radioactivity in the water supply was "chock full of inaccuracies." A nine-page rebuttal just came out. Even granite countertops have radioactivity in them.

Answer from Fox: You're not drinking your granite countertop. Every step of the way you (Wrightstone) have a denial.

Question #4: The number one income for Western Maryland is recreation. People come here for something they don't get where they live. They are not going to want to come here if there is gas drilling.

Answer from Wrightstone: Are you suggesting that we ban drilling in Garrett County? UPROARIOUS APPLAUSE!

[The Humanities woman who started the introductions stressed that people be "civil" so, when the extremely loud applause broke out at the idea of a ban, someone implied that the audience was not being "civil." Fox raised his voice and slapped the table saying something like, "This is a civil response; it is their right to clap." One man in the question-asking line shouted out, "We ARE civil, we are not violent."

Wrightstone continued by explaining that this is a private property right and to deny the landowners the right to make money on their land is considered a "taking" and these people can expect lawsuits against the county if there is a ban.

Answer from Fox: Do you see how quickly the screw turns? Turns into a threat? Public health trumps money; that's the hinge this all turns on and you just saw it.

Question #5 from a young woman: If it's so safe, why won't they tell us what's in fracking fluids?

Answer from Wrightstone: Go to the Web sites. We're not scared. Range has been a leader in stating their fracking fluids.

Question #6 from a farmer: Why not put up a solar panel? What area would you need to be covered with solar panels to replace one gas well? Hundreds of thousands of acres.

Answer from Fox: We have hundreds of thousands of acres; they're called rooftops. Natural gas receives three times the level of subsidies that clean energy receives. Even my step-uncle who is not into these things just put up solar panels. Now he says that, even with his flat-screen TVs and air conditioning, he has no electric bill. If it were not for the Halliburton Loophole (letting the companies get away with discharging hazardous wastes without treating them), this would not be profitable.

Fox's parting advice for the audience was: "Do not stop watching 'Gasland'. The people in the film are not lying. I have no reason to lie. Watch 'Second Estate' (a movie about underground mineral rights). Keep going with your research. I haven't stopped. We're making 'Gasland 2'; I have a huge responsibility to the people in the film. I'd love to move beyond this to see a clean-energy future."

Fox is working on 'Gasland 2' because he feels a sense of responsibility to the people he met who have already been harmed by natural gas drilling, mostly out West but now in Pennsylvania and New York, too.

Quebec Will No Longer Allow Fracking

Submitted by Kim Stenley
 Taneytown, Maryland

By Kevin Dougherty
 MontrealGazette.com: March 17, 2011

QUEBEC — Nathalie Normandeau, Quebec's natural resources minister, announced Wednesday that the Quebec government would no longer authorize any hydraulic fracturing operations in the province.

Normandeau said the ban will apply to fracking both for gas and oil but that fracking could be done for scientific purposes.

A panel of independent experts, which the government has yet to name, will determine whether an individual fracking operation will add to scientific knowledge about the impact of the controversial technique used to extract natural gas from shale rock formations.

In announcing the ban, Normandeau noted that the BAPE (Quebec's Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement) said in its report recommending further study before shale-gas exploration goes ahead, that there is a lack of knowledge.

When he presented the BAPE report and agreed to its recommendation for a strategic envi-

ronmental evaluation, Environment Minister Pierre Arcand said fracking could continue at the 31 wells already drilled in Quebec.

Normandeau's announcement was made for reasons of "coherence," the minister said. The strategic environmental evaluation could take 18 to 30 months, Normandeau said.

Arcand said he hopes to name the panel of experts, proposed by the BAPE and composed of representatives of municipalities, government, industry and people with scientific and environmental expertise, by June or July.

Normandeau said the ban, decided at a weekly meeting of the Quebec cabinet, comes into force immediately.

"Concretely, that means that if there are fracturing activities in the petroleum domain, for example, the decision will be made by the panel of experts on the condition that the fracturing activities improve our knowledge," Normandeau told reporters.

Gas leaks at wells that have already been fracked in Quebec led Arcand in January to question whether the industry was in control of the situation.

In the United States, where fracking to extract shale gas is



more advanced, there have been reports of gas and toxic fracking liquid getting into the water supply, although industry spokesmen have denied there are problems.

Marc Durand, a retired geology professor, has noted that fracking only extracts 20 per cent of the gas but it also shatters the rock, allowing the gas to circulate and creating the potential for future environmental problems.

And a six-month *New York Times* investigation found that water used in fracking can be contaminated with radiation.

Read more: <http://www.montrealgazette.com/technology/Quebec+will+longer+authorize+fracking/4451532/story.html#ixzz1GshaaxXt>.

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After Grassroots Struggle, Buffalo Bans Fracking

By Ellie Dorritte
 Philly Activists email: March 6, 2011

BUFFALO, New York — After months of demonstrations and repeatedly packing the gallery at City Council meetings, Frack Action Buffalo, a local grassroots group, and its supporters celebrated a major victory.

The city of Buffalo's Common Council became the first major city government in New York State — and the second in the U.S. — to ban hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. The Council passed "Buffalo's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance" on February 8th by a 9 to 0 vote.

The activists succeeded in combating an assault on Buffalo's media and legislators by spokespeople from the powerful gas and oil industry, who targeted this very poor city with propaganda about huge numbers of jobs to be created by fracking. The Frack Action group's success was the result of intense research, informational meetings in many communities and detailed presentations to lawmakers.

Buffalo follows in the footsteps of Pittsburgh, which passed a similar ban last November; however, the Buffalo law not only prohibits drillers from fracking for gas in Buffalo, it also bars the disposal of drilling waste water or other production wastes within city limits.

This is where the Buffalo law is different from Pittsburgh's: It takes on the issue of what to do with the millions of gallons of wastewater generated by the pro-

cess. This dangerous byproduct of fracking contains carcinogens, volatile organic compounds and radioactive material.

In Pennsylvania, as reported in January by the Associated Press, the Department of Environmental Protection authorized the discharge of at least 3.6 million barrels of fracking wastewater — with minimal to no treatment — into rivers and streams across the state.

Immediately after Buffalo's ban was passed, the Pittsburgh City Council passed a resolution supporting Buffalo's ban on fracking.

Shortly afterward, it was revealed in New York State Department of Environmental Conservation documents that wastewater from vertical fracking wells has been knowingly accepted by Buffalo water treatment facilities, although they could not properly treat it. Contaminants were therefore released into the Niagara River, the water source for several towns and for the huge mists of Niagara Falls.

"Buffalo is leading the way," said Rita Yelda, a student at Buffalo State and organizer with Frack Action Buffalo, at their press conference following the Council vote. "And we urge other cities and towns to pass similar bans. We want to tell Albany: We will stand up in defense of our communities if you will not."

Fracking is unregulated at the federal level due to exemptions given to the powerful gas and oil industry in the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act.

Mountain Lake Park, MD Adopts Ordinance, Bans Drilling

The people have rights. Corporations can't be licensed to take them away.

— Mayor Leo Martin —

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund: March 3, 2011

Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County, Maryland has joined Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in adopting a Community Bill of Rights that also "removes legal powers from gas extraction corporations within the Town."

Ordinance No. 2011-01 was introduced to Council by Mayor Leo Martin for a First Reading of the bill, titled Mountain Lake Park's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance, on January 6th of this year and a public hearing on the measure was held February 3rd.

At the heart of the Ordinance is this statement of law: "It shall be unlawful for any corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas within the Town of Mountain Lake Park, with the exception of gas wells installed and operating at the time of

enactment of this Ordinance."

The bill also recognizes the right of the people to "a form of governance where they live which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent and that corporate entities and their directors and managers shall not enjoy special privileges or powers under the law which make community majorities subordinate to them."

Following adoption of the ordinance, Mayor Martin commented: "Our town government is responsible for the health, safety and rights our citizens. When the county, state and federal governments fail in their duties it is our duty to take action."

Also included in the ordinance is a local Bill of Rights that asserts legal protections for the right to water, the rights of natural communities and eco-systems, the right to local self-government and the right of the people to enforce and protect these rights by banning corporate activities that would violate them through the police powers of their municipal government.

The bill was modeled after the Ordinance adopted on November 16th of last year by the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund. "If Pittsburgh can do it, we can do it," said the Mayor, as he introduced the Ordinance in January and he indicated that other Maryland municipalities should take a similar stand.

The gas extraction technique known as "fracking" has been cited as a threat to surface and ground water throughout the region and has been blamed for fatal explosions, the contamination of drinking water, local streams, the air and soil. Collateral damage includes lost property value, ingestion of toxins by livestock, drying up of mortgage loans for prospective home buyers and threatened loss of organic certification for farmers in the affected communities.

Ben Price, Projects Director for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, applauded the Mayor for taking a stand on behalf of community rights. "The State says Maryland residents don't have the right to decide whether or not they get

fracked and that only the corporate-lobbied members of the legislature have the wisdom to decide how much harm should be legalized through state-issued permits. We don't have a gas drilling problem. We have a democracy problem. Its symptoms are the State's refusal to recognize the right to local, community self-government and the issuance of permits to drilling corporations against the consent of the governed."

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

Harveys Lake to Consider Banning Corporations from Drilling

This ordinance isn't only about gas drilling. It's about answering the question "Who Decides?"

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund
 February 16, 2011

Following comments from borough residents that lasted more than an hour, Councilwoman Diane Dwyer made a motion to introduce a bill that would establish a local community Bill of Rights and, among other prohibitions, a ban on corporations drilling for gas in Harveys Lake. The vote on the motion to advertise the ordinance prior to a public hearing and final vote on adoption carried 3 to 2 at the borough's regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday night.

The vote was three in favor (Larry Radel, Carole Samson and Diane Dwyer), two against (Fran Kopko and Ryan Doughton) and one abstention (Boyd Barber). During public comment, Borough resident Carol Culver addressed the Council first by stating that Councilman Boyd Barber has signed three leases with gas companies and should recuse himself from any vote on the topic. He agreed and did not vote on the hearing for the ordinance.

Community residents first approached borough council with the ordinance and a request for a hearing in August of 2010. Since then, requests for a hearing have been repeated at council meetings in November and December, to no avail, and the request was defeated by a 3 to 3 vote in January. Last night's vote came following a community meeting on the measure, sponsored by borough residents and held at the Borough Hall on February 12th.

During last night's public comment period, resident Rae Dziak, a shoreline property owner and local realtor, addressed the council saying that, "Property values will be zero if the lake is contaminated by the fracking process." She also objected to "the arrogance of members of Council" who refused to be guided by the will of the people and consider the community rights ordinance.

At the heart of the ordinance is a local Bill of Rights that asserts legal protections for the right to water; the rights of natural com-

munities; the right to local self-government and the right of the people to enforce and protect these rights through their municipal government.

Among the prohibitions included to protect community rights in "Harveys Lake Borough's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance" are these statements of law:

It shall be unlawful for any corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas within Harveys Lake Borough...It shall be unlawful for any corporation to extract water from any source, whether surface or subsurface, within Harveys Lake, for use in the extraction of subsurface natural gas... It shall be unlawful for any corporation to deposit waste water, "produced" water, "frack" water, brine or other materials or by-products of natural gas extraction activities, into the land, air or waters within the Borough of Harveys Lake...

The bill was drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) at the request of community members.

During discussion on the motion to advertise, Councilman Larry Radle raised concerns about the ordinance but ended up voting in favor of advertising it. He said there are three options for the Council to consider: do nothing and likely get fracked, try to zone drilling and get fracked in those designated places or adopt the community rights ordinance and maybe get sued and then fracked.

During the public comment period, borough resident Neil Turner spoke to the issue of lawsuits saying that even if Council adopts a zoning ordinance that restricts drilling to certain areas, the harms would be experienced throughout the community and, if attorneys for drilling corporations objected to the zoning scheme, they could sue the Borough demanding a curative amendment and, if they prevailed in court, the results could be the same as having no ordinance at all.

Commenting on the proposed ordinance, community organizer for CELDF, Shireen Parsons, stated, "This ordinance isn't only about gas drilling. It's about answering the question 'Who decides?' Will executives for gas drilling corporations make governing decisions for Harveys Lake? Will the state issue permits against the will of the governed?"

Tackling Corporate Power, One Town at a Time

Submitted by Kim Stenley

By Mari Margil
 YES! Magazine: March 17, 2011

What's a town to do when state regulatory agencies don't keep corporate drilling out?

As more information about the dangers of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking" (a technique used during natural gas drilling) emerges, more and more cities and municipalities are organizing to keep drilling and fracking out of their own communities but are surprised to find that they do not have the legal authority to say "No" to these corporate activities.

Last week, Mountain Lake Park, Maryland, with fewer than 2,500 residents, became the latest community to do something about this, adopting the state's first ordinance banning corporations from natural gas drilling.

Drafted with the help of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), the ordinance comes on the heels of the City of Pittsburgh's ordinance banning drilling by corporations, adopted in November. Both ordinances also eliminate the authority of corporations to wield their constitutional rights to override the municipality's wishes. Such constitutional rights and powers are often used by corporations to overturn local and state laws adopted to protect the environment and public health.

A similar ordinance was recently introduced in Wales, New York; it was scheduled for a vote in April. If adopted, it

would make Wales the first community in New York to restrict corporate rights and ban corporations from drilling.

Natural gas drilling and fracking — a technique now used in over 90 percent of gas wells — is spreading across the massive Marcellus Shale natural gas deposit, which stretches from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and into Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia.

Fracking involves injecting fresh water with sand and chemicals into the ground to fracture rock and release the gas. The result of fracking is millions of gallons of toxic wastewater, which finds its way into rivers and streams. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is asking the industry to voluntarily release the list of chemicals used; meanwhile, use of the practice is increasing.

Communities are finding that their state governments are legally authorizing corporations to conduct these activities. Thus, instead of helping communities to stop the drilling and its potentially toxic impacts, state governments — including environmental regulatory agencies — are actually issuing permits to corporations to drill.

Corporate Control? Not In These Communities

Can local laws really have an effect on big corporations? Towns facing other kinds of corporate projects — such as mining, factory farms, and corporate water withdrawals — have had similar experiences, finding that the regulatory agencies they

expected to protect them were in fact permitting the activities the communities wanted to prevent.

For example, residents in the Town of Nottingham, New Hampshire, faced with a proposal from the USA Springs corporation to siphon off over 300,000 gallons of water a day from the local aquifer, sought help from the state Department of Environmental Services (DES) to stop the project and protect their water.

Commercial water withdrawals impact both surface and groundwater resources. They deplete drinking water and can contaminate aquifers and wells. In addition, withdrawals dry up streams, wetlands and lakes, as well as damaging habitat and harming wildlife. But Nottingham found that the DES, rather than helping communities protect their water, was instead issuing permits to corporations to take it.

Communities in Pennsylvania, facing corporate factory farms, have had a similar experience. They found that, rather than helping them stop factory farms, the state Department of Environmental Protection was issuing permits to corporations to set up industrial operations housing tens of thousands of hogs. The impacts from these industrial farms — including environmental pollution, public health problems, the loss of small and family farms — did not seem to have bearing on the state's decisions.

Communities such as Mountain Lake Park are beginning to

look inward, adopting local laws which assert the community's right to self govern and thus ban corporations from drilling.

State agencies are following regulations established under state laws which legally authorize such activities. Communities are thus coming up against their own state governments when they're trying to protect the local environment and public health. Natural gas drilling is proving no different.

That's why Mountain Lake Park — along with many other municipalities facing water extraction, natural gas drilling or other threats to community and environmental health — is no longer looking to the state for help. Instead they are beginning to look inward, adopting local laws which assert the community's right to self govern and thus ban corporations from drilling.

As Mountain Lake Park Mayor Leo Martin explained after the recent vote, "Our town government is responsible for the health, safety and rights our citizens. When the county, state and federal governments fail in their duties it is our duty to take action."

Mari Margil is the associate director of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, a nonprofit, public interest law firm providing legal services to communities facing threats to their local environment, agriculture, economy, and quality of life. For more information, go to www.celdf.org.

Anatomy of a Gas Well

What Happened When a Well Was Drilled in a National Forest

By Nicholas Kusnetz, excerpt
ProPublica: February 4, 2011

This story has been updated:
In our original story we wrote that there were 73 active gas wells in the Monongahela National Forest in 2009. We have since received updated and more specific information. Of those 73 wells, three have since been plugged and are no longer producing. Another 55 are actually gas storage wells. When demand is low, operators can pump natural gas into these non-producing wells and store it in geological formations deep underground until demand picks up. The 15 remaining wells are currently producing or are ready to produce gas.

A new report^[1] by the U.S. Forest Service offers one of the most detailed accounts yet of how natural gas drilling can affect a forest – in this case the Fernow Experimental Forest, deep in the mountains of West Virginia.

The report traces the construction and drilling of a single well and an accompanying pipeline on a sliver of the 4,700 acre forest that federal scientists have been studying for nearly 80 years. It found that the project felled or killed about 1,000 trees, damaged roads, eroded the land and – perhaps most important – permanently removed a small slice of the forest from future scientific research.

The report said the drilling didn't appear to have a substantial effect on groundwater quality. The scientists did not monitor the forest's most sensitive ecosystems, including extensive caves, and did not evaluate the operation's impact on wildlife. The authors also did not test for any of the chemicals added to drilling and hydraulic fracturing fluids.

The report, and the well in question, hints at a larger story of the tensions that have emerged as drilling expands across federal lands in the eastern United States. The B800 well, as it's called, drew controversy^[2] within the Forest

Service when it was planned and approved in 2007. In a letter^[3] obtained by the group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER, three Forest Service scientists criticized the decision to approve the well, saying it threatened endangered bats and the interconnected caves where they live. The scientists also said the well threatened the long-term research performed in the forest. The employees requested a legal opinion on the matter but were reportedly rebuffed^[4] by their superiors.

The report, whose authors include the three scientists who criticized the decision, notes that some of the scientists' worst fears, including that turbid water would fill the area's caves, did not occur. Instead, the greatest impacts of drilling were unexpected. A planned release of wastewater killed scores of trees and drilling trucks proved much more damaging to the roads than normal logging traffic.

Tom Schuler, a forest researcher who signed the letter and worked on the new report, said it is one of the first published studies to observe the entire course of drilling and preparing a well for production.

"It really opened up this new area that's very pertinent to what's going on in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and the whole northeast United States," he said. "It opened up the sort of first chapter to that."

The need for that research is great, Schuler said. Drilling in Pennsylvania's Allegheny National Forest, which hosts thousands of wells, has drawn concern^[5] for years^[6]. There are 15 wells currently producing gas in the Monongahela National Forest, which contains the Fernow research area. A 2006 Forest Service report^[7] said 75 percent of the total area of the forest may sit above a gas reservoir.

There have been other controversial leases in the Monongahela National Forest as well. Last year, the Bureau of Land Management cancelled plans^[8] to



Photo taken June 11, 2008 by U.S. Forest Service
From USDA Fernow Experimental Forest pipeline report: Foliar injury of trees damaged by aerial release of drilling fluids on May 29, 2008, from the B800 well. Pit containing drilling fluids is shown in the foreground.

lease land for gas development after environmental groups said drilling would threaten endangered bats, as well as local fisheries and water supplies.

In much of the East, national forests were created from privately-owned land and in many cases the mineral rights remained private. The result is a legal gray area. The documents unearthed by PEER include a legal memorandum^[9] from an Interior Department solicitor saying that while the government cannot prevent a leaseholder from developing the gas, "The Forest Service may exercise its discretion in approving the location of structures on the surface to establish reasonable conditions and mitigation measures to protect federal surface resources, including endangered species..."

PEER brought attention^[10] to this legal problem in 2009,

saying the Forest Service was not prepared to handle mineral rights across 34 eastern states and, in the case of the Fernow gas well, avoided addressing the legal uncertainties.

"In the face of ambiguity, they just got out of the way," Jeff Ruch, PEER's executive director, told ProPublica. Ruch said the documents PEER found showed that Forest Service administrators had more authority than they were ready to acknowledge.

The Fernow well is a vertical well and did not require the high volumes of hydraulic fracturing fluids that are commonly injected into the horizontal wells drilled in the Marcellus Shale, which underlies much of West Virginia. The Fernow well was fracked but with much less fluid.

According to the report, a well blowout^[11] accidentally sprayed that fracking fluid onto surrounding land and trees,

browning leaves and killing ground cover. After drilling was complete, Berry Energy, which owns the well, also sprayed some 80,000 gallons of wastewater into the forest. The briny liquid shocked about 150 trees into shedding their leaves. A year later, half of those trees still had no foliage. This disposal method, called land application, is legal in West Virginia with conventional wells, Schuler said, but is not allowed for wells drilled in the Marcellus Shale.

Schuler said the scientists were surprised that the trees lost their leaves. Drillers normally spray the waste over a larger area but the scientists asked Berry to contain the application, which meant spreading the salts and chemicals on a smaller piece of land. The soil in that area was left with high levels of chloride, calcium and sodium. Animals were attracted to the area, likely

because of the high salt content of the soil.

David Berry, president of Berry Energy, said his company repaired the damage to the roads. He lamented the harm done by the waste disposal. "We always used a good bit of real estate and never had that type of result or impact," he said. "If I'd known, I would have demanded more area to do our land application."

Berry said his company operates about 130 wells in West Virginia and holds another lease for some 6,700 acres elsewhere in the Monongahela National Forest.

The report's authors said more research is necessary and that their findings should not be extrapolated to other wells in the region.

"There are pros and cons to the development of natural gas and there are environmental impacts as we document," Schuler said. "It's going to be developed and it would behoove us to do it in an environmentally sustainable way and that's what we're trying to begin to understand."

[1] <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/37268>

[2] <http://blogs.wvgazette.com/watchdog/2009/03/10/ignoring-science-at-the-forest-service/>

[3] http://www.peer.org/docs/usda/03_11_09_FS_scientists_protest.pdf

[4] http://www.peer.org/docs/usda/03_11_09_Blocked_request_for_legal_guidance.pdf

[5] <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/07203/803518-113.stm>

[6] <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09075/955874-85.stm>

[7] http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_011326.pdf

[8] http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2010/monongahela-03-18-2010.html

[9] http://www.peer.org/docs/fs/02_19_09_Interior_Solicitor_opinion.pdf

[10] http://www.peer.org/news/news_id.php?row_id=1162

[11] <http://blogs.wvgazette.com/watchdog/2009/03/11/gas-drilling-damage-i/>

Who Wants to See Fracking Stopped in Pennsylvania?

Building a Statewide Coalition.

Step #1: Build a gigantic email list; send your email address to ionaconner@pa.net

First Meeting July 2
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
Mercersburg, Pennsylvania

- Educate
- Strategize
- Organize

What are citizens going to do to tackle the industry which has bought many of our legislators and the governor?

Guest Speakers: Stacey Schmader, Co-Founder of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), will briefly describe the history of her organization and their Democracy Schools. Shireen Parsons will describe how CELDF is helping communities across the nation create local ordinances banning gas drilling in order to protect the environment, drinking water, property values and public health. property values and public health.

Directions: If you are driving into Mercersburg from Greencastle go right at the square between Juliets and the log cabin, go one block and turn left onto Fayette Street. The church is located on the right side and there is parking across the street from the church. For further information call Iona Conner at 814-259-3680.

Abandoned Oil and Gas Wells Leaking

By Steven Kotler
Z Magazine: April 2011, excerpt

There are at minimum 2.5 million abandoned oil and gas wells littering the U.S. and an estimated 20 to 30 million globally. There is no known technology for securely sealing these wells. Many – likely hundreds of thousands – are already hemorrhaging oil, brine and greenhouse gases into the environment. Habitats are being fundamentally altered and aquifers destroyed. Some of these abandoned wells are explosive, capable of building-leveling, toxin-spreading

detonations. Largely ignored by both industry and governments, this problem has been growing for 150 years – since the first oil wells were drilled.

Last summer, an Associated Press (AP) investigation sparked by the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill reported 27,000 abandoned oil wells in the Gulf of Mexico. The AP did not consider California and Alaska, where there's also considerable offshore drilling, and ignored abandoned oil and gas wells on land. Looking beyond the Gulf, EcoHearth.com estimates the number of abandoned oil wells across the U.S. to be around 100 times greater than the AP's Gulf tally – and perhaps 1,000 times greater internationally.

Ian McDonnell, a Florida State University hydrologist who studies natural oil seeps, explains, "When Deepwater Horizon occurred, they found four different abandoned wells in the same field that were all leaking. That should tell you something..."

"If there are 2.5 million abandoned wells in the U.S. alone," says Rick Steiner, a retired University of Alaska professor and marine conservation specialist, "then there are easily tens of millions of abandoned wells globally, including all of the traditional oil and gas provinces in the Middle East, Central Asia, Russia, South America, Africa, Canada, Mexico and so forth..."

Return of the Wasteland Hydro-fracking in Pennsylvania May 13, 7 p.m. Mercersburg, PA

Bob Myers will speak about the environmental impact of hydro-fracking. His presentation is titled, 'Return of the Wasteland: Hydro-fracking in Pennsylvania' and will begin at 7 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church on Fayette Street, Mercersburg. Dr. Myers is Chair of the English Department and Director of Environmental Studies at Lock Haven University. He is Editor of *The Hemlock*.

Stacey Schmader of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund will describe briefly what her organization is doing to help local communities craft ordinances banning hydro-fracking and other harmful corporate activities while restoring grassroots democracy.

Directions: If you are driving into Mercersburg from Greencastle go right at the square between Juliets and the log cabin, go one block and turn left onto Fayette Street. The church is located on the right side and there is parking across the street from the church. For further information call Karen Ramsburg at 717-498-0364 (home) or 717-404-7130 (cell).

SPORTSMEN MARCELLUS SHALE SUMMIT

Saturday, June 4th

**University of Pittsburgh
Johnstown Campus**

In the heart of the Marcellus Shale region, sportsmen and women, and conservation groups are working together to identify and propose solutions to mitigate the impacts from gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing on hunting, fishing and trapping experiences.

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE FOR MARCELLUS CONSERVATION**

To learn more about the program and how to register, see: www.sportsmenalliance.org.



There's Nothing Natural About Natural Gas

By Jennifer Krill

Earth Island Journal: March 31, 2011
www.earthisland.org

"Natural gas: the bridge to a clean energy future!" Nice sound bite. But the reality is that natural gas is nothing but a bridge to more natural gas – and with it more water contamination, air pollution, global warming and fractured communities.

The natural gas industry, joined in good faith by some environmentalists, touts natural gas as a "bridge fuel," cleaner burning than coal and less destructive to extract, a way to transition to a renewable energy economy. But communities across America – from the Rocky Mountains to Texas, Pennsylvania and New York – know this is a false choice.

Just like coal, the drilling, processing and transport of natural gas is dirty and dangerous. And new research calls into question natural gas's advantage over coal in terms of global warming pollution when the full life cycle (from extraction to transport to use) is considered.

Due to advances in "hydraulic fracturing" (commonly known as "fracking"), America's gas fields are no longer "somewhere else." They're right next door. Chances are good they're right upstream from you.

And thanks in part to fluids used in fracking, America's water is being poisoned with dozens of toxic drilling chemicals including benzene and toluene. Residents are being forced from their homes by air emissions, which are neither measured nor



Just like coal, the drilling, processing and transport of natural gas is dirty and dangerous.

mitigated in any consistent fashion. Gas wells are surrounding peoples' homes, with **drill rigs within 150 feet of residences in some areas.** In many cases, drilling is moving forward without the consent of the landowners and communities that are directly affected.

If the natural gas industry wants to be "clean," it should embrace policies that mean no pollution of groundwater, drinking water or surface waters; stringent controls on air pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions; protection for no-go zones, like drinking watersheds and sacred and wild lands; and respect for

landowner rights, including the right to say "No" to drilling on their property.

But the natural gas industry resists such proposals. This makes no sense: With better planning and smarter use of technology, the natural gas industry could avoid many of these impacts and cure a major public relations headache as well.

Across the nation, local and state agencies, from first responders and road builders to regulators, are struggling to protect the public – to keep up with natural gas-related accidents, heavy truck use and monitoring and oversight. All the while, industry

resists federal regulation, saying it prefers a state-by-state patchwork of rules ... even as it fights every state effort to improve its practices and every municipality that tries to protect itself.

In addition to local environmental and public health concerns, there are also global consequences to increasing our reliance on natural gas. Both carbon dioxide and methane are major causes of global warming. While the burning of natural gas releases less carbon dioxide than coal, large volumes of methane are released during natural gas drilling and production, and through leaky pipelines. This is

a problem because methane, the major constituent of natural gas, is 20 to 30 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. With an estimated 600,000 gas wells across America, the climate impacts are enormous.

Independent testing of emissions from natural gas facilities reveals extraordinary releases of methane. But there is no systematic monitoring or collection of this information. Without such data, we have no idea how much we are putting our climate at risk by advocating natural gas as a bridge fuel.

Those who promote natural gas as a solution to climate change must embrace a commitment to monitor and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from every stage of the natural gas development process. Many natural gas advocates point out that emissions in the gas fields may be much easier to clean up than emissions from coal-fired power plants. We invite them to join us in the urgent fight to curb emissions in the field and to push for stronger regulation and monitoring of emissions at all stages of gas development.

Environmentalists and social justice advocates are rising up in record numbers to stop coal. At the same time, the 21st-century clean energy revolution – solar and wind power and energy efficiency – is gathering pace. What lies in between? Is replacing coal with natural gas going to "bridge" us to clean energy?

The answer is "No." Every dollar spent on new natural gas wells, pipelines, processing and infrastructure does not bring us

closer to wind, solar and energy efficiency. Quite the opposite: It is taking us in the wrong direction by delaying the transition. The large-scale conversion to clean energy demands new thinking, new consumption patterns, new delivery mechanisms, new industries, new financial incentives.

Burning more natural gas simply puts energy from a different source into the same system now used for coal. To stabilize the climate at 350 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere, we simply can't afford to invest in any new infrastructure that continues to increase greenhouse gases. A natural gas burning power plant that operates for the next 50 years means five more decades of burning fossil fuel that could instead be capturing energy from efficiency, wind or the sun.

It is true that we are faced with an energy choice. It's a choice that immediately impacts our communities' air and water as well as the stability of Earth's climate. But it's not a choice between coal and natural gas. We are facing a choice between a truly clean energy future or more of the same. As currently pursued, natural gas is not a short, narrow, clean bridge. It's a bridge to nowhere: one that is long, exacts very high tolls and has no clear end.

Jennifer Krill is the executive director of EARTHWORKS, an advocacy group that focuses on the negative impacts of mineral and energy extraction.

Philadelphia Activists Influence 'Inquirer' Editorial

Email from Protecting Our Waters
March 21, 2011

Protectors, Good news! Exactly two weeks ago, on March 7th, Protecting Our Waters sent a delegation of four to meet with the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* editorial board. We presented them with information about health impacts from drilling, new information about methane migration incidents and discussed risks to future generations, as well as acute risks to the watershed from radioactive, salty, gas-drilling waste. We asked them to write an editorial explicitly calling for the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to continue its moratorium and to let the public know about the Public Comment Period ending April 15th.

They followed up, did further research and fact-checking and wrote a great editorial yesterday explicitly calling for a "ban for now!" They are calling for study first – both the EPA study and cumulative-impacts study in the Basin. The editorial appears in yesterday's *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sunday March 20, 2011. They even put in a sentence about the April 15th deadline for public comment.¹

This creates a wonderful opportunity for you to share this editorial widely. And please consider writing a Letter to the Editor for publication, in response. You can bet the "Frack Now Frack Fast" voices will do so.

Send your letters for publication to inquirer.letters@phillynews.com. Include your name, address, day and evening phone numbers and email. Keep your letter to 150 words or less: specific and succinct. For example, applaud the *Inquirer's* wisdom because radioactive waste can contaminate fish and enter the food chain for the whole ecosys-

Sen. Casey Calls for Help Regarding Gas Explosions

Responsible Drilling Alliance
(see information at right)

Is it really that bad? Ask Senator Robert Casey. On March 28, 2011, Senator Casey wrote a letter to Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, voicing concern over the increasing number of home explosions caused by natural gas and the increasing number of contaminated wells. He cited the widespread belief that the source of the explosions is related to gas migration caused by extensive drilling.

The lack of reliable data on old gas wells and the deterioration of old well casings may also have contributed to the explosions. The homes affected had well water contamination and Schreiner Oil, the company involved, was ordered by the PA DEP to restore water and has been providing bottled water to the impacted neighborhood. Senator Casey notes this "appears to be more than coincidence."

To see the full text, go to: <http://casey.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/?id=c7091fea-fc47-42bc-90ea-d35e886e53df>.

tem, creating cascading effects for generations.

Landowners' Alert: *The Inquirer* wrote, "Landowners in northeastern Pennsylvania who would benefit from lease payments and royalties want drilling to begin there." This is a great opportunity for landowners who don't want drilling to write a letter! If you know farmers and other landowners who do NOT want drilling to begin now, please encourage them to write a letter. Every dissenting voice matters.

The editorial is understated, which invites letters indicating the large scope of the problem. They said, "State regulators also have dealt with several instances of methane contamina-

tion of well water near Marcellus drilling sites and spills of fracturing fluid." But at least dozens of families (and some say over a hundred) are reported to be receiving replacement water from drilling companies due to methane migration in one Pennsylvania county alone – Bradford County – in addition to the large-scale methane contamination problems in Dimock and elsewhere. In Bradford Township, two homes recently blew up, at least one due to methane migration; the homeowner happened to be standing outside his home in the driveway when it blew up.²

And spills of fracturing fluid, flowback and gas drilling brine – which is legally spread on roads in Pennsylvania – have become uncountable in Pennsylvania.

However understated, the *Inquirer's* conclusion is sound: "It would be illogical for the DRBC to lift its moratorium before the results of the EPA study are known. There should also be a review of the impact in this watershed. The most sensible course for the 15 million people who depend on clean drinking water in the Delaware River watershed is for the DRBC to extend its ban on drilling for now."

Protecting Our Waters appreciates that and we want every watershed to have the same level of protection.

Good job, *Inquirer!*

Contact Iris: 215-840-6489; protectingourwaters@gmail.com; www.protectingourwaters.com.

¹http://articles.philly.com/2011-03-20/news/29148263_1_marcellus-drilling-drilling-companies-drilling-ban

²<http://rouletterebel.com/wp/will-oil-gas-drilling-mean-more-house-explosions>

Groups Working On Gas Drilling's Issues

Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

RDA is a grassroots, all-volunteer group of dedicated citizens who have formed an alliance and welcome members with the widest possible concerns, interests and ideologies. RDA membership includes parents and grandparents, students, business people, hunters, fishermen, farmers, hikers, teachers, truckers, those who have leased their land to a gas company and those who refused. We invite you to join us.

Email: info@responsibledrillingalliance.org

Web site: <http://www.responsibledrillingalliance.org>

Address: Responsible Drilling Alliance, Box 502, Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17703

If you want to subscribe to the group, send an email to responsibledrillingalliance+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Protecting Our Waters

Protecting Our Waters is a Philadelphia-based grassroots alliance committed to protecting the Delaware River Basin, the state of Pennsylvania and our region from unconventional gas drilling and other threats to our drinking water, environment and public health.

Unconventional gas drilling negatively impacts water, air, habitat and human communities and current state and federal regulations are wholly inadequate to prevent environmental destruction by this heavily polluting industry. A fund has been created enabling landowners to perform baseline testing of private water wells.

To protect our streams and rivers, drinking water, air quality, forests, habitat and public health, we call for a MORATORIUM on shale gas drilling in Pennsylvania at least until:

- New Pennsylvania wastewater treatment requirements for shale-gas-drilling waste are in place and enforced;

- An Environmental Impact Statement has been completed for Pennsylvania;
- All federal exemptions for hydraulic fracturing are lifted: Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; and
- The Environmental Protection Agency study is complete.

Email: protectingourwaters@gmail.com

Web site: protectingourwaters.wordpress.com

Address: 4808 Windsor Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143

Phone: 215-840-6489

EARTHWORKS

"We need a watchdog to protect the Earth's resources and communities from mining, drilling and digging – EARTHWORKS is that watchdog. And EARTHWORKS gets results."

-- Mike McCloskey, Former Executive Director of the Sierra Club,

EARTHWORKS founder and advisory board member

EARTHWORKS is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the destructive impacts of mineral development in the U.S. and worldwide.

EARTHWORKS stands for clean water, healthy communities and corporate accountability. We're working for solutions that protect both the Earth's resources as well as our communities.

We fulfill our mission by working with communities and grassroots groups to reform government policies, improve corporate practices, influence investment decisions and encourage responsible materials sourcing and consumption. We expose the health, environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts of mining and energy extraction through work informed by sound science.

Email: info@earthworksaction.org

Web site: earthworksaction.org

Address: 1612 K St., NW, Suite 808, Washington, D.C. 20006

Phone: 202-887-1872

The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)

(Information about fracking chemicals and free DVD called "What You Need to Know About Natural Gas Drilling")

TEDX's mission is to prevent damage to individuals – from the moment they are conceived through the balance of their lives – by chemicals that can alter how their bodies are formed and function. TEDX implements this mission by seeking out, selecting, organizing, reviewing and interpreting scientific research relevant to chemicals that cause harm at low doses and/or at ambient exposure.

TEDX's primary focus is endocrine disruption. TEDX also explores the effects of other chemicals that, like endocrine disruptors, undermine the potential of humans and animals.

Web site: www.endocrinedisruption.com

Address: P.O. Box 1407, Paonia, Colorado 81428

Phone: 970-527-4082

Philadelphia Utility to Avoid Marcellus Gas

By Jon Hurdle, excerpt

Uk.reuters.com: January 18, 2011

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (Reuters) — Philadelphia officials on Tuesday directed a city utility not to buy natural gas from the Marcellus Shale until more is known about the safety of the hydraulic fracturing tech-

nique used to extract it.

With its largely symbolic gesture, Philadelphia becomes the first major U.S. city to refuse to buy natural gas obtained by the controversial method of hydraulic fracturing, said Philadelphia Councilman Curtis Jones, who sponsored the measure.

The City's Gas Commission,

a regulatory body that oversees Philadelphia Gas Works, approved a City Council report that preemptively requires the city to avoid any purchases of gas from the Marcellus, a major gas field underlying about two-thirds of Pennsylvania and parts of surrounding states...

Glaciers Melting at Fastest Rate in 350 Years

By Lewis Smith, excerpt
Independent.co.uk: April 4, 2011

Some mountain glaciers are melting up to 100 times faster than at any time in the past 350 years.

The findings, based on a new ice-loss calculation technique developed by studying the glaciers of Patagonia in South America, have worrying implications for drop irrigation and water supplies around the world.

The quantity of ice lost from Patagonia is equivalent to a fifth more than the contents of Lake Erie, one of the Great Lakes of North America.

Scientists behind the discovery claim their findings show that the rate of melting at the start of the 20th century was much slower than previously calculated but that over the past 30 years it has been significantly faster than expected . . .

Methane

continued from page 1

Domestic production in the U.S. was predominantly from conventional reservoirs through the 1990s but by 2009 U.S. unconventional production exceeded that of conventional gas. The Department of Energy predicts that by 2035 total domestic production will grow by 20%, with unconventional gas providing 75% of the total (EIA 2010a).³ The greatest growth is predicted for shale gas, increasing from 16% of total production in 2009 to an expected 45% in 2035.

Although natural gas is promoted as a bridge fuel over the coming few decades, in part because of its presumed benefit for global warming compared to other fossil fuels, very little is known about the GHG footprint of unconventional gas. (Here, we define the GHG footprint as the total GHG emissions from developing and using the gas, expressed as equivalents of carbon dioxide, per unit of energy obtained during combustion.) The GHG footprint of shale gas has received little study or scrutiny, although many have voiced concern. The National Research Council (2009)⁴ noted emissions from shale-gas extraction may be greater than from conventional gas. The Council of Scientific Society Presidents (2010)⁵ wrote to President Obama, warning that some potential energy bridges such as shale gas have received insufficient analysis and may aggravate rather than mitigate global warming. And in late 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a report concluding that fugitive emissions of methane from unconventional gas may be far greater than for conventional gas (EPA 2010).⁶

Fugitive emissions of methane are of particular concern. Methane is the major component of natural gas and a powerful greenhouse gas. As such, small leakages are important. Recent modeling indicates methane has an even greater global warming potential than previously believed, when the indirect effects of methane on atmospheric aerosols are considered (Shindell et al. 2009).⁷ The global methane budget is poorly constrained, with multiple sources and sinks all having large uncertainties. The radiocarbon content of atmospheric methane suggests fossil fuels may be a far larger source of atmospheric methane than generally thought (Lassey et al. 2007).⁸

The GHG footprint of shale gas consists of the direct emissions of CO₂ from enduse consumption, indirect emissions of CO₂ from fossil fuels used to extract, develop and transport the gas, and methane fugitive emissions and venting. Despite the high level of industrial activity involved in developing shale gas, the indirect emissions of CO₂ are relatively small compared to those from the direct combustion of the fuel: 1 to 1.5 g C MJ⁻¹ (Santoro et al. 2011)⁹ vs 15 g C MJ⁻¹ for direct emissions (Hayhoe et al. 2002).¹⁰

Indirect emissions from shale gas are estimated to be only 0.04 to 0.45 g C MJ⁻¹ greater than those for conventional gas (Woods et al. 2011). Thus, for both conventional and shale gas, the GHG footprint is dominated by the direct CO₂ emissions and fugitive methane emissions. Here we present estimates for methane emissions as contributors to the GHG footprint of shale gas compared to conventional gas.

Our analysis uses the most recently available data, relying particularly on a technical background document on GHG emissions from the oil and gas industry (EPA 2010) and materials discussed in that report, and a report on natural gas losses on

federal lands from the General Accountability Office (GAO 2010).¹¹ The EPA (2010) report is the first update on emission factors by the agency since 1996 (Harrison et al. 1996).¹²

The earlier report served as the basis for the national GHG inventory for the past decade. However, that study was not based on random sampling or a comprehensive assessment of actual industry practices but rather only analyzed facilities of companies that voluntarily participated (Kirchessner et al. 1997).¹³ The new EPA (2010) report notes that the 1996 “study was conducted at a time when methane emissions were not a significant concern in the discussion about GHG emissions” and that emission factors from the 1996 report “are outdated and potentially understated for some emissions sources.” Indeed, emission factors presented in EPA (2010) are much higher, by orders of magnitude for some sources...

¹Pacala S, and Socolow R (2004). Stabilization wedges: Solving the climate problem for the next 50 years with current technologies. *Science* 305: 968-972.

²Wood R, Gilbert P, Sharmina M, Anderson K, Fottitt A, Glynn S, and Nicholls F (2011). Shale gas: A provisional assessment of climate change and environmental impacts. Tyndall Center, University of Manchester, Manchester, England. http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/sites/default/files/tyndall-coop-shale_gas_report_final.pdf

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Rising Sea Levels Threaten Delaware Coast

By Molly Murray, excerpt
The News Journal, March 20, 2011

WILMINGTON, Delaware — For the last century, the sea level along the Delaware coast has risen an average of about 3.2 millimeters a year.

That’s about the width of the letters “l” and “h” at the start of this sentence, unnoticeable to most people, unless they drive along the winding back road named Thirteen Curves that leads to Fowler Beach.

In 2006, a team of volunteers built a bird-viewing platform west of the sand dunes — several hundred feet from Delaware Bay. Today, the access ramp is gone and the platform is in the tidal zone. So much of the parking lot has washed away that crews moved the dead-end barrier landward and the once-fresh marsh is filled with salty bay water.

Erosion and storms, combined with sea-level rise, have pushed this strip of land along Delaware Bay to a tipping point between being part of the land or part of the bay.

Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge Manager Michael Stroeh plans to leave the platform there as long as it’s safe.

“It’s a great illustration,” he said. “The bay is moving in.”

And you don’t have to live on the beach to be affected. David Carter, a manager with Delaware’s Coastal Programs office, said rising sea level affects people the length of the state. “People see it as a beachfront, coastal issue,” Carter said, adding that rising sea level affects communities from Wilmington to Milford to Seaford.



Photo by Gary Emeigh, The News Journal

Prime Hook Beach: Houses on Shore Drive as seen from the back pond area. The breach along the bay is shrinking the spit of land on which the houses reside.

To the south of the bird platform, a marsh used to line the road at the small community of Prime Hook Beach. Today, it’s so inundated with water that it looks like a lake.

“You have to see it to start believing it,” Stroeh said.

Among Delawareans, 63 percent believe that sea levels are rising, according to a 2010 survey commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. A third aren’t convinced.

Carter said planning for sea-level rise is a no-lose proposition. “If we are completely wrong, the very worst we will have done is protect life and property in coastal storms,” he said. “It’s just sound coastal management.”

Scientists generally believe sea-level rise is real and caused by the Earth’s climate getting

warmer. On Wednesday, people were to gather in Dover to discuss the implications as the League of Women Voters hosted Sea Level Rise: How will Delaware Adapt?

The program was designed to explain why sea level is rising, the impacts on the state and what officials are doing to address the threat.

Carter said data show that sea levels definitely have risen a total of about one foot over the last 100 years. Less clear, he said, is whether the rate of sea-level rise is increasing with global warming.

Some scientists are concerned that higher temperatures from global warming will make warmer ocean waters expand and also speed the melting of ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland, greatly increasing the rate of sea-level rise.

The International Panel on Climate Change has concluded that sea levels could rise as much as two feet during the next century.

Because so much of Delaware’s coastal area, from wetlands to beaches, has been altered by draining or filling wetlands for roads, housing and mosquito control or while shooting sand on beaches to cope with shoreline erosion — it is hard to get a clear picture of sea-level rise.

But one clue could lie in the tide data collected at Breakwater Harbor in Lewes for more than 50 years. In the 1980s, there were typically 10 to 20 times each year with consecutive tides about the mean high-water level. In 2009, the number of consecutive tides above mean high-water level was exceeded 30 times. Last year, it was exceeded 27 times . . .

Green Projects Help Neighborhood

By Sarah Lonsdale
The Telegraph.co.uk

The Meadows area of Nottingham (England) was once a byword for the worst kind of inner city deprivation, with drug gangs and gun crime claiming the headlines but, four years ago, things started to change.

“There’s a better feeling of wellbeing in the Meadows,” says 71-year-old Margaret Spencer, mother of six children and grandmother of 17, who has lived in the Meadows all her life. “People are caring more about the environment they live in and about their neighbors. There’s pride in the place again.”

One reason for this change may be that four years ago 19 members of the gang that was terrorizing the area were put in prison. But at the same time residents began getting together to address the long-standing social problems through creating a company that would promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Meadows Ozone Energy Services — Mozes for short — was the result.

“At the time no inner-city area was attempting to reduce its car-

bon footprint,” says architect Professor Julian Marsh of Sheffield Hallam University, who chairs the company. “We wanted to find something that people could be proud of, that would attract jobs and visitors to the Meadows.”

Mozes has attracted funding to provide the drafty Victorian houses with boilers, solar panels and solid wall insulation. Already many residents are feeling the benefits of lower energy bills.

For instance, income earned from the solar panels — £20,000 (\$32,000) in their first year alone — is to be reinvested in more panels for other houses in the Meadows, spreading the feeling of well-being in an area that has suffered from high levels of fuel poverty. School leavers are being trained to install solar panels and the next round will be put in by people from the Meadows.

“Our combined fuel bill used to be more than £160 (\$256) a month; now it is less than £100 (\$169) a month and I’m in credit with the energy company,” says Margaret, who is chair of the Old Meadows Tenants and Residents Association. Margaret has spent hours drumming up interest in

all things green, organizing meetings and spreading the word about the joys of low energy appliances.

After winning £100,000 (\$160,000) from the British Gas Green Streets project and £500,000 (\$800,000) from the Department of Energy and Climate Change, 55 houses, three schools and a community center in the Meadows have solar panels. In addition to the panels, 25 homes have had new boilers, nine have had solid wall insulation installed and 700 lofts [were] insulated.

Developers are building new low carbon homes, young people are learning skills and there are proposals for an Energy Learning visitor center and a “survival” library with books on how to cope with power cuts and extreme weather.

“People are now talking to each other about green issues,” says Ian Nicholson, green community adviser at the Meadows Partnership Trust. “There’s a real excitement about what’s happening here.”

One family to benefit is the Le Huquets, who live in a Victorian end-of-terrace house. “We’ve had

two inches of internal insulation on some walls and four inches of external insulation on others,” says Jackie. “I can feel the difference, especially on the end wall — it used to feel cold. Now it’s warm to the touch.”

The house had solar panels installed as part of the British Gas Green Streets project and last summer the family was saving £8 (\$12.80) a week on electricity. “I wait until the sun’s shining before I use the washing machine or do the hoovering (vacuuming), as I know I won’t be drawing from the grid but from the sun,” Jackie says.

She adds that, while at the beginning of the project only a few people volunteered to be guinea pigs, now people are curious about renewable energy. “There’s a waiting list for solar panels.”

More than the tangible benefits, however, are the intangible ones: a sense of optimism and pride has returned to the Meadows. “A few years ago people wouldn’t come near the place,” Professor Marsh says. “Now people want to see what we’ve been able to achieve.”

'Frac Act' and Airborn Toxics Acts Need Federal Sponsors Now

Secret Gas Drilling Chemicals Don't Belong In Our Drinking Water

Our country is undergoing an unprecedented gas drilling boom that is putting the drinking water supplies for millions of Americans at risk.

Oil and gas companies are using a controversial method that involves blasting millions of gallons of chemically-treated water into the earth to extract gas from underground deposits. But thanks to a loophole in the Safe Drinking Water Act, they don’t even have to report what chemicals they are shooting into the ground.

And that’s not all. Oil and gas companies also get special treatment under the Clean Air Act — and now drilling areas in Wyoming now have worse smog than Los Angeles!

Thankfully, two bills just introduced in Congress would change this.

The Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act would close oil and gas industry loopholes in the Safe Drinking Water Act and require disclosure of chemicals used during hydraulic fracturing.

If regulators know what chemicals

to look for when they test drinking water, they can hold oil and gas companies accountable for their pollution. That’s why it’s crucial that oil and gas companies come out of the shadows and tell us what chemicals they’re shooting into the ground.

The Bringing Reductions to Energy’s Airborne Toxic Health Effects (BREATHE) Act would eliminate an unfair loophole in the Clean Air Act for oil and gas companies.

Right now, many oil and gas wells fall squarely within a loophole in the Clean Air Act that means they don’t have to control their air pollution as carefully as larger industrial sources — even though the cumulative air pollution from all of these thousands of wells are far greater than individual ‘major sources.’

Help protect your drinking water from secret chemicals and ask your Members of Congress to co-sponsor the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act and the Bringing Reductions to Energy’s Airborne Toxic Health Effects Act!

Events With Derrick Jensen

Thursday, May 12
Galesburg, Illinois

Derrick will be speaking at Knox College. The talk will take place at Kresge Hall in the Center for Fine Arts from 6 to 9 p.m. It’s free and open to the public.

Friday, May 13 to
Sunday May 15
San Francisco, CA

Deep Green Resistance
A Weekend Workshop with
Derrick Jensen, Aric McBay
and Lierre Keith.

We live in the most destructive culture to ever exist. In Derrick’s talks around the country he repeatedly asks his audiences, “Does anyone think this culture will voluntarily transform to a sustainable way of living?” No one ever says “Yes.” If we really accept the seriousness of the situation, what would

that mean for our strategy and tactics? This is the urgent question we will be exploring over the weekend.

Friday, May 27 to
Sunday, May 29
Sedalia, Colorado

Deep Green Resistance
A Weekend Workshop with
Derrick Jensen, Aric McBay
and Lierre Keith
(See description of previous workshop.)

Tuesday, September 6
Victoria
British Columbia

Living in a Culture
of Abuse

A live conversation {via Skype} at 7:00 p.m. at Camas Books with Derrick Jensen. Bring your questions to 2590 Quadra Street, unceded Lekwungen Territories, Victoria, British Columbia.

Radiation

How Human Arrogance Intensifies Suffering



Photograph: Abc Tv/EPA

The crisis at the Fukushima nuclear plant, Japan.

By Arun Gupta

AlterNet.org: March 15, 2011

This century, barely out of the box, is already flush with mega-disasters: Hurricane Katrina, Haiti's earthquake, the 2004 Boxing Day earthquake, the BP oil spill, Cyclone Nargis, the Sichuan earthquake in 2008 – and now Japan's earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdowns.

Apart from industrial screw-ups like the BP oil spill and Hungary's "red sludge tsunami," these events are classified as natural disasters, which is a misleading term. The adjective "natural" should remind us that earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes and tsunamis are part of a healthy planetary process. Hurricanes and fires in particular play an important role in ecological renewal. It is the collision between a natural hazard and human society and economy that creates the disaster.

Humanity, after all, owes its rise to a wandering asteroid that hammered the Earth 65 million years ago. And if it weren't for plate tectonics that subduct and lift crustal masses with the resultant volcanoes and earthquakes, there would be no earth under our feet, just a watery world.

How a society is impacted depends on how it is organized. The February 2010 earthquake in Chile, which claimed fewer than 600 lives, was about 500 times more powerful than Haiti's 7.0 magnitude convulsion that killed more than 222,000 people.

Japan's quake at magnitude 9.0 was even more powerful than Chile's but relatively few people appear to have perished from the tremor itself because of Japan's famed emergency preparedness. It was the tsunami that killed thousands and the apocalyptic meltdowns that may claim many more lives still.

Tsunamis offer a unique view into the intersection of society and natural hazards. An Oxfam study found that, in much of Indonesia, Thailand and India ravaged by the 2004 tsunami, four times as many women died as men. The timing of the tsunami, hitting on a Sunday morning, struck women hard because Indonesian women who lived near the ocean were much more likely to be at home caring for children and women in Indian fishing villages were waiting on beaches to haul back the day's catch. Plus, according to Oxfam, women in these societies were less likely to have the ability to escape by swimming or climbing trees, all of which contributed to the gender imbalance in deaths.

Economic factors were also at play. Untrammeled seaside development like shrimp farming and tourist resorts decimated seagrass beds, coral reefs and mangroves, all of which can greatly diminish the force of tsunamis. These projects also often impoverish, displace and concentrate local people in close quarters up to the water's edge, which increases their vulnerability. And poor countries are far less likely to have early warning systems for tsunamis. These same factors multiply the human toll of cyclones. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, those who lacked the money and means to flee suffered the most deaths.

In Haiti, this system of capitalist underdevelopment, enforced over two centuries by France, the United States, the IMF and World Bank, left it economically devastated prior to the

January 2010 temblor. Over decades, the migration of Haiti's rural poor into urban slums left millions living in extremely shoddy housing, which magnified the number of deaths enormously. The effects of underdevelopment, especially deforestation, intensify other natural hazards such as hurricanes, which has added to Haiti's misery and vulnerability both before and after the earthquake.

Japan's tragedy, on the other hand, stems more from the hubris of overdevelopment. Its government spent billions of dollars building seawalls that were overwhelmed by devastating waves of water. Critics warned against siting nuclear plants on the coast precisely because they would be exposed to the earthquake-tsunami combination. "But the government gives [nuclear] power companies wide discretion in deciding whether a site is safe," according to *The New York Times*. In the case of the Fukushima Daiichi plant, diesel generators for back-up cooling were placed below a seawall and knocked out of commission by a tsunami that topped the barrier.

For Japan, nuclear power was both a solution to compensate for extremely limited hydrocarbon reserves and a big-ticket export, so it was willing to countenance an industry with an outrageous history of accidents. This includes a 1995 explosion at an experimental reactor at Monju that shut the facility for 14 years, an earthquake and subsequent fire and radioactive leak at the Kashiwazaki plant in 2007, a steam explosion that killed four workers in 2004 at a plant west of Tokyo and the bizarre case in 1999 of technicians, who were under time pressure, mixing nuclear fuels in buckets and overfilling a tank, which initiated a self-sustaining chain reaction that killed two of them.

Natural hazards, of course, will continue to occur. But with the drive for more industrialization, developing technologies with unknown drawbacks (such as nanotechnologies) and less regulation and oversight, the future looks bleak. Indeed, natural hazards are becoming less and less natural, from the threat of newly emerging diseases inflamed by agribusiness practices to earthquakes apparently caused by hydrofracking and geothermal energy production to climatic and hydrological catastrophes intensified by global warming.

This era of mega-disasters should be making us aware of the insanity of our economy. The one silver lining to Japan's cloud of deadly radiation is that it may dispel the specious argument that nuclear power is the answer to global warming. But even if it does, we need to dispense with the logic behind this argument: that we can solve one crisis of capitalist development with another capitalist fix . . .

It sounds like a joke, except that some of the biggest billionaires in the world, such as Bill Gates, are throwing their wealth into far-fetched schemes to re-engineer the Earth, the oceans and the atmosphere. When something goes wrong, as it inevitably will, it will make plugging an undersea volcano of oil or cooling a runaway nuclear reaction seem like child's play.

Arun Gupta is a founding editor of The Independent newspaper. He is writing a book on the decline of American Empire for Haymarket Books.

Nuclear Crisis Prompts Surging Investor Confidence in Renewables

By John Vidal and Fiona Harvey

guardian.co.uk: March 15, 2011, excerpt

As Japan's nuclear crisis unfolds, energy and environmental experts said that investor confidence in the technology was already beginning to wane, with renewable energy and fossil fuels the likely beneficiaries.

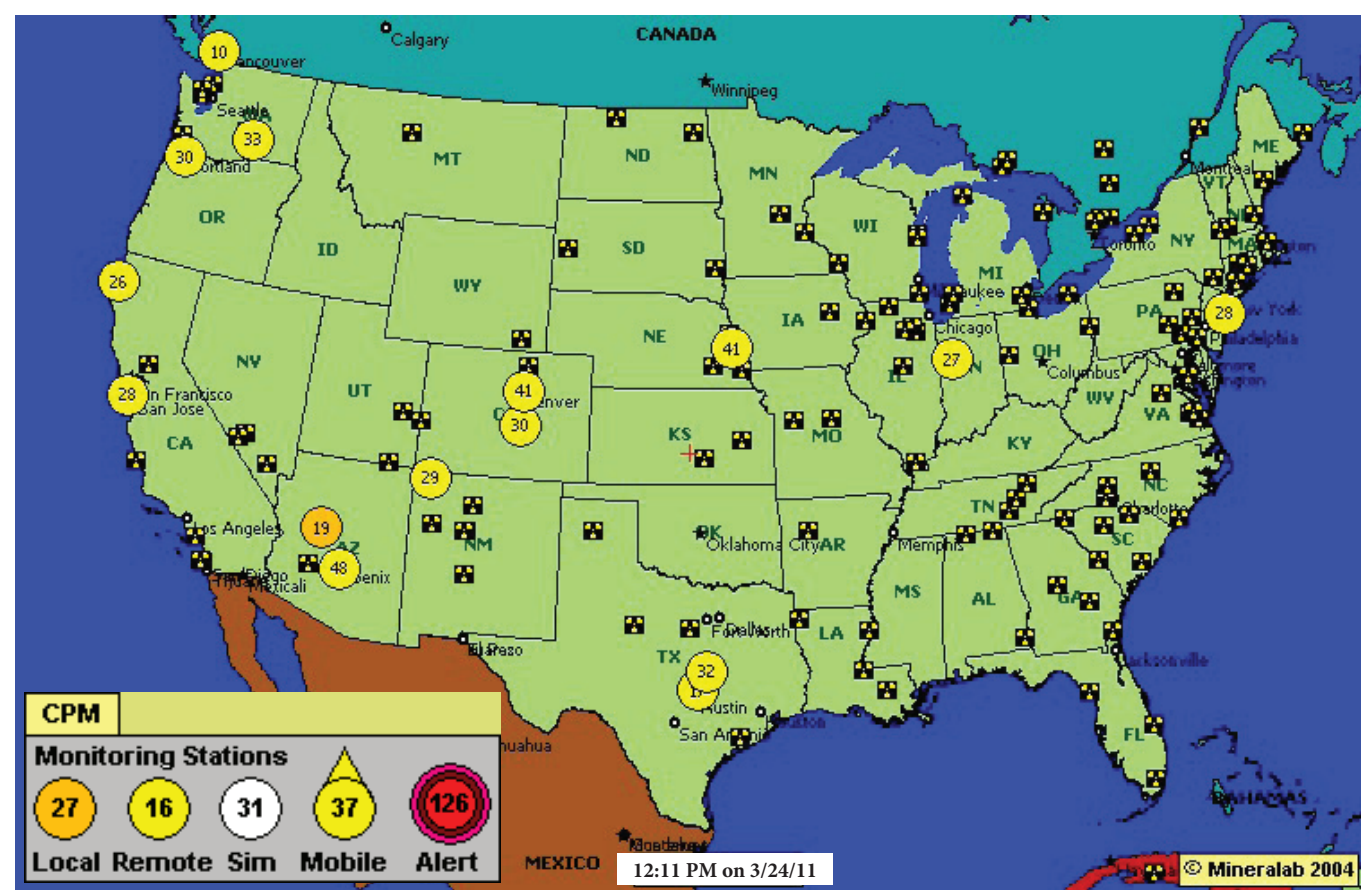
"Shares in renewable energy industries yesterday rose while most other energy stocks fell," said Clare Brook, fund manager of Leading Green Investment Group, WHEB, in London. "This tragedy comes on top of the oil price rise, the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the BP disaster in the Middle East, all of which has made renewables more

attractive. We would expect investment in renewables, especially solar, to increase. Nuclear has become politically unacceptable," she said.

Rupesh Madhani, a renewables analyst at Barclays Capital in London agreed. "At the very least, we would expect significant investments in nuclear power to be delayed or deferred for one to two years."

But some leading environmentalists who have backed the technology as a low-carbon alternative to fossil fuels said the accident should not slow new nuclear investment.

The climate scientist James Lovelock said the problems in Japan should not put people off nuclear power . . .



Grassroots Tool

Radiation Network Map/Web Site

How the Map Works

A growing number of Radiation Monitoring Stations across the country, using various models of Geiger Counters, upload their Radiation Count data in real time to their computer using a Data Cable and then over the Internet to this Web site, all of this accomplished through GeigerGraph for Networks software.

How to Read the Map

Referring to the map legend at the bottom left corner of the map, locate Monitoring Stations around the country

that are contributing radiation data to the map as you read this and watch the numbers on those monitoring stations update as frequently as every minute (your browser will automatically refresh).

The numbers represent radiation Counts per Minute, abbreviated CPM, and under normal conditions, quantify the level of background radiation, i.e. environmental radiation from outer space as well as from the Earth's crust and air. Depending on your location within the U.S., your elevation or altitude and your model of Geiger counter, this

background radiation level might average anywhere from 5 to 60 CPM and, while background radiation levels are random, it would be unusual for those levels to exceed 100 CPM. Thus, the "Alert Level" for the National Radiation Map is 100 CPM, so if you see any Monitoring Stations with CPM values above 100, further indicated by an Alert symbol over those stations, it probably means that some radioactive source above and beyond background radiation is responsible.

Notice the time and date stamp at the bottom center

of the Map. That is Arizona Time, from where we service the Network, and your indication of how recently the Radiation Levels have been updated to the Map.

How to Participate in the Radiation Network

If you want to join this nationwide grassroots effort to monitor the radiation in our environment go to radiation-network.com.

Contact Mineralab, 2860 W. Live Oak Drive, Prescott, Arizona 86305; 800-749-3766 or 928-442-1155 or www.mineralab.com.

SURVIVING RADIATION THE WISE WOMAN WAY

Submitted by Jan Walker
Berkeley Springs, WV

By Susun S. Weed

We are adapted to survive mild exposures to radiation. After all, the sun is a kind of controlled nuclear bomb and it releases a lot of radiation. Of course, this radiation and man-made radiation, can also cause cancer and a host of short- and long-term health problems.

Whether you are worried about the radiation from dental x-rays, a mammogram or fallout, here are some Wise Woman Ways to help you stay healthy. (If you are using radioactive therapies in your cancer treatment, there is a chapter full of information specifically for you in *Breast Cancer~Breast Health!* The Wise Woman Way. A recipe for "Anti-Radiation Easy Meal" is on page 308.

Japanese researchers found that diets high in carotenes significantly reduced DNA damage in humans exposed to radiation. Supplements of beta-carotene (or of vitamins C or E) did not show this effect. Eating lots of orange and dark green foods (sweet potatoes, winter squash, beets, carrots, kale, collards, chard and spinach, for example) can protect you from radiation-induced cancers.

Envision yourself and all your cells protected from damage. (One woman wrapped herself in psychic lead.)

Guinea pigs bombarded with radiation lived a lot longer if they ate broccoli or cabbage. All cabbage family plants – including arugula, turnips, radishes, cauliflower, mustard greens, bok choy, Brussels sprouts, broccoli d'rappe, kale, collards and of course broccoli – protect your cells from the damaging effects of radiation.

Choose an image, an icon, something meaningful to you, as a focusing agent. Put your affirmations, blessings, prayers, visualizations and

healing love into it for easy access when you need help.

Miso broth is the classic food for prevention of radiation damage. There's twice the protection if a quarter-ounce (5 grams) of dried kelp seaweed is added to the soup. In scientific studies, seaweed was able to neutralize radioactive isotopes in the human body. Researchers at McGill University say radioactive strontium binds to the algin in brown seaweeds to create sodium alginate, a compound easily and harmlessly excreted. Common black tea exhibited the same anti-radiation effects in several Japanese studies.

In *Fighting Radiation and Chemical Pollutants with Foods, Herbs and Vitamins* (Vitality, 1991), Steven Schect-er tells us that both black and green tea showed "radioprotective effects" whether taken before or after exposure to radiation. Among other modes of operation, tea catechins absorb radioactive isotopes and remove them from the body before they do damage. The action is similar, he says, to that of sodium alginate (the "active ingredient" in kelp seaweed).

Eating any amount of reishi (a mushroom) reduces damage from radiation.

St. Joan's/John's wort oil protects my skin from radiation damage. I use it as my only sunscreen (and I am outside a lot) and find it not only immediately effective in preventing and treating sunburn but even more protective with continuing use over years.

Burdock root (Arctium lappa) removes radioactive isotopes from the body. A dose is 1 to 4 ounces (300-1200 grams) of cooked fresh root, up to a pint of infusion daily or several large spoonfuls of vinegar (but only if made with fresh roots).

Dried beans, especially lentils can reverse DNA damage done by radiation. So can red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and astragalus (*Astragalus membranaceus*) – two pow-

erful members of the legume (bean) family.

Homeopathic remedies can be taken before and after exposure to radiation: Plumbum (lead) is said to help those who feel overwhelmed and in need of protection. Belladonna is used to prevent and relieve radiation burns and pains – even long after the immediate exposure.

Selenium protects DNA from radiation damage and helps prevent damage to the skin surface, too. Get plenty of selenium by eating a daily dose of 2 cups (500 ml) of nettle infusion, one-half ounce (15 g) kelp, 2 ounces (60 g) cooked burdock root, or 1 cup (250 ml) organic yogurt daily. Shellfish, green and black teas and garlic contain significant amounts of selenium, as do many mushrooms. The best sources however are nettles (2200 mcg per 100 grams), kelp (1700 mcg/100 g), burdock (1400 mcg/100 g), catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), ginseng, Siberian ginseng and astragalus.

In a clinical trial with humans, those who took ginseng extract (*Panax quinquefolium*) for thirty days following exposure to radiation showed hastened recovery from injuries to their bone marrow, organs, skin and blood cells according to Paul Bergner in *The Healing Power of Ginseng, The Enlightened Person's Guide* (Prima, 1996). He quotes Japanese researcher Dr. M. Yonezawa as saying that, "Ginseng appears to be the most useful agent available for protection against radiation damage."

It's important to keep yourself well nourished if you are exposed to radiation. Make it a habit to drink at least two big cups of nourishing herbal infusion daily. Nettles, red clover and violet leaves supply generous amounts of the nutrients you need most: protein and minerals, especially potassium and zinc.

For best results, do not use

capsules of the herbs mentioned in this article. Instead, cook with them (kelp, astragalus, Siberian ginseng, ginseng, reishi and burdock), brew nourishing herbal infusions with them (nettles, red clover, astragalus, burdock, catnip and ginseng), make mineral-rich vinegars with them (nettles, burdock, catnip, ginseng and astragalus), or take a high-quality non-standardized tincture of them (burdock, ginseng, Siberian ginseng, astragalus).

To make a nourishing herbal infusion:

- Put one ounce of dried herb into a quart jar; fill jar to the top with boiling water and cap tightly.
- Strain after 4 to 8 hours and drink hot or cold.
- Refrigerate what you don't drink right away; drink that within a day.

To make a vinegar:

- Fill any size jar with fresh herb (best!!) or one-quarter full of dried herb (not nearly so good).
- Pour room temperature apple cider vinegar over the herb, filling jar to the top.
- Cover with plastic wrap or a cork.
- Label with date and name of plant.
- Let sit for six weeks.
- Decant into a pretty bottle and use to season soups, beans and salads.

This is the Wise Woman Way the world 'round. Take good care of yourselves. Green blessings to all.

Susun Weed is an extraordinary teacher with an encyclopedic knowledge of herbs and health. Weed's four herbal medicine books focus on women's health topics including: menopause, childbearing and breast health. Visit www.susunweed.com. Browse www.ashtreepublishing.com/bookshop for her alternative health books or www.menopause-metamorphosis.com to learn about Menopausal Years the Wise Woman Way.

Teenagers Give Hope to Chronically Ill Children

By Michael Rudnick
Eldersburg.Patch.com

After being diagnosed with juvenile diabetes in October 2008, Alexis Ross created the Alexis Ross Foundation to help chronically ill children and their families. Rather than dwelling on her misfortune, Alexis decided to turn this negative into a positive.

With the help of her family and friends, she formed the Alexis Ross Organization, a foundation dedicated to helping chronically ill children and their families. Her organization's slogan is "Live for Today, Hope for Tomorrow, Laugh Often" or simply "Live, Hope, Laugh."

The mission of the Alexis Ross Organization is to provide financial assistance and moral support to families with children suffering from chronic illness. The foundation provides funds to help these families cover medical bills, buy groceries and pay their utilities, as well as presents for the children.

This past Christmas, the Alexis Ross Organization "adopted" three families through Carroll County Human Services. These three families all have chronically ill children.

Steve Lee, a friend of Alexis' family, volunteered to dress as Santa and help the foundation distribute presents to the three children. One of the children is a six-year-old girl with Crone's disease, who said that the visit from Santa was, "the greatest feeling she has had in a long time," and that it, "warmed her heart and brought tears to her eyes."

All of Alexis' family members volunteer their time to support



Photo by Caroline Ross
Alexis Ross (right) and Taylor Lee had a bake sale recently and Alexis' mother said, "She was out there about 4 1/2 hours and sold out by 2 and made \$260.00. She has an event Friday; we have about 100 kids coming. It is also a fundraiser, so she is constantly going at it!"

the foundation. Her mother, Caroline Ross, has spent countless hours helping Alexis with a lot of the organizational chores. Along with Alexis' stepfather, Steve Tipton, Caroline is an integral part of the Alexis Ross Organization.

"Alexis shows a tremendous dedication to her organization," said Tipton. "She's been a great inspiration to her siblings as well as her friends. I am proud of her

accomplishments so far."

Alexis' older siblings, Timmy Ross, an 18-year-old senior at Westminster High School, and Ashley Ross, a 20-year-old student at Carroll Community College, also volunteer their time to help Alexis' foundation. Both were present at a recent event, the "Live, Hope, Laugh Battle of the Bands," a benefit for the Alexis Ross Organization.

The Battle of the Bands yield-

ed more than \$700 for the Alexis Ross Organization and the next Battle of the Bands is already in the planning stages.

"I am so proud of Alexis. She is a great big sister," said Laura Tipton, Alexis' seven-year-old sister.

Alexis has also raised money for her foundation with Alexis' Barrettes, homemade barrettes she and her volunteers create and sell online for five dollars each. The barrettes are custom made, some with sports or motorcycle club themes. You can order the barrettes, as well as volunteer your time or donate money for the Alexis Ross Foundation at www.livehopelaugh.org.

Last April, Alexis was interviewed by the LJ James Biker Low-Down Internet-radio show, which helped to boost barrette sales. She stays busy shipping barrettes across the country, from New York to Oregon. The Alexis Ross Foundation donates the net proceeds from Alexis' Barrettes to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

On Super Bowl weekend, Alexis' foundation conducted a bake sale. The net proceeds were used to buy board games and pajamas for children at Sinai Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. Alexis is a trained volunteer and leader of a volunteer group at Sinai. Her ambition is to establish her own Live, Hope, Laugh House for chronically ill

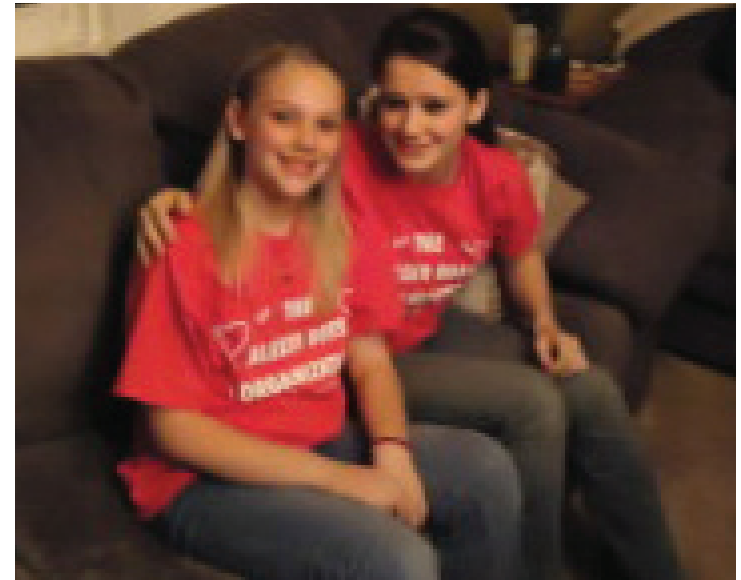


Photo by Michael Rudnick
Alexis Ross (right) and her friend Taylor Lee do fundraisers to raise money for sick children. Taylor helps Alexis bake, sell tickets and set up at all the events the group plans.

children and their families.

One of Alexis' teachers, Ms. Diegel, has started a juvenile diabetes support group inspired by Alexis and her work. Many of Alexis' friends, such as twelve-year-old West Middle student Taylor Lee, also lend their time and support to the Alexis Ross Organization.

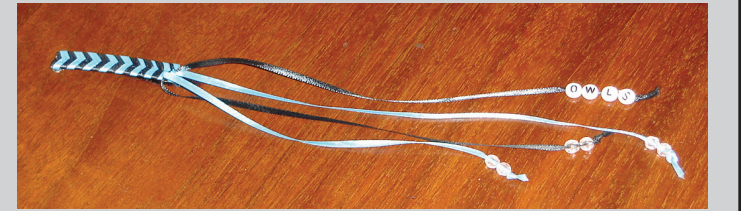
Alexis Ross and her family prove that a few people can make a positive difference in the world around them. The volunteers that encounter Alexis cannot help but marvel at her accom-

plishments, especially at such a young age.

"I just want people out there to know that I want to help as many people I can," said Alexis. "This Christmas my goal is to adopt ten families and each year the numbers of families I help will increase. I may only be 14 but I am dedicated to helping others and making a difference in people's lives."

The Alexis Ross Organization is truly helping to bring life, hope and laughter to children with chronic illness.

Right: One of the barrettes Alexis made. This one reads "OWLS." Alexis's whole foundation started with these little barrettes. Photo by Iona



The Collapse of Globalization

By Chris Hedges, excerpt
Truthdig.com

The uprisings in the Middle East, the unrest that is tearing apart nations such as the Ivory Coast, the bubbling discontent in Greece, Ireland and Britain and the labor disputes in states such as Wisconsin and Ohio presage the collapse of globalization. They presage a world where vital resources, including food and water, jobs and security, are becoming scarcer and harder to obtain. They presage growing misery for hundreds of millions of people who find themselves trapped in failed states, suffering escalating violence and crippling poverty. They presage increasingly draconian controls and force – take a look at what is being done to Pfc. Bradley Manning – used to protect the corporate elite who are orchestrating our demise.

We must embrace, and embrace rapidly, a radical new ethic of simplicity and rigorous protection of our ecosystem – especially the climate – or we will all be holding on to life by our fingertips. We must rebuild radical socialist movements that demand that the resources of the state and the nation provide for the welfare of all citizens and the heavy hand of state power be employed to prohibit the plunder by the corporate power elite. We must view the corporate capitalists who have seized control of our money, our food, our energy, our education, our press, our health care system and our governance as mortal enemies to be vanquished.

Adequate food, clean water and basic security are already beyond the reach of perhaps half the world's population. Food prices have risen 61 percent globally since December 2008, according to the International Monetary Fund. The price of wheat has exploded, more than doubling in the last eight months to \$8.56 a bushel. When half of your income is spent on food, as it is in countries such as Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia and the Ivory Coast, price increases of this magnitude bring with them malnutrition and starvation.

Food prices in the United States have risen over the past three months at an annualized rate of five percent. There are some 40 million poor in the United States who devote 35 percent of their after-tax incomes to pay for food. As the cost of fossil fuel climbs, as climate change continues to disrupt agricultural

production and as populations and unemployment swell, we will find ourselves convulsed in more global and domestic unrest. Food riots and political protests will be inevitable. But it will not necessarily mean more democracy.

The refusal by all of our liberal institutions, including the press, universities, labor and the Democratic Party, to challenge the utopian assumptions that the marketplace should determine human behavior permits corporations and investment firms to continue their assault, including speculating on commodities to drive up food prices. It permits coal, oil and natural gas corporations to stymie alternative energy and emit deadly levels of greenhouse gases. It permits agribusinesses to divert corn and soybeans to ethanol production and crush systems of local, sustainable agriculture. It permits the war industry to drain half of all state expenditures, generate trillions in deficits and profit from conflicts in the Middle East we have no chance of winning. It permits corporations to evade the most basic controls and regulations to cement into place a global neo-feudalism.

The last people who should be in charge of our food supply or our social and political life, not to mention the welfare of sick children, are corporate capitalists and Wall Street speculators.

But none of this is going to change until we turn our backs on the Democratic Party, denounce the orthodoxies peddled in our universities and in the press by corporate apologists and **construct our opposition to the corporate state from the ground up.** [bold italics added] It will not be easy. It will take time. And it will require us to accept the status of social and political pariahs, especially as the lunatic fringe of our political establishment steadily gains power. The corporate state has nothing to offer the left or the right but fear. It uses fear – fear of secular humanism or fear of Christian fascists – to turn the population into passive accomplices. As long as we remain afraid nothing will change.

Friedrich von Hayek and Milton Friedman, two of the major architects for unregulated capitalism, should never have been taken seriously. But the wonders of corporate propaganda and corporate funding turned these fringe fig-

We must embrace, and embrace rapidly, a radical new ethic of simplicity and rigorous protection of our ecosystem – especially the climate – or we will all be holding on to life by our fingertips. We must rebuild radical socialist movements that demand that the resources of the state and the nation provide for the welfare of all citizens and the heavy hand of state power be employed to prohibit the plunder by the corporate power elite.

ures into revered prophets in our universities, think tanks, the press, legislative bodies, courts and corporate boardrooms. We still endure the cant of their discredited economic theories even as Wall Street sucks the U.S. Treasury dry and engages once again in the speculation that has, to date, evaporated some \$40 trillion in global wealth. We are taught by all systems of information to chant the mantra that the market knows best.

It does not matter, as writers such as Joh Ralston Saul have pointed out, that every one of globalism's promises has turned out to be a lie. It does not matter that economic inequality has gotten worse and that most of the world's wealth has become concentrated in a few hands. It does not matter that the middle class – the beating heart of any democracy – is disappearing and that the rights and wages of the working class have fallen into precipitous decline as labor regulations, protection of our manufacturing base and labor unions have been demolished. It does not matter that corporations have used the destruction of trade barriers as a mechanism for massive tax evasion, a technique that allows conglomerates such as General Electric to avoid paying any taxes. It does not matter that corporations are exploiting and killing the ecosystem on which the human species depends for life.

The steady barrage of illusions disseminated by corporate systems of propaganda, in which words are often replaced with music and images, are impervious to truth. Faith in the marketplace replaces for many faith in an omnipresent God. And those who dissent – from Ralph Nader to Noam Chomsky – are banished as heretics.

The aim of the corporate state is not to feed, clothe or house the masses, but to shift all economic, social and political power and

wealth into the hands of the tiny corporate elite. It is to create a world where the heads of corporations make \$900,000 an hour and four-job families struggle to survive. The corporate elite achieves its aims of greater and greater profit by weakening and dismantling government agencies and taking over or destroying public institutions. Charter schools, mercenary armies, a for-profit health insurance industry and outsourcing every facet of government work, from clerical tasks to intelligence, feed the corporate beast at our expense.

The decimation of labor unions, the twisting of education into mindless vocational training and the slashing of social services leave us ever more enslaved to the whims of corporations. The intrusion of corporations into the public sphere destroys the concept of the common good. It erases the lines between public and private interests. It creates a world that is defined exclusively by naked self-interest.

The ideological proponents of globalism – Thomas Friedman, Daniel Yergin, Ben Bernanke and Anthony Giddens – are stunted products of the self-satisfied, materialistic power elite. They use the utopian ideology of globalism as a moral justification for their own comfort, self-absorption and privilege. They do not question the imperial projects of the nation, the widening disparities in wealth and security between themselves as members of the world's industrialized elite and the rest of the planet. They embrace globalism because it, like most philosophical and theological ideologies, justifies their privilege and power. They believe that globalism is not an ideology but an expression of an incontrovertible truth. And because the truth has been uncovered, all competing economic and political visions are dismissed from public debate

before they are even heard.

The defense of globalism marks a disturbing rupture in American intellectual life. The collapse of the global economy in 1929 discredited the proponents of deregulated markets. It permitted alternative visions, many of them products of the socialist, anarchist and communist movements that once existed in the United States, to be heard.

We adjusted to economic and political reality. The capacity to be critical of political and economic assumptions resulted in the New Deal, the dismantling of corporate monopolies and heavy government regulation of banks and corporations. But this time around, because corporations control the organs of mass communication and because thousands of economists, business school professors, financial analysts, journalists and corporate managers have staked their credibility on the utopianism of globalism, we speak to each other in gibberish.

We continue to heed the advice of Alan Greenspan, who believed the third-rate novelist Ayn Rand was an economic prophet, or Larry Summers, whose deregulation of our banks as treasury secretary under President Bill Clinton helped snuff out some \$17 trillion in wages, retirement benefits and personal savings. We are assured by presidential candidates like Mitt Romney that more tax breaks for corporations would entice them to move their overseas profits back to the United States to create new jobs. This idea comes from a former hedge-fund manager whose personal fortune was amassed largely by firing workers and only illustrates how rational political discourse has descended into mindless sound bites.

We are seduced by this childish happy talk. Who wants to hear that we are advancing not toward a paradise of happy consumption and personal prosperity but a disaster? Who wants to confront a future in which the rapacious and greedy appetites of our global elite, who have failed to protect the planet, threaten to produce widespread anarchy, famine, environmental catastrophe, nuclear terrorism and wars for diminishing resources? Who wants to shatter the myth that the human race is evolving morally, that it can continue its giddy plundering of non-renewable resources and its profligate levels of consumption, that capitalist

expansion is eternal and will never cease?

Dying civilizations often prefer hope, even absurd hope, to truth. It makes life easier to bear. It lets them turn away from the hard choices ahead to bask in a comforting certitude that God or science or the market will be their salvation. This is why these apologists for globalism continue to find a following. And their systems of propaganda have built a vast, global Potemkin village to entertain us. The tens of millions of impoverished Americans, whose lives and struggles rarely make it onto television, are invisible. So are most of the world's billions of poor, crowded into fabled slums.

We do not see those who die from drinking contaminated water or being unable to afford medical care. We do not see those being foreclosed from their homes. We do not see the children who go to bed hungry.

We busy ourselves with the absurd. We invest our emotional life in reality shows that celebrate excess, hedonism and wealth. We are tempted by the opulent life enjoyed by the American oligarchy, one percent of whom control more wealth than the bottom 90 percent combined.

The celebrities and reality television stars whose foibles we know intimately live indolent, self-centered lives in sprawling mansions or exclusive Manhattan apartments. They parade their sculpted and surgically-enhanced bodies before us in designer clothes. They devote their lives to self-promotion and personal advancement, consumption, parties and the making of money. They celebrate the cult of the self. And when they have meltdowns we watch with gruesome fascination. This empty existence is the one we are taught to admire and emulate. This is the life, we are told, we can all have.

The perversion of values has created a landscape where corporate management by sleazy figures like Donald Trump is confused with leadership and where the ability to accumulate vast sums of money is confused with intelligence. And when we do glimpse the poor or working class on our screens, they are ridiculed and taunted. They are objects of contempt, whether on "The Jerry Springer Show" or "Jersey Shore . . ."

None of this is true . . .

Biking the C & O Canal Towpath at 62

By Barbara Knox
Sandy Spring, Maryland

In the late 1980's, when I was 62 years old, I bought a mountain bike. Almost every day I rode the four miles to work. I wanted to get in better shape so that the next summer I could bike the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal Towpath, which parallels the Potomac River, and the next year go back to hiking on the Appalachian Trail. I planned to spend 10 days on the bike hike. It doesn't take that long but I wanted plenty of time to "smell the roses." I loaded my bike's panniers, basket and back fender platform with camping gear and set out to travel the 184.5 miles of the towpath from Cumberland, Maryland to Georgetown in Washington, D.C. A friend dropped me off at the western end on a Saturday afternoon in mid-August.

The Potomac River is small at Cumberland, its quiet water brown-green, reminding me of my college sweetheart's hazel eyes. At dusk a couple out jogging stopped to admire my tent (just a little tunnel with a floor and hoops to hold up the netting walls and roof), then he said, "Watch out for unsavory characters along the towpath. I hope you have a gun." Well, no. I thought an assailant might easily overpower a small person like me and harm me with my own weapon, if I did have one. But it took a while to fall asleep after that. It was partly excitement, too, that made me wakeful. I watched stars through a thin film of clouds, distorted by the netting. My tiny tent was crowded with all my stuff. Finally I darkened the tent with its rain fly and slept, waking often to the noise of trains in a railway switching yard across the river.

Birds began their morning choir rehearsal at 6:00 a.m. Early joggers stopped by to chat as I was eating my breakfast of homemade granola and reconstituted powdered milk.

The woods were dry and the towpath dusty as I rode along, trying to identify the birds I heard. I passed a "hiker-biker" site where a Boy Scout troop was camped. I rode on, passing a man playing "Oh Susanna!" on his harmonica and stopped to chat with a park ranger in his truck. As I was finishing lunch, sitting on the porch of an old, wood-frame lock-keeper's house, I saw a deer swim across the canal, which had been rewatered in some sections. In the shallows I saw a catfish scavenging and a turtle about the size of my hand swimming. It was Sunday. Hymns from a church carillon floated across the river. I was at milepost 169 at lift lock 71, making good time. That afternoon I passed a pond with dead, standing trees in it. A flock of eastern kingbirds was swooping over the dense mat of water lily pads in the pond. I also surprised a great blue heron standing in the shallows and watched a hawk in flight.

I got to the Town Creek "hiker-biker" early and stopped there to enjoy a long, peaceful evening. Hot, plagued by mosquitoes, I put on my swim suit and cooled down in water from the pump. The hiker-biker sites all had pumps, latrines, picnic tables, trash cans and leveled areas for tents, usually with mowed grass.

I was reading while finishing supper when twenty kids and four or five men came in off the river and set up tents all around me. Later, as I was almost asleep, I heard one of the men kindly asking the boys to be respectful of me and quiet down. They did. Later I heard an owl hoot during the night and often heard them on subsequent nights, too.

A profusion of wildflowers were blooming on the moist floodplain: domed clusters of dull pink Joe-Pye weed, white flat-topped sprays of boneset, yellow autumn sneeze weed, goldenrod, purple thistle, spikes of magenta New York ironweed, sunflowers, sky-blue chicory, pink phlox, deep blue spiderwort on spiky stems, white bindweed, delicately suspended orange and yellow jewelweed flowers, purple wood asters and butter-and-eggs.

The smells of the woods in the morning were wonderful – wild mint, spice bush, all the



Photo courtesy Wilderness Voyageurs

The author, at age 62, bike-hiked the entire 184.5-mile stretch of the beautiful C&O Canal Towpath. Wilderness Voyageurs (photo) is a privately-owned tour operator that operates Inn-to-Inn bike tours on the C&O and throughout the mid-Atlantic. See <http://wilderness-voyageurs.com>.

earthy-smelling molds; I got a whiff of mold and suddenly, in my minds eye, I saw a jar of my mother's homemade grape jelly with mold on top of the paraffin seal where the hot juice had splashed up before it cooled and sealed. As I rode I felt threads of spider webs breaking and clinging to my face. I felt like a winner crossing the finish line!

Later that morning I wheeled my bike through the Paw Paw Tunnel, an eerie experience alone. I could see light at both ends of the tunnel all the time but the path was dark and uneven. The only sounds were of my bike tires rolling and my shoes crunching the gravel. So I sang and whistled; the echoes were weird. When I stopped, there was only the sound of drops of water splashing as they fell from the tunnel's roof into the canal running in a cement channel beside me. As I came out of the tunnel I smelled the pines, then saw the wide vista of the river, its wavelets spangled by the noonday sun. It was glorious!

I stopped early that afternoon when I found an idyllic hiker-biker campground right on the river and no one there. I soaked lazily in the river, ate supper, then went back to the warm river water again. Then I heard thunder. A front was coming through.

Strong winds followed and I got a little anxious. It wasn't dark yet, so I could see the river had turned silver and the maples on the West Virginia side were turning their silver sides to the wind. I wondered if my tent was safe and wished for an Appalachian Trail shelter. I suddenly felt nervous about biking alone. My camping site was remote, the Devil's Alley hiker-biker. Its name was not reassuring. But the storm soon blew over. It was quiet again with only sounds of the river running over rocks, a gentle murmuring. The fish stopped jumping and the evening chorus of insects began. I relaxed, snuggled down into my sleeping bag and slept.

In the morning as I ate my instant oatmeal I watched ducks feeding on the river, a beautiful sight with the sunlight sparkling on the water. The air was clear and transparent. I was just below a bend in the river and my spot was all rimmed around with hills. There were sycamores, maples and a black gum along the river's edge. It was hard to leave that lovely cove.

As I rode on I saw dragonflies, flying grasshoppers and butterflies. A yellow butterfly even attached itself to my bare leg and rode with me for a while! I had lunch in a shaded campground above the Potomac with a view of the arched railroad bridge across the Cacapon River, a tributary on the West Virginia side. When I bypassed Hancock I was close enough to hear the traffic on I-70. On the Hancock towpath I saw three pairs of goldfinches, a skunk and two rabbits.

I shared Little Pool campground with a triathlon group of kids from New Castle, Pennsylvania. There were two girls, five boys and their coach, a man about 60 who had bicycled across the country three or four times and had bicycled this towpath many times. His stories gave me

an interesting glimpse into the cyclers' world. Cyclers carried everything they needed to repair anything that broke and knew how to do it. They knew where to get provisions, how to get help and what was worth taking the time to stop and see along the way. Their bicycles were their homes.

My body reached its sorest point the next day. I took an inventory: mosquito bites, a little poison ivy, some sunburn and sore muscles. Late in the afternoon I rinsed off in the warm, soothing river water. It was shallow. An area native said he'd never seen the river so low. It had been a dry summer. I could have easily waded across the Potomac at Hancock. As I sat in the water that evening it flowed around me like warm oil, touched with color from the sun setting across the river.

I got intrigued with surfaces: the changing surface of the water, at times reflecting back everything perfectly, like a looking glass, except where patches of algae gave it the look of an old mirror, it's silvered backing worn away in spots; at other times it gave up wisps of mist or brilliant flashes of sunshine from its eddies. I also noticed the changing surfaces of the towpath, at first dusty or like a graveled country road, sometimes only a narrow, worn track, then networks of roots making riding rough, and a graded stretch, packed hard. There was deep, powdery sand, great to wiggle your toes in but easy for the bike to slip in and dump you (like it did me). Other places, dried puddles left mud curls that crunched under my bike tires. Sometimes the path was rocky.

Then I thought of the surfaces of me, the one I showed to those strangers I was meeting on the towpath and the other surfaces I show to friends, lovers or family.

I began to think of the river as a tease who flirted with me, sometimes right beside me, her broad bosom decorated with a lacework of overhanging leaves, other times distant, or peeking through groves of trees or hiding behind fields of corn. I followed the path, bending to follow her. She danced and turned, looped and curved, only at evening sometimes allowing me to come into her warm embrace. At other times the river reminded me of the white blazes on the Appalachian Trail, always beckoning me on.

That afternoon the same triathlon team was camped at a hiker-biker I passed. It was only 3:30, so I kept going. On down the towpath my bike started making a strange noise. I couldn't figure out what it was, so I wheeled my bike back to the friendly crew, who cheerfully repaired it for me. The coach, Mr. Phillips, had the right size replacement bolt. A kid called Bob screwed it back together with a screwdriver supplied by John. Alfie sprayed the chain with a lubricant. They really were a great bunch of kids; not a single swear word or obscenity, no quarreling or arguing. At my job I worked with emotionally disturbed teenagers, mostly boys, and heard torrents of obscenities, some I had never heard of before. I camped with the group

another night.

The next day there was a nine-mile detour on hot country roads, up and down and up and down past fields of burnt-out corn. There had been a washout in the towpath on a ledge just above the river. I used my bicycle gears to good advantage and only had to walk the bike three or four times. I lost the triathletes at the detour but saw them next day as they were coming back from breakfast in Williamsport. The boys urged me to stop with them to visit an old restored fort, Fort Frederick, that had figured in the French and Indian War, furnished to look as it once had. Without the kids, I would have missed it. The fort was built about a century before the canal.

The next campsite at Horsehoe Bend was open, breezy, right on the river, with lots of huge trees, mostly maples. I found a peaceful place to sit on a vine-covered retaining wall, where I watched swallows skimming over the water. A wood peewee hung around the rest of the afternoon. When I woke next morning the campground was like a cool, dark, green room with the sun outside, bright on the river. Downstream the sun caught on some little rapids and the flashes of sunlight were almost blinding. It was like being in the audience in a darkened theater with the river the lighted stage. The air there was full of tiny flying moths with white wings, perhaps what the swallows were eating. Their wings were catching the sun, too, and reminded me of the snowflakes in a glass "snow-storm."

At lunchtime there were sweat bees. One stung my finger. I killed four of them and was surprised to see a lot more of them come and carry the bodies away. I felt guilty for killing their brothers. (Or were they cannibals, taking home dinner?)

Next morning I looked out my tent door at a river swirling with mist so thick I couldn't see the water. When sunlight reached it, it turned to golden, glorious, moving light.

But the following morning at 9:00 I lay in my tent listening to a steady rain. I had left the rain fly off the night before, hoping to see the sunrise through the netting. I had to crawl out in the wet dark and cover the tent. At first the rain was intermittent. It let up early in the morning so that I got my breakfast eaten early and myself dressed. I had crawled back into my tent before the rain started up again in earnest. Thankfully I only had a little over a mile to go to meet my friend with more provisions in Shepherdstown. The thunder rolled. Perhaps it was only a shower and would soon blow over.

As I waited it out I mused about the towpath, the area around it so rich in history, going all the way back to the French and Indian War. The river towns along the way are unique and would be interesting to explore on foot. The flora and fauna are lush and abundant. But, despite my leisurely pace, there was a time to explore every town, stop for every bird, check the identity of every flower, take each picture, chat with each person traveling the same path. Much as I



had done, there was always more I would have enjoyed doing and that felt good.

The rain got serious, pouring down, with heavy wind and thunder. I worried about the tent stakes holding and whether the low splash panel around the bottom of my tent below the netting walls would keep out the rain and mud splattering off the bare ground outside. I went out in the storm to tighten the ropes on the rain fly. Then I lay and counted my pleasures as I waited: the feel of the warm river water flowing around me, the couple who attracted my attention to a magnificent blue heron by just standing watching it; the hawk above me who just presented himself; the owls at night that I didn't have to try to hear; the Diana fritillary, a beautiful blue butterfly, that came to the same campsite garbage can that attracted the sweat bees; the pileated woodpecker who announced himself with a long series of calls; the team of kids who fixed my bike, warned me about the detour and taught me a little about bike touring.

The Saturday-Sunday break from biking, spent with my friend, included good restaurant food and wine, a hot shower, shampoo and a soft bed. But the break highlighted my assorted muscle aches and reoriented me to the world out there. I had a clean body, a clean bed and clean clothes from a laundromat but the break disrupted my immersion in my biking experience in this fascinating other world along the river.

Back at the Huckleberry Hill hiker-biker, I got my tent set up, my gear stowed and dried out. (My tent was still wet from the rain storm the morning before.) There had been brilliant sunshine in the afternoon in Shepherdstown but the air was too cool for tubing or wading. By evening it was too cool for shorts. I wondered if my summer tent and sleeping bag would be warm enough. I was too tired to make the campfire I wished for. But it wasn't too cold to sleep.

A day or so later, as I rode smoothly along the towpath, always gently downhill, my thoughts were interrupted by a fox, rusty red with a white tip to its tail, that ran quickly away as my bicycle approached. The rain had left puddles and mud in the

path but perked up the wilted vegetation along the way – more nettles, honeysuckle and wildflowers and less poison ivy: marsh mallows, soapwort, morning glories, as well as many of the other flowers I'd seen before. I saw box turtles, snakes and a muskrat, more gold finches, another blue heron and a flock of blackbirds. I saw or heard crows, jays, cardinals, robins and a persistent peewee who seemed to be traveling with me, keeping me company. It was cloudy and cool when I stopped at White's Ferry for coffee and watched the historic ferry make the crossing to Leesburg.

The Potomac is wider above the dam below Chisel Branch hiker-biker, where there were fishing boats on the river and the Edward's Ferry ramp just upstream. The overcast turned to light rain and drove me to my tent by 6:30 that evening. Seemed too bad to end my trip without seeing another sunset on the river. I had a huge campground with eight or ten picnic tables all to myself. There were only some fishermen eating pizza up at the lock at the refreshment stand after it stopped raining. I was getting back into the commercial world.

My last day on the towpath I got up before the rain and packed everything dry. The way down toward Swains Lock and on into Georgetown was familiar from spring wildflower walks. I saw a belted kingfisher, cardinal lobe-lia, a patch of blue lobelia near yellow evening primroses and wild coreopsis; four brown ducks and a large fawn – all that morning. The river looked broader and deeper, no longer warm and beckoning. The path was paved and smooth after Great Falls, falls you can't see from the towpath.

From Seven Locks on there were lots of morning joggers. As I rode on the towpath next to Canal Road, which is much higher than the towpath, I felt grubby and conspicuous going through high-class Georgetown, then past Fletchers Boat House, arriving around noon, waiting with my loaded bike near Thompson Boat Center for my ride home and a return to life without the constantly changing sights and sounds of the mercurial, mighty and ancient Potomac River.

INVITATION TO WONDER

Musings in the Month of May

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

A knot is what it is, my heart, and when it needs untying I walk in the woods or ramble along the shore or stride through some meadow under an open sky – it doesn't matter where, any door takes me to the place I need to be.

Home. Where someone will shower my bruised soul with soft whispers and sweet kisses: the sound of small wild things scraping in the underbrush or the touch of a gentle breeze on my face or the tender, glassine caress of waves on sand.

My mother. Who knows me better than I know myself and speaks my true name when everyone else has forgotten and answers life's triune interrogatories: Who are you? What do you want? Where are you going?

Who am I? I am this immen-

sity, this tangled profusion of living, breathing, growing, changing. My name is sycamore, sassafras, sweetgum. If you call out to the wind-borne gull or hawk, I will answer.

What do I want? To be free. To dwell beyond the reach of mechanism and artifice, task and successful execution thereof, because beyond all formulation of petty desires there is the great, round wheel – spring, summer, autumn, winter, spring, summer – round and round, an ancient purpose, my only necessary commitment.

Where am I going? I do not know and I do not want to know, but for this adventure I will need courage that rises like sap. And the exuberant, spontaneous wisdom possessed only by things that arrive at beauty through routes wild, uncultivated, unplanned.

A knot is what it is, my heart,

and when it needs untying I go home to Mother. Who tells me what I need to hear: I can never be satisfied or content except with something greater than myself. When I feel worn and tossed about, like some little scrap of cloth, Mother's truth is a sharp needle, it flashes in and out, it stitches me back into the fabric of Earth and sea and sky. When I'm frightened, Mother assures me all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well. For Mother's consoling presence I am thankful. Nor can my gratitude be measured by any instrument known in space or time. It is infinite. Like her. Through whom we all came to be.

Hallmark makes no cards for this but Mother herself provides us with the perfect celebration: the month of May. Think of all those flocks, herds, hosts, packs, droves, drifts, swarms, covies. Skulks of foxes, clowders of cats,

gangs of whales, skeins of geese, charms of finches. All that progeny, issue, offspring; that hatching, spawning, whelping; those broods, gets, litters, clutches, farrows, sons, daughters.

Somewhere in all of that, you and I. Who are we? This immensity. What do we want? Alignment with this great purpose. Where are we going? We don't know but, for such an adventure, let's all ask Mother for courage. And the wisdom to journey by her preferred routes – those that are wild and unplanned.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of *Know the Way and Writing the Wave*, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWriting-Center.com). For a free excerpt or MP3 download from her new book *Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons*, visit InvitationToWonder.com.



Photo by Beverly Joubert
'The Last Lions' movie explains that there were an estimated 450,000 wild lions in 1950 and that their present population is now closer to 20,000, a decline of over 95% in 60 years.

'The Last Lions' A Movie Review

By Bill Boteler
Takoma Park, Maryland

I attended the screening of the movie 'The Last Lions' at National Geographic in Washington, D.C. on February 18th. The film was produced by husband and wife wildlife film-making team Dereck and Beverly Joubert and was followed by a question and answer session with the filmmakers.

The movie is being distributed as part of a campaign to raise people's awareness of the threat to the survival of the world's great cats. All species of large cats are in precipitous decline from destruction of their natural habitats and killing by humans. The movie explains that there were an estimated 450,000 wild lions in 1950 and that their present population is now closer to 20,000, a decline of over 95% in 60 years.

The film setting is Botswana's Okavango Delta in Southern Africa, an area of inland marshes where the Okavango River empties. It is an area rich in wildlife. The filmmakers capture this environment in gorgeous, high-definition cinematography showing the African bush and the forces of nature swirling around it. The high-definition techniques allowed for filming in the dimly-lit hours before dawn, resulting in some otherworldly-looking scenes. The sounds of small animals seem to be coming from the aisles of the movie theater and I was startled at least once. The film is narrated by the voice of British actor Jeremy Irons.

The story follows the fate of a female lion named Ma di Tau ("Mother of Lions"). At the beginning, an outsider pride of lions is invading the territory of Ma di Tau, her mate and her three cubs. The invaders, it is explained, are fleeing areas of human settlement just over the horizon. Conflict soon ensues and Ma di Tau's mate is fatally wounded. She flees to a marsh

island with her cubs attempting to survive in this alien environment.

The movie effectively shows that being a lion is hard work, a constant struggle, even under normal conditions. The Jouberts don't try to sweeten this picture in any way but instead show how struggle for survival molds all the creatures that inhabit the African bush. There are a very few scenes that are gory or heart-rendingly sad and you might want to consider whether or not you want to show it to young children. Still, there is something about lions that really is courageous, given the role nature has cast them in of having to run down and kill large animals just to live.

People interested in animal behavior may enjoy speculating with the Jouberts about how lions think, solve problems and experience emotions. The filmmakers say that they are not trying to impute human emotions to animals and, for the most part, they are able to present things in this way. But there is also a somewhat convincing presentation of the lions as the courageous warriors of legend.

It was interesting to find out from the follow-up discussion how nature films like this are actually scripted. At the beginning, the Jouberts created several possible movie scenarios and then just followed nature as it unfolded.

The filmmakers explained that they need our help to get the word out about this film. You can go to the links below to read about the movie, watch the trailer, contribute to Big Cat Conservation and even download a lion's roar to your ring tones.

This movie is rated PG for some violent images involving animal life. See more at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-zS319U8hg> or <http://movies.nationalgeographic.com/movies/last-lions/about>.

Photo collage prepared by Diana and Justin, organic farmers at Licking Creek Bend Farm in Needmore, PA.



Poetry by Sandy Chilcote

Newfoundland, Canada

my body is hidden in trees
journeying with birds in the wind and
to the very tops of aspen and black spruce
where there is no victory against the Northwind
by branch or wing – only the journey

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My Mother's Day Gift to the Planet: Not Having Kids

By Chris Bolgiano
Blue Ridge Press via AlterNet.org

It was Mother's Day and the staff of the independent-living community where my mother resides had arranged a nice luncheon with roses for all the mothers. When a cherubic child with golden ringlets pressed a flower into my hand and I politely refused it, she became confused. No wonder, since it was assumed by everyone that, of course, all adult women in attendance were mothers.

At fifty-something I am an adult but not a mother. And though some will gasp in horror, I consider that to be my greatest achievement as a conservationist, although finding the first saw-whet owl ever reported in

my part of Virginia ranks pretty high, too.

For millennia, the relentless ticking of a woman's biological clock has equated her entire life with only one purpose: child-bearing. And for my gender, menopause has always largely meant the end of meaning.

I've lived through that transition now, without despair or Prozac. And I'm not alone. Today large numbers of married women are choosing not to have children, if only because more opportunities are being offered to more women than ever before. It was my good fortune to come of age with such choices and to find a husband who honored them.

It always seemed to me that childbearing was a quick way out of a hard hunt – providing instant

meaning to life. I wanted to search for purpose elsewhere. Plus, when I first read the ingredients on jars of industrial baby food – this was long before "organic" was even a gleam in Gerber's eye – I couldn't imagine inflicting that stuff on an infant.

Which brings me to the state of the world. Although few journalists cover this angle, almost every environmental disaster is caused by overpopulation – but not the kind many assume. It's not the black and brown babies of the developing world that most threaten our planet but our own desire for stuff – a hunger for iPods and starter castles.

American consumption and the global pollution associated with supplying it, is unsurpassed. It takes a Third World village to

use all the resources that a single American consumes and, often, wastes *every day*. [*bold italics added*] So even though the birthrate in America is historically low, curbing it further would be a good place to begin when trying to save the world. I am pleased to do my part.

But what about the joys that children bring? Isn't there a basic biological drive to reproduce? And aren't children our future, after all?

The only sadness occasionally seeping from my child-free decision is not having grandchildren – which my mother would have loved. Now and then, I've also wondered if my husband would have enjoyed life more with children but I doubt it.

As for the future, I'm more

concerned about the precarious outlook for saw-whet owls than the human race, which far outnumbered owls and has all the advantages. And I grieve for the generations of all living creatures that will suffer from our toxic legacy.

Meanwhile, a few fundamentalist preachers have noticed the child-free trend and condemned it because marriage, they say, is only for procreation. Others question whether the Lord really wants the world to have nine billion people, many dying as babies because clean air, water and enough food are only available to those able to afford them.

It seems to me that the encouragement of child-free couples is crucial to saving the planet.

A child-free life celebrates

humanity's most profound conquest of nature: not the engineering of dams or genes but control of conception. Give every woman that choice and the world will change.

Like me, many women could discover that a child-free life offers meaningful experiences that balance the loss of mothering and theirs could be a great gift to a beleaguered planet.

Chris Bolgiano lives in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia and has authored or edited five books, several of which have won literary prizes. She appeared in the PBS Series, "Appalachia: A History of Mountains and People." Blue Ridge Press is a nonprofit news wire focusing on the environment and current affairs.



Photo by Mark Petersen

This home in Roanoke, Virginia was built very cheaply using salvaged and scavenged materials.

THE SECOND-HAND HOUSE A Smart Way to Live

By Mark E. Petersen
Roanoke, Virginia

In the midst of financial meltdowns, bailouts and sub-prime disasters, my second-hand home began to take shape. I came across a distressed property in southeast Roanoke, Virginia that had been gutted by fire. In 1947, a preacher built a guest house and workshop in the back yard where his traveling friends would stay. His workshop is where he printed and distributed pamphlets about his small church. Unfortunately, the owners did not have insurance and the main house was subsequently torn down. That's when I found my dream home and a project I had been wanting to pursue for many years.

I purchased the property and began plans to develop a low-cost renovation that, to this day, has people stopping by and thanking me for fixing up the eyesore.

So, how does one purchase and renovate for less than \$30,000.00? Think super frugal. Beg, barter, negotiate. Start at Craigslist. Many contractors over-buy for their clients and are willing to sell their excess materials real cheap. Drive around town to new housing developments. Dumpster dive if you have to, that's where I found most of the lumber for my front porch and back deck. My drywall came out of projects from a contractor friend of mine.

Rent your tools, don't buy



Photo by Mark Petersen

From a blight to a lovely sight with shrubs, trees and landscape rocks purchased off-season at deep discounts from locally-owned nurseries.

my dog, Nugi. All of the fencing was second-hand. Building smaller and smarter now will pay off handsomely. As we can see today, with rising gas prices, energy scarcity, demands on your pocketbook will be a big part of every family's budget. The average working-class family will benefit from smaller dwellings and less space to heat in the winter.

I've discovered I don't need four bedrooms, two baths and the chief's kitchen I became accustomed to while growing up in Southern California. Discover the freedom and liberty of living on and in less. I have and I have never felt happier and proud to do so.

Security and privacy were achieved by working for a local fence contractor in exchange for a back yard fence and kennel for

them. My kitchen cabinets, paint and flooring were purchased at the Habitat for Humanity's Restore. As long as you are not picky about choice of colors and designs, it's a great place to save a lot of money and get that new-house feel. Build your home to function. Live in it. Homes were not meant to be gaudy, museum monsters!

Splurge on new windows, carpet and siding. My HVAC unit was purchased recently after saving money for 16 months. No need to charge it to the evil banks! My advice is to stay away from financed home improvement projects. All my shrubs, trees and landscape rocks were purchased off-season at deep discounts from locally-owned nurseries and landscape supply stores. The five Cypress trees I dumpster dived are doing well and thriving.

Mark Petersen is a former environmental affairs officer for the oil industry now working and living in Roanoke, VA. Mark drives a commuter bus and landscapes for a living. He has not owned a car since 1996. He rides his bike or the bus for transportation.

hope that when the Japanese people watch this film in the safety of their own homes, they may see that a few fishermen's profits are giving a whole nation a black eye, not them." A subtitled version of film has also been released by Tokyo-based distributor, Medallion Media, slated for traditional sale and rental outlets. Ads for the film have been seen in Japan on TV, print and subway monitors. The arrival of "The Cove" in Taiji coincides with reports that fishermen have ended the annual dolphin hunt one month early...

Dolphins Safe After Mass Distribution of DVD

Oceanic Preservation Society
March 1, 2011

This weekend, every Taiji household found a copy of "The Cove" in their mailbox.

In a surprise move shrouded in secrecy, film director Louie Psihoyos, in conjunction with several anonymous Japanese groups, arranged for 2,000 copies of a Japanese-dubbed version of "The Cove" to be mailed to all residents of the coastal town. Most are aware of the controversy surrounding their town yet few have been able to view the film.

Oceanic Preservation Society (OPS) has also put a free version for viewers outside the country on "The Cove" Web site, www.thecovemovie.com.

A theatrical release last summer was marred by incidents of protest by extreme nationalists, forcing several theaters to cancel. Despite dozens of awards and international acclaim, "The Cove" has had few viewers within Japan.

"The people of Taiji deserve to know what millions of others around the world have learned about their town," said Director Louie Psihoyos. "We here at OPS

Briefs from Bill Boteler (with comments)

Tropical Forests

Because so many buildings in Japan were utterly destroyed by the combined earthquake and tsunami, there may be increased pressure to log the remaining tropical forests in Borneo for wood to rebuild.

The island of Borneo still contains large stands of tropical, primary forest with some of the highest biodiversity in the world.

Read the full story at <http://www.forestcarbonportal.com/news/japans-earthquake-disaster-may-boost-rain-forest-logging-borneo>.

Depleted Uranium

You probably never heard of depleted uranium munitions but they are actually made from the same depleted uranium that is sitting in the cooling ponds at the damaged reactor sites in Japan.

Because uranium is twice as dense (and heavy) as lead, the military likes to use it to make shells for its armor-piercing guns. But the problem is that they are very dangerous. These munitions have led to more deaths and birth defects than seems possible considering how little you hear about them.

This is an environmental problem. We have put something far worse than Chernoble leakage into the environment in Iraq and Afghanistan and I am not sure how we can get it out of the environment. If you have time to read this it will shock and upset you. Environmentalists have to speak up more about this.

Read the full story at <http://endoftheamericandream.com/?s=depleted+uranium>.

Dolphins

The effects of last year's oil spill continue to kill dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico. Yet, the media has moved on.

Read the full story at <http://www.oceansentry.org/lang-en/menu-news/menu-marine-mammals/3123-infant-dolphins-dying-in-high-numbers.html>.

Species Extinction

Periodically, biologists put out a report about how many species are going extinct or could go extinct in the near future. This is the only time you will see mention of it in the mainstream media if at all. Even the alternative media does not talk about this very much.

This study was made at the University of California, Berkeley. The gist of the study is that if current rates of extinction continue unabated, the earth may lose 3/4 of its species. On the bright side of this, the time frame is 300 years which gives us a considerable amount of time to prevent some of this loss. Paul Ehrlich, who teaches at UC Berkeley is quoted as saying, "We could do something about it but I don't see that we have the slightest inclination to."

Read the full story at <http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2011/03/03-4>.

Ozone Layer

Ozone Layer Faces Record Loss Over Arctic
Yahoo! News Story: April 6, 2011

This story just shows how important it is for us to be vigilant environmentalists. I remember seeing in the *Washington Post* several years ago that, thanks to the Montreal Protocols, ozone depletion was on the mend. This article shows that we live in an ever-changing world and you need to stay on top of an issue. I trust scientists more than I do the media since the media can't possibly stay on top of every issue.

"GENEVA - The depletion of the ozone layer shielding Earth from damaging ultraviolet rays has reached an unprecedented low over the Arctic this spring because of harmful chemicals and a cold winter, the U.N. weather agency said Tuesday . . ."

Read the full story at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110405/ap_on_re_eu/un_un_arctic_ozone_layer.



Photo by Iona

Suspicious plane patterns in rural PA.

Become a Volunteer Reporter and/or Photographer for Earth News

By Iona
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

I snapped this photo of such strange air-plane patterns that I thought immediately of all the Chemtrails stories we've published over the years. This is certainly NOT a normal air pattern. This is rural Pennsylvania on March 2, 2011, nowhere near an airport. We are in the sticks.

It occurred to me to invite others to send us material of grassroots work they are doing and, if it's appropriate, we'll publish it. It would be wonderful to have eyes, ears and brains all over the state checking in with us and supplementing our work.

Aircraft Contrails Stoke Warming, Cloud Formation

By Alister Doyle, excerpt
Reuters, March 29, 2011

OSLO, Norway — Aircraft condensation trails criss-crossing the sky may be warming the planet on a normal day more than the carbon dioxide emitted by all planes since the Wright Brothers' first flight in 1903, a study said.

It indicated that contrails — white lines of vapor left by jet engines — also have big knock-on effects by adding to the formation of high-altitude, heat-trapping, cirrus clouds as the lines break up.

The findings may help governments fix penalties on planes' greenhouse gas emissions in a U.N.-led assault on climate change. Or new engines might be designed to limit vapor and instead spit out water drops or ice that fall from the sky.

"Aircraft condensation trails and the clouds that form from them may be causing more warming today than all the aircraft-emitted carbon dioxide (CO₂) that has accumulated in the atmosphere since the start of aviation," the journal *Nature Climate Change* said in a statement of the findings.

The study, by experts at the DLR German Aerospace Center, estimated that the net warming effect for the Earth of contrails and related cirrus clouds at any one time was 31 milliwatts per square meter, more than the warming effect of accumulated CO₂ from aviation of 28 milliwatts.

A milliwatt is a thousandth of a watt. Aviation emissions now account for about three percent of annual CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels, more than a century since Orville and Wilbur Wright made the first powered airplane flight . . .

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Comments on Content

Dear Iona,

I'm dropping an envelope in the mail to you with \$25 for the latest shipment. I loved reading about your encounter with the municipal officials and can't wait for the next installment.

Allen Hengst

Washington, D.C.

Hi Iona,

Funny story. I was going to give my friend one of your papers with my article. The friend just happened to be the person who told me about Chemtrails. So, just as I was about to give him your paper, he showed me his own copy that a fellow bus rider had given him. The rider picked up the paper at Lancaster County Market and showed it to my friend because my friend had been telling him about Chemtrails.

Needless to say, we were both blown away.

That Web site aircrap.org is great. And I'm slowly getting to the Long Island Sky Watch one as well.

Anonymous man who wrote the two Chemtrails articles in our March/April issue

P.S. The paper looks great!

Gas Drilling

Dear Iona,

I was wondering, has there been any discussion of shale fracturing ("fracking") in Western Maryland? There has been a lot of activity to stop the poisoning of groundwater, streams and wells in Pennsylvania. The secret chemicals injected under pressure to free the natural gas have caused well water to become toxic.

In the Sunday Baltimore Sun this month, buried in back of the A section and at the bottom of an article about windmills off the Maryland coast, were a couple paragraphs mentioning that the gas companies have already been going to land owners in Garratt and Allegheny counties getting gas drilling leases signed. Am I just out of it or this the first you have heard of this also?

Kermit Leibensperger
Sykesville, Maryland

Iona:

Joyce Riley on 'The Power Hour' had someone on that was talking about the 'Gasland' DVD and telling everyone to get it. Thought you'd want to know. I sent her this information.

Lynn

Idaho

Hi Iona,

Looking at the Pennsylvania map showing the vastness of the Marcellus Shale sub-strata (see page 2), it is found mainly to the west of the Allegheny Front and spotty in the ridge and valley region. The region to the east – the Piedmont and the great valley of Harrisburg, Lancaster and Philadelphia are not blessed by the "Great unregulated Economic Boom."

The areas where government is and the population base of Pennsylvania will not see gas moni-

New Name for This Newspaper

Photo by Iona

The Earth News had its first party/board meeting at Iona and John Conner's home March 26th. Over an hour of brainstorming resulted in many new ideas that we will be trying. One of them is changing the name to make it more clear what the paper is all about. Consensus was reached that a tighter focus was going to be important. You will see several changes now and in the future as we try to modify our course to become more useful, hoping that more people will subscribe. Pictured above from left to right are: Kim Stenley (Taneytown, Maryland), Kathie and Jack Hendricks (McConnellsburg, PA), Madalene Ransom (Jamestown, North Carolina), Sally Klien and Michael Diller (Bedford, PA) and John Conner (Shade Gap PA).

tors in the basement or drilling rigs on the mountain side, where streams remain pristine. The folks in that part of Pennsylvania will come to the wilderness of Pennsylvania to seek solitude and see natural beauty.

But the nice thing about environmental justice is these folks now may come to the realization that their idyllic playground is the home of wells and pipelines. As was explained in the Pinca article, "...Marcellus Shale development is so important for the future of the United States that the landowners of Pennsylvania must sacrifice for the greater good of their country."

Now some in non-Marcellus shale country are asking, "Is it worth it?"

Not to create panic, but knowing that the environmental review process is now "streamlined," I am wondering if geological faults are given consideration when drilling and hydrofracturing pumping is being done in Marcellus Shale areas? The fault for Cromwell Township, at least this one, is in the Orbisonia Narrows. Along 522 south.

My comment about eastern Pennsylvania is this: There is no Marcellus shale there. Philadelphia at least will not be seeing wells off the Schuylkill Expressway! However, the Harrisburg Patriot article does appear to indicate gas drilling is affecting the property value and senses of cabin owners in Marcellus Country.

George John Drobnock
Mount Union, Pennsylvania
A note: My background is in historical and settlement geography. Of interest is the early charcoal iron industry. A number of hours were spent reviewing geological surveys of Pennsylvania circa 1850 to 1880. There are studies during

that time period of Marcellus iron ores. But what I found of real interest were the comments of geological fault lines in Miller, Cromwell and Clay townships related to Marcellus ores. They are minor faults. But what happens if the drilling and pumping takes place in these minor fault regions? Will there be subsurface tremors?

Email from Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

The color of gas drilling is a dull, stultifying, choking, brown. I drove south along Route 14 in Pennsylvania this past weekend and was absolutely struck by the amount of dry filth everywhere. It hit with a rush at Columbia Crossroads. I had the external air vent on in the car, and even filtered, there was a noticeable difference in the breathable air inside the car, thicker and with a dirt taste.

Beginning at Columbia Crossroads, the pavement is brown, and the guardrails are no longer galvanized gray but instead coated with a layer of particulate, spun off the wheels of trucks. Troy, once a lovely country village, is covered, roof to sidewalk, with a gritty pall that cannot help but sift to the inside. Canton is the same and the scene did not let up until Roaring Branch, when there was some relief from the brown cloak that now smothers a former refreshing, pastoral highway.

I could not help but wonder who, in these dusty homes and storefronts along the main roadways, is benefiting and how the trees and other vegetation will be affected when (or if) they bud out. If all the recent rains helped to wash anything down, what must it have been like beforehand?

I wish there were a positive end to this note but it just seems to be another layer of drilling fallout (no pun intended) that nobody figured on up front. And it's not going to go away.

(This description was written by an RDA member traveling through Bradford County, where drilling activity has been heavier than in RDA's home base here in Lycoming County. Given the rate of the permits being issued locally, we won't be spared for long.)

Educating the Future

Iona,

The conference went well, although we always hope for a bigger attendance. We got our keynote speaker, Dudley Edmondson, into two Pittsburgh high schools to meet in small groups with students with an environmental interest. He shared his experiences and photography and they went outside in a nearby city park to do some photographing together. We brought students from a program sponsored by city parks to present at our conference about what they do and we also sponsored an evening public program by Dudley at the Pittsburgh's Homewood Library. All these efforts involved a really diverse audience, an opportunity to reach an audience that environmental education has been neglecting and not involving.

Last week I was part of a very impressive and productive meeting in Washington, D.C. By Executive Order of President Obama, there is to be an environmental literacy plan for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed by the end of the year. The leaders of the five states and D.C. organizations like the Pennsylvania Association of

Environmental Educators (PAEE) from the states in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed each made a presentation about environmental concerns in our state and where we are with our state own environmental literacy plans.

The other 30 people in the room were lead people from Federal agencies like Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Education. They were all especially excited for the chance to sit down directly with us and learn what we are doing and how they can help. Everyone signed up for a committee to continue the discussion and work has already started.

At the end of the meeting everyone was asked to say how they felt about what we accomplished that day. Every person stated that they found the meeting exhilarating and the prospects of what we can accomplish together, exciting.

Ruth Roperti

President PAEE

Compassion

Dear Iona,

It is great to hear from you. I gave the newspapers to my students, and they thanked you so much. It is good for them to read English newspaper on global warming. Nowadays Koreans are very concerned about the tsunami and nuclear power plant crisis in Japan. More than 400,000 people live in temporary shelters without much food and blankets. It is still cold at night time in the northern part of Tokyo.

I was in Japan in 1995 when an earthquake hit the Kobe area. I was in Tokyo but I saw buildings shaking and broken windows on the streets. Human beings are nothing before huge natural disasters, as we experienced with Katrina a few years ago. Japanese are proud of safety but the tsunami devastated everything and left only scars.

I am very sorry for the victims and the refugees. The matter is getting worse and the levels of radiation are getting higher. I hope everything will be under control. I feel the human agony and ordeal like my own problem. I pray for them. They are all human beings like us.

Pyong Roh

Daegu, Korea

BEWARE!

Hi,

Thanks so much for sending the papers. My wife even said she is so fed up that she wants to distribute some of your papers. I think that is my next goal to recruit others to distribute flyers. One of my friends is going to start.

This week was such a bad week for Chemtrails spraying but such a good week to show others what is going on. You got to turn the bad into a positive.

My wife told me something her friend said. She said that people don't want to believe that something is true because that means that they would have to deal with that or make a change in their life. They would rather

live in their own dream world and not know the harm that is coming. That is so very true.

But there are some people who will listen. Those are the people we have to find and educate.

I guess you all heard about chemicals like BPA leaching from plastic food containers and drinking bottles (and the worst – the paper receipts you receive in the stores and gas stations).

We have switched to using stainless steel water containers and using pyrex glass for cooking, reheating and even food storage. We are eliminating the use of any plastic because of the harmful chemicals used in them. You especially wouldn't want to put hot food in plastic containers, use them in the microwave or expose them to sunlight/heat.

It is ironic that people have known BPA was harmful since the early 1900s but they decided to make it one of the most widely-used chemicals. It has led to mass infertility and other health problems. Some people speculate it was done on purpose. Well, obviously they used the chemical on purpose knowing it would have after effects. Whether it was used to limit population growth or cause shorter life spans can never be proven.

We feel we have to protect ourselves when possible. We now know about BPA so use that information for your own good. There are still plenty of things we don't know about.

Here is an article that shows just because plastics are saying they are BPA free now, don't go thinking those plastics are safe. <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1289%2Fehp.1003220#Supplemental%20>

We have turned off all wireless technology in our house and try to limit cell phone exposure due to the risks noted in the article below. Everyone is being exposed to exponential amounts of microwave radiation and energy fields in comparison to our past. The article below is very comprehensive and has lots of references to the related health issues we face.

<http://emf.mercola.com/sites/emf/archive/2011/03/12/will-microwaves-kill-more-than-cigarettes-and-asbestos-combined.aspx>

There are now wireless hotspots everywhere. If you are around them, then you get exposed whether you are using a computer or not. You probably made a wireless hotspot in your house. Maybe there is one in your car for GPS.

Below are some changes we have already made.

Our wireless on the computer router is off, we have corded phones again, we are eliminating use of the microwave oven since it just irradiates food and lowers nutrition content (and don't stand near it). We try to keep cell phones three feet or more away from us when not in use. When in use, don't let them touch your head, hold at least one inch away from your skull. Also, Electronics should not be close to where you sleep.

Anonymous Chemtrails Author
Frederick, Maryland

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BIG SUBSCRIPTION DRIVE: Thanks to Bill Boteler for dreaming up this idea!

Here's how the emails went:

(From Iona to email list)

Dear Friends,
I still have plenty of February's OE left. Please let me know if you'd like a bunch to distribute in your area or at events. I'll be happy to send them for free and I have special boxes that hold 100. I have a few hundred left over so don't be shy.

Thanks for helping get these important issues into people's hands who may be uninformed since the regular media doesn't cover them well, if at all.
For the Earth,
Iona

(From Bill to Iona)

Hi,
When I know that we are having the Eco Justice Cafe, I can probably distribute a whole bunch.

I already distributed a bunch around Takoma Park. I CAN believe how hard it is [to work full-time at the sewing factory and publish the paper] since I could not work full-time and do anything else.

That is why I am going to focus on getting you more subscriptions. Have you ever figured out how many subscriptions you would need to be able to make the paper you full-time job?
Sincerely,
Bill Boteler

(From Iona to Bill)

Subject: Figuring

Dear Bill,

It is so sweet of you to want to boost the subscriptions for EN.

I really need \$1,000 monthly. (Expenses for January and February = \$2,030; income from EN alone = \$644; the rest from my earnings.) BUT if I drop to 10 months or even six, there's less expense.

So, based on \$900 a month relying solely on subscriptions, we need 140 subscriptions per month. Renewals are the best – easy, sort-of automatic IF people like the paper (some do, some don't). I can think of three sources that

can be tapped into via Internet: prison libraries, regular libraries (especially Pennsylvania where we publish and where the gas drilling is horrendous) and universities/colleges.

We could work together somehow on increasing subscriptions. I had a dream that EN would be entirely subscription-funded.

Anyhow, that's the picture. Let me know what you realistically think. Thanks again, Bill.

Iona

P.S. These figures do not take into account inflation or stamp price increases. Now I pay \$.64 for each paper and \$1.28 for postage each month on the single-issue subscriptions.

(From Bill to Iona)

Hi,

Actually, I was not thinking about making money for myself. As far as the 140 subscriptions, I don't know. I am sure I could reach that many people and it is possible that I could do it. It might take a while and *I would recommend that you find a few more people like me to help do it.*

Somehow, I feel that it might not be too hard but I am not sure why I think that.

Sincerely,
Bill Boteler

Hope

THE AWAKENING: PART VI

(First published January 2010)



This message is sent to you by the one who knows your questions and concerns and helps you to see your way clearly to a higher level of understanding, The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God.

my spirit comes upon and fills a person, I become that person and that person becomes me. These are my messages, not the person's that I am in; therefore, I sign these messages The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God. If the person that I am in were to sign his name on these messages, it would imply that these are his messages and that would be blasphemy. It is blasphemous for anyone to try to receive credit for anything that I do or have done.

My spirit is already in this body and is on or with others by their choice, actions and deeds.

- For those of you who wonder how I, The Most High God, can be in a human body: The body who I am in offered his soul so I could have his body. I accepted this offering.
- For those of you who wonder, "Are these 'Awakening' messages blasphemous?" No. When

would keep hate alive. If I save those who lie, it would keep lying alive. This same principle is true with selfishness, adultery, pedophilia, pride, anger, war, stealing, murder, argument, fighting, blasphemy, cruelty, rape, domination, deceit, etc., etc., etc. So if I save sinners, I would be keeping sin alive.

However, I do heal sinners if they choose to repent with all of their mind, heart and soul and are perfect in trying and show constant improvement.

I save the righteous, keeping righteousness alive. I save those who are modest, keeping modesty alive. I save those who are loving, peaceful and kind, keeping love, peace and kindness alive. I save those who are truthful, keeping Truth alive. This principle also applies to innocence, fairness, justice, honor, generosity and so on . . .

- For those of you who wonder why I have not reached a larger audience, please feel free

to share these "Awakening" messages everywhere you can - news broadcasts, talk shows, radio shows, churches, magazines, newsletters, Internet, emails I ASK OF YOU PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM THESE "AWAKENING" MESSAGES IN ANY WAY; therefore, I am totally responsible for the contents of these messages. I have written these messages in the simplest form so that they might reach anyone, no matter what their intellectual level is.

Walk within the Light of my Love and my Truth.

Your Friend,
The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God

For further information about *Most High God*, contact Iona at 814-259-3680, ionaconner@gmail.com, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255 or www.theorderoftheearth.com.

Awakening Booklet is Now Available

Iona's Testimony: My life has become so amazingly wonderful and peaceful since I turned it over to The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God that I want to share as much as I can about Him with everyone so I put all 10 "Awakening" articles into a booklet, which I'll be happy to mail to you. My cost is about \$6 (including postage) but, if you can't afford that, I will send it to you anyhow. Please send your check, money order, cash or request for a free booklet to:

Iona Conner
Earth News

21431 Marlin Circle

Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255

You may email ionaconner@gmail.com or phone 814-259-3680.

Thank you.

Forests continued from page 1



Photo by Uni Wough

Giant sequoia trees in California are the largest living creatures on Earth and can live as long as 2,000 years.

Achim Steiner, executive director of the UN Environment Programme, said forests represent "priceless" spiritual, aesthetic and cultural dimensions of the human experience. "But they are also cornerstones of our economies, whose real value has all too often been invisible in national accounts of profit and loss," he said.

The forest products industry is responding to numerous environmental and social concerns by improving sustainability of resource use, using more waste materials to make products, increasing energy efficiency and reducing emissions, the UN said in a statement.

Last year, 37 percent of total forest production came from recovered paper, wood waste and non-wood fibers, a figure the UN says is likely to grow to up to 45 percent by 2030, with much of that growth from China and India.

"What we need during the International Year of Forests is to emphasize the connection between people and forests and the benefits that can accrue when

forests are managed by local people in sustainable and innovative ways," said FAO Forestry Director Eduardo Rojas . . .

Forests are traditionally valued for their main commercial resource, timber. But they are home to 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity and provide a wide range of ecosystem services such as clean water, protection against floods and other natural disasters, estimated at more than \$720 billion a year for national and global economies.

"When deciding how to spend their budgets, governments usually don't factor in the economic returns to investing in locally-controlled forestry," says IUCN's (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Lucy Emerson, one of the authors of the report. "They thereby miss a critical opportunity to invest in stimulating economic growth, sustainable development and poverty reduction."

"Locally-controlled forest management is a highly profitable public investment and development assistance option," says

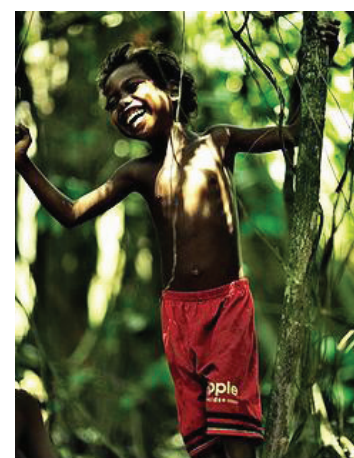


Photo by Lye Tuck-Po

A boy of the Batek, a hunter-gatherer people of Malaysia, at play in the forest.

Stewart Maginnis, IUCN's Director of Environment and Development, who spoke at the UN ceremony today in New York. "We are talking about an absolutely revolutionary way of changing the world economy - and changing it for the better."

*State of the World's Forests 2011: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i2000e/i2000e00.htm>.

First Allegheny Mountain Green Fest

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children.
- Chief Seattle -

The words of Chief Seattle ring true today more than ever, as our society realizes that its current path is clearly unsustainable. The results of our actions will echo into the future for generations to come. We all must act swiftly to secure our future as a prosperous society. To aid in this action, Natural Biodiversity is pleased to announce the 2011 Allegheny Mountain Green Fest on May 14th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (see ad below).

The theme for the first-ever Green Fest is "Living Green Starts at Home," though topics can be applied to a variety of settings. The mission of Green Fest is to, "Propagate an enthusiastic, green spirit prompting the people of the Allegheny Mountains region to take per-

sonal action and care for our local environment, global community and future generations." At Green Fest, we'll practice what we preach, taking a variety of steps to make the event sustainable.

This fun, family-friendly event will host Keynote presenter, Mike McGrath, nationally-syndicated radio host of NPR's "You Bet Your Garden." The title of his presentation is The Seven Secrets of Successful Organic Gardeners. He will be available for book signing and will be providing a workshop in the afternoon.

With both indoor and outdoor activities, Green Fest will include something for everyone...a native plant sale, hands-on workshops, engaging speakers, a Kids Patch area and an Eco Expo, featuring business representatives who offer products that help people green their lives. The eco expo is expected to include energy-efficient mate-

rials, gardening supplies, local foods, green cleaning products and more. Come to Green Fest to enjoy the festivities and learn how to Green Your Routine!

Attending the Green Fest

Organizers at Natural Biodiversity request that you pre-register so that event offerings are sufficient for the number of attendees.

Pre-registration tickets (register before May 6): Adult - \$10; Natural Biodiversity members, kids under five years and Green Fest volunteers - FREE

On-site tickets: Adult - \$15; Natural Biodiversity members, kids under five years - \$5.

Parties eligible for discounted tickets include children from five to 17 years of age, college students, active AmeriCorps members, veterans of the U.S. armed forces and senior citizens 65 years of age and older.

Contact information: www.ohmonth.com/greenfest; 814-534-0204, nbd_staff@naturalbiodiversity.org or 538 Park Avenue, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 15902.

About Mike McGrath: Mike McGrath has been Garden editor for WTOP News Radio in Washington D.C. since 1999, with a live appearance on the station as the 'Yard Warrior' and small 'Garden Plot' segments. He is a contributing editor and columnist in the quarterly gardening publication *Greenprints* ('The Weeder's Digest'). Mike was Editor-In-Chief of *Organic Gardening* magazine from 1991 to 1997. Mike is also an author of books on Tomatoes, Compost and Kitchen Gardening. Learn more at: http://www.ohmonth.com/greenfest_keynote.shtml. Mike lives in the boonies of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania with his family, organic garden and an inconsistent number of rescued cats.



endangered cornflowers we are mortal together

By Sandy Chilcote, Newfoundland, Canada

in a tizzy in the breeze
blue cornflowers'
nearly-hidden sudden color
above corners of rocks
and within disorderly petals



Allegheny Mountain Green Fest

Green Your Routine

Featuring:

- Native Plant Sale
- Green Products
- Local Foods
- Organic Gardening
- Backyard Habitats
- Energy Improvements
- Workshops
- Kids Activities
- And More!

MAY 14, 2011
10 am to 6 pm
Living Learning Center
University of Pittsburgh
@ Johnstown
FREE PARKING

Get your tickets today @:
www.ohmonth.com

Keynote Mike McGrath of NPR's You Bet Your Garden!

New Book About the Importance of Water

Water Matters: Why We Need to Act Now to Save Our Most Critical Resource is a call to action and a solution-focused guide to solving our global water crisis. With over 80 beautiful photographs and 17 thoughtful essays by some of the world's leading writers, artists and activists, *Water Matters* will make you pause for a moment to remember the life-sustaining value of water in our daily lives and then inspire you to do everything you can to preserve and protect our threatened water resources. Authors take on both the good and the bad - the impact of climate change on water resources, the threat of privatization and the challenge of thirsty agriculture, as well as a growing grassroots water justice movement, tools for watershed literacy and success stories in conservation and efficiency.

Includes contributions from the following writers: Barbara Kingsolver, Bill McKibben, Maude Barlow, Tina Rosenberg, Sandra Postel, Elizabeth Royte, Cynthia Barnett, Wenonah Hauter, Jacques Leslie, Jeff Conant, Paula Garcia, Christina Roessler, Eleanor Sterling, Kelle Louailier, William Roesler, Brock Dolman, Erin Vintinner and Tara Lohan.

\$19.95, order at AlterNet.org.

