



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

November 2008

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UPDATES

Court Upholds Wolf Protection

Chicago Tribune

September 29 (excerpt) — Agreeing with a Center for Biological Diversity legal action, a federal judge today overturned a 2007 Bush administration decision to remove Great Lakes area wolves from the endangered species list. The ruling puts an immediate halt to the killing of hundreds of wolves in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. While the Great Lakes wolf population has increased to 4,000 individuals under the protective cover of the Endangered Species Act, the species is still missing from most of its historic range ...

Victory for Ancient Forests

Earth's Newsdesk

September 23 (excerpt) — Friends of the Earth is the first major international NGO to confirm they no longer support Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, which falsely suggests primary and old-growth forest logging is desirable and even sustainable. This is a major victory for those including Ecological Internet and FSC-Watch who have courageously taken on large environmental interests using FSC to greenwash ancient forest destruction.

No Child Left Inside Clears House

No Child Left Inside Coalition

We are pleased to report that environmental education won a major boost today when the U.S. House of Representatives approved the No Child Left Inside Act of 2008. The bill received bipartisan support and was approved by a vote of 293 to 109.

This is only one step in the process, but it is a major one and gives us enormous momentum to keep working to pass the bill in the months ahead. And the vote represents a victory for all of us who care about environmental education.

We know from our work on Capitol Hill that we passed this bill because of the grassroots interest and energy of our members across the country. The Senate will vote on this bill next year after the elections. Keep up the pressure!

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Government-in-Waiting Narratives-in-Waiting

By Diane Wittner

Imagine this ...

... During the Backbone Campaign's *Conversations with the Cabinet* interviews, *Progressive Cabinet* nominees — from Winona LaDuke and Santiago Juarez to Noam Chomsky and Baldeemar Velasquez — repeatedly stated that Americans must move beyond their familiar national mythologies to gain the courage to finally build a righteous nation. As our (un)real government headquarters is in my home town of Washington, and as we are in an election year, I have begun to consider the connection between this city and the possibility of a new mythology, or 'master narrative,' as Secretary of Labor nominee Bill Fletcher phrased it in his March 2005 Conversation.

... Recently I walked along the Potomac River in Georgetown. I was pleased to see a great blue heron on the river bank and a fat shad close to the water's surface. At that moment, it occurred to me that the process of narrative transformation could begin right there.

... For more than 10,000 years the Potomac River at Washington was the regional focus for sustainable human populations and other life forms. Indigenous peoples such as the Piscataways, Tauxenents and the Nacotchtanks resided along the fertile banks of both the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. These groups belonged to a larger federation of Algonquin peoples whose powerful leader was Pohattan. Others also came to the Potomac every spring; the area was known as a center of trade and as a fishing camp. In fact, the word 'Potomac' means 'trading place' in the Algonquin language. Elk, bears, wolves, and cougars resided in the nearby forests. The river teemed with American and hickory shad, white and yellow perch, red-breasted sunfish, catfish and more.

... Geography provides an explanation for this lively set up.



This image speaks about where all life begins for all living forms, Birth. Life began in Africa. The woman's womb is Africa. Maybe when there is Peace in Africa, there will be Peace throughout the world. Art by Espi Frazier, Baltimore MD

The Potomac River watershed is almost fifteen hundred square miles, and the river itself is three hundred eighty miles long. Its eleven-mile-wide mouth opens at the Chesapeake Bay, after which the river travels west and north. A section called Great Falls is located a few miles upstream from Washington. It is so named because of its treacherous rocks and white choppy waters. Every spring, fish try to swim upstream to spawn. But many don't make it beyond the rocks and they become easy prey for hungry predators.

... This heavenly abundance is what the Europeans encountered on their first visit here in the 1570's. And in his famous 1608 diary, English Captain John Smith noted that fishing poles and nets

weren't needed on the Potomac below Great Falls. According to Smith, frying pans could just be dipped briefly into the water to catch a fresh meal. In other words, up until five hundred years ago, the Potomac River at Washington provided food for all its locals during the long spring season.

... I like meditating on this fact, although this old news about Washington as a commons is not widely known. Here's how this might become useful as part of a new narrative:

... Visualize a horizontal timeline divided into twenty sections, each section representing five hundred years — for a total of ten thousand years. If you like, make it into a nice shape in your mind's eye — maybe the curving

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Carbon Building Up in Atmosphere Faster Than Predicted

By Juliet Eilperin
The Washington Post

September 26 (excerpt) — The rise in global carbon dioxide emissions last year outpaced international researchers' most dire projections, according to figures being released today, as human-generated greenhouse gases continued to build up in the atmosphere despite international agreements and national policies aimed at curbing climate change.

In 2007, carbon released from burning fossil fuels and producing cement increased 2.9 percent over that released in 2006, a total of 8.47 gigatons, or billions of metric tons, according to the Australia-based Global Carbon Project, an international consortium of scientists that tracks emissions. This output is at the very high end of scenarios outlined by the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC, see page 4) and could translate into a global temperature rise of more than 11 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century ...

"In a sense, it's a reality check," said Corinne Le Quere, a professor at the University of East Anglia and a researcher with the British Antarctic Survey. "This is an extremely large number. The emissions are increasingly at a rate that's faster than what the IPCC has used"

"We should be worried, really worried," said Richard Moss of the World Wildlife Fund ...

Mad Woodsman's Manifesto

By Reg Darling

Preamble: We, the ragged remnants of Pleistocene blood and sunshine, hold these truths to be self-evident: that all consciousness is created equal, that it is endowed by creation with certain inalienable rights, that among these are air, water, eros, wildness, and art. The human race in general and Americans in particular are mired in malaise and fear because we have shut upon the love and wildness that sings and aches in our hearts. We offer the following in loving outrage:

Article I: That our various governments are never going to cease starting and waging wars should be completely obvious to everyone by now. The reason they won't cease making war is that they don't want to. War is the *raison d'être* of their existence as well as the source of their wealth, despite their shrill and numerous token efforts to pretend otherwise. Given a reasonable urgency of will to do so, our governments have the means to put an end to this bloody lunacy. In a civilian individual, the lack of such will in the face of countless thousands of innocent deaths would be universally regarded as criminally insane.

The captains of our various ships of state are vicious sociopaths.

The end of war is our responsibility as individuals, families, and communities. We must take the political mass murderer's weapons away from them. Their weapons are our poor, brave, swindled, coerced sons and daughters. We must offer honor and healing love to our veterans whose blood and bravery have been illicitly used to pay for the greed and cowardice of politicians, but it's time to cut this nationalism bullshit and give our hearts to our watersheds, our families, and our neighbors. It's time to say no, to refuse to serve, refuse to enlist, to desert, to shelter and honor our deserting heroes.

Article II: Our various governments have not taken meaningful steps to reduce human dependency on fossil fuels, despite the many catastrophes that dependency has spawned, for a reason that, despite the terrifying complexities of its machinations, can be stated very simply: they don't want to.

The real, functional political issue has little to do with a finite and shrinking supply of oil, global warming or the dangers of nuclear energy. The real issue is whether the generation and consumption of energy will be small and local

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Reg Darling admiring a nut-bearing chestnut tree at Rimrock Overlook in Allegheny National Forest. Photo by Walt Atwood

Tyla Matteson of Richmond, Virginia received the Sierra Club's Special Service Award in San Francisco. Photo by Ann Moore, a York River Group Sierra Club member.

[Ed.: I wanted to share Tyla's good news and history to inspire others to work hard for our planet Earth.]



Tyla Matteson Receives National Sierra Club's Special Service Award for 2008

The Fall Line, newsletter of the Falls of the James Group Sierra Club, September/October 2008 — Tyla Matteson received the National Sierra Club's Special Service Award for 2008 and went to San Francisco for the awards ceremony with her husband, Glen Besa, the Virginia Chapter director.

Our heartiest congratulations, Tyla! I hope most of you know Tyla; she has been involved as a leader or principal organizer in major chapter campaigns including the multi-year, much-heralded

effort to prevent the City of Newport News, Virginia, from building the giant King William Reservoir (that would destroy the pristine waters of the Mattaponi River and its adjacent wetlands in eastern Virginia); the banner anti-sprawl and air quality "Virginia Endangered Landscape Campaign; and the City of Richmond and statewide "Cool Communities" Campaign throughout the state's environ-

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Think and Act

Endgame by Derrick Jensen

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

I want to re-examine one other thing Mumford wrote, in part because he makes an argument for civilization I've seen replicated so many times elsewhere, and that actually leads, I think, to some of the very serious problems we face today. He concluded the section I quoted above ... : "Ultimately the purpose [is] to make available to all men [sic] the discoveries and inventions and creations, the works of art and thought, the values and purposes that any single group has discovered."

But just as a widening of economic intercourse is only beneficial to everyone when all exchanges are voluntary, so, too, the imposition of one group's values and purposes onto another, or its appropriation of the other's discoveries, can lead only to the exploitation and diminution of the latter in favor of the former. That this "exchange" helps all was commonly argued by early Europeans in America, as when Captain John Chester wrote that the Indians were to gain "the knowledge of our faith," while the Europeans would harvest "such riches as the country hath." It was argued as well by American slave owners in the nineteenth century: philosopher George Fitzhugh stated that "slavery educates, refines, and moralizes the masses by bringing them into continual

intercourse with masters of superior minds, information, and morality." And it's just as commonly argued today by those who would teach the virtues of blue jeans, Big Macs™, Coca-Cola™, Capitalism™, and Jesus Christ™ to the world's poor in exchange for dispossessing them of their landbases and forcing them to work in sweatshops.

Another problem is that Mumford's statement reinforces a mindset that leads inevitably to unsustainability because it presumes that discoveries, inventions, creations, works of art and thought, and values and purposes are transposable over space, that is, that they are separable from both the human context and landbase that created them. Mumford's statement unintentionally reveals perhaps more than anything else the power of the stories that hold us in thrall to the machine, as he put it, that is civilization: even in brilliantly dissecting the myth of this machine, Mumford fell back into that very same myth by seeming to implicitly accept the notion that ideas or works of art or discoveries are like tools in a toolbox and can be



meaningfully and without negative consequence used out of their original context: thoughts, ideas, and art as tools rather than as tapestries inextricably woven from and into a community of human and nonhuman neighbors.

But discoveries, works of thought, and purposes that may work very well in the Great Plains may be harmful in the Pacific Northwest, and even moreso in Hawai'i. To believe that this potential transposition is positive is the same old substitution of what is distant for what is near: If I really want to know how to live in Tu'ne's, I should pay attention to Tu'ne's.

There's another problem, though, that trumps all of these others. It has to do with a characteristic of this civilization unshared even by other civilizations. It is the

deeply and most-often-invisibly-held beliefs that there is really only one way to live and that we are the one-and-only possessors of that way. It becomes our job then to propagate this way, by force when necessary, until there are no other ways to be. Far from being a loss, the eradication of these other ways to be — these other cultures, is instead an actual gain, since

Western Civilization is the only way worth being anyway: we're doing ourselves a favor by getting rid of not only obstacles blocking our access to resources but reminders that other ways to be exist, allowing our fantasy to sidle that much closer to reality; and we're doing the heathens a favor when we raise them from their degraded state to join the highest, most advanced, most developed state of society. If they don't want to join us, simple: we kill them. Another way to say this is that something grimly alchemical happens when we combine the arrogance of the dictionary definition, which holds this civilization superior to all other cultural forms; hypermilitarism, which allows civilization to expand and exploit essentially at will; and a

belief, held even by such powerful and relentless critics of civilization as Lewis Mumford, in the desirability of cosmopolitanism, that is, the transposability of discoveries, values, modes of thought and so on over time and space.

The twentieth-century name for that grimly alchemical transmutation is genocide: the eradication of cultural difference, its sacrifice on the altar of the one true way, on the altar of the centralization of perception, the conversion of a multiplicity of moralities all dependent on location and circumstance to one morality based on the precepts of the ever-expanding machine, the surrender of individual perception (as through writing and through the conversion of that and other arts to consumables) to predigested perceptions, ideas and values imposed by external authorities who with all their hearts — or what's left of them — believe in, and who benefit by, the centralization of power.

Ultimately, then, the story of this civilization is the story endgame, the problem of civilization of the reduction of the world's tapestry of stories to only one story, the best story, the real story, the most advanced story, the most developed story, the story of the power and the glory that is Western Civilization.

How and Why I Started My Own Newspaper

By Iona Conner



Just when most people would have been dreaming of retirement, I was dreaming of starting my own newspaper.

The urge goes way back. Thirty-five years ago, our daily paper arrived face-up on the door mat. The photo of a naked, dead woman's body in a ravine, though microscopic, shocked me. I ran into the house and cancelled our subscription, thankful that I had seen it before my little sons arrived home from school. I was unnerved.

I don't like the way women are portrayed in underwear ads, crying or simply as help-mates. I abhor the gruesome, ugly and trivial content of most papers. And I believe that in these times of grave global warming threats, people aren't seeing the immediacy and truth through their beloved mainstream papers because that would necessitate ruffling the feathers of valuable advertisers.

In addition to these negative reasons for creating an alternative newspaper, I love to write. I have dabbled in newspaper editing for non-profit organizations for decades, including publishing my own newsletters on 8 1/2 by 11" copy paper. I enjoy finding people who are doing wonderful work and talking about them to others.

So at 61 I decided to publish what I believe is the nation's first, hard-copy global warming newspaper, "The Order of the Earth: News, Views and Musings" (a name I thought of years ago). I focus more on women and peace than men and war. I focus more on preserving forests and trees than on income-producing clean energy in the fight against catastrophic climate change.

I do not believe this world is as awful as it appears to be through the eyes of news gatherers who scan the world for the gory, the scary, the tragic, the weird. Meanwhile, people everywhere are overcoming obstacles and working hard to create a brighter future. I like to find the kind, the beautiful, the thoughtful, the outrageous. I work

long hours to uncover stories showing that we can indeed transform this country to minimize and survive ghastly environmental conditions that climate change is forcing on us.

How on Earth are we as a society going to find the strength, intelligence and courage to radically change the way the world operates (which has been compared to a car going 100 miles an hour toward a brick wall) if we are numb and depressed from the news?

Given all of the above, I evaluated my talents and my passion (environmentalism after 40 years in the movement both as a professional and as a volunteer) and asked, "What do I want to do for the rest of my life and what needs are not being met in the world of activism?"

Instead of easing back to play bridge, golf or sit in my rocking chair on the porch reading, I look forward to working deliberately long hours. My newspaper is peopled with folks I admire. It is also sprinkled with news from investigative journalists who uncover corruption in all levels of government and corporations. We are an entirely volunteer publication, with many talented, intelligent and compassionate people contributing ideas and articles.

Now "The Order of the Earth" is an eight-page, colored monthly publication; we hope to expand to a 16-page weekly during the next few years.

The only obstacle I face is money.

Even though this idea had been percolating for 35 years, I didn't fully understand (and still don't) the economics of this plan. My husband and I choose to live in near-poverty to run our non-profit Grassroots Coalition for Environ-

mental and Economic Justice. So I need to work part-time to help pay for printing, postage and cartridges. Somehow or other, I must bring in between \$650 and \$800 a month over and above our Social Security, on which we try to live.

The paper would never have been born if it weren't for two close friends who agreed to put some energy and generosity behind my dream. One insisted that it was time to switch to newsprint and the other said she'd pay for my publishing software and our first press run.

I nearly forgot someone. A woman I never met in Frederick got her hands on one of my black and white newsletters a year ago and quietly transformed our front page into a beautiful, colorful depiction of the Earth's glory. I was astonished that such a thing was possible since I had zero publishing/graphics background. At that point I knew that "The Order of the Earth" would be not only a valuable tool for people in years ahead, but it would be a beautiful newspaper. I was ecstatic.

With that loving spirit behind me, we planned our "Big Launch" for January 1, 2008. We hoped to bring the environmental community into the homes of the mainstream community. I shopped around for the cheapest printing price and went with a company that was not the cheapest, but the friendliest and most convenient to my friends in Frederick, who were going to help me distribute the papers. That company happened to be The Herald-Mail in Hagerstown MD.

Since my comparison shopping had been based on 2,000 papers, I unquestioningly ordered 2,000. Do you realize how many papers that is? Imagine getting a 16-page (original tabloid) paper every single day and piling them all up for recycling. The 2,000 papers the Herald-Mail staff joyfully put in my Ford Escort the day I arrived to pick up our January papers was equivalent to four-and-a-half years of newsprint. What on Earth was I going to

do with all those papers? In my eagerness to put together a great paper, I had failed to construct a distribution system. So I mailed them out in little bunches to all my friends around the country and gave my Frederick colleagues 200 each. In time we sent them all on their way. For February we cut back to 1,500. When money is tight, I back down to 1,000. We ship them to the great groups we invite to write for us and they help us distribute them in their locations in hopes that their memberships and campaigns will get stronger through our publicity and our subscriptions and ads will increase.

Let me back up a minute here to say that we lived in Frederick until three and a half years ago, when we found a lovely home with land we could afford in a place unlike any other I've ever lived. It's heavenly here in rural Pennsylvania but logging, hunting and racing junk cars are common, women are referred to as 'girls,' and everybody knows everybody else or is somehow related. These are hard-working, unpretentious people living in "God's Country." This is not a high-income area, nor is it populated with well-paying companies so it's hard to find work offering more than minimum wage.

I have been disappointed in the low number of subscriptions and ads after publishing 11,000 newspapers and giving away most of them through coffee shops, book stores, supportive businesses, and eco-events. Admittedly, I am not strong at sales; however, I have made face-to-face arrangements with eleven businesses in our area and are currently adding new, remote stores to our list. We are slowly developing a following.

I love every minute I spend on the paper and trust that finances will work themselves out as climate change gets worse and people's desire to read a different type of news grows.

"The Order of the Earth" and I will be here to help.

First published in "H.E.R. Local, Her Everyday Resource," The Herald-Mail's women's magazine.

The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings

is a Monthly Publication

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

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

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

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Layout/Design: Katherine Lukaszewicz, Arikia Millikan, Kim Stenley

Printing: The Herald-Mail Co., Hagerstown MD, a family-owned business using 40% recycled paper and soy-based inks.

Subscriptions: \$25 for 12 issues

Bulk Orders for Events: \$15 for 25 copies; \$25 for 50; \$45 for 100; \$75 for 200.

Advertising Rates: Full-Page = 400; Half-Page = \$225; Quarter-Page = \$125; Eighth-Page = \$75; Sixteenth-Page = \$40; Business Card = \$25. Run a pre-paid ad for five months and the sixth month is free.

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

Masthead: Photo by Iona of trees beginning to change color in Shade Gap PA. We say "Volume 8" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name seven years ago. In 1995 Iona wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends helping, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This is an expansion of the concept.

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

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS: 10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

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

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

--- Kim Stanley

FREEDOM & DEMOCRACY

RNC Charges Dropped Against Goodman and Democracy Now! Producers

Democracy Now!

September 19 (excerpt) — The St. Paul City Attorney's office announced Friday it will not prosecute Democracy Now! journalists Amy Goodman, Sharif Abdel Kouddous and Nicole Salazar. St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman also issued a statement Friday that "the city will decline to prosecute misdemeanor charges for presence at an unlawful assembly for journalists arrested during the Republican National Convention."

Both announcements come two weeks after the conclusion of the Republican National Convention, where over 40 journalists were arrested while reporting on protests taking place outside the convention center.

Goodman said, "It's good that these false charges have finally been dropped, but we never should have been arrested to begin with. These violent and unlawful arrests disrupted our work and had a chilling effect on the reporting of dissent. Freedom of the press is also about the public's right to know what is happening on their streets. There needs to be a full investigation ... of law enforcement activities during the convention."

Goodman was arrested while asking police to release Kouddous and Salazar, who had been violently arrested while reporting on street demonstrations. After being



Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! won an 'Alternative Nobel' for her work to promote peace, social justice and independent reporting. (REUTERS /Right Livelihood Foundation)

handcuffed and pushed to the ground, Goodman reiterated that she was a credentialed reporter. Secret Service then ripped the credential from around her neck.

'Alternative Nobels' To Journalist, Activists

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP via CommonDreams.org October 1, 2008, excerpt) — A U.S. journalist, a Swiss-born doctor and activists from India and Somalia were named as this year's winners of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "Alternative Nobel."

The recipients will share a \$290,000 cash award to be split in four parts. Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull

founded the awards in 1980 to recognize work he felt was being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.

American reporter Amy Goodman, founder and host of the syndicated radio and television program "Democracy Now!", was honored for "truly independent political journalism that brings to millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by mainstream media," the organizers said.

Goodman, born in 1957, was also one of about 800 demonstrators and journalists arrested during protests at a Republican National Convention in the U.S. in mid-September...

ACLU Seeks Data on Spying for 32 Groups

By Lisa Rein

The Washington Post

via CommonDreams.org

October 1 (excerpt) — The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland yesterday demanded that the state police disclose under public information laws whether 32 grassroots advocacy and political activist groups that have held large public protests in recent years have been targets of spying by undercover agents.

Yesterday's request followed revelations in July that police officers posing as activists conducted surveillance in 2005 and 2006 on war protesters and death-penalty opponents.

Information is being sought on behalf of groups ranging from Silver Spring (Continued on page 8)

Forest Peoples Demand Seat at Climate Talks



To date, forest peoples have been left out of the United Nations discussions about how protecting rainforests can help prevent catastrophic climate change and this is what happens when they don't have a voice.

Rainforest Foundation E-News

September 2008 (excerpt) — This August, the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) helped bring more than 50 representatives of forest-dependent communities from over 30 countries to a United Nations climate change conference in Ghana, where governments were discussing how to save the world's rainforests and, by so doing, halt one of the major causes of global warming. The gathering was a first. Never before had so many forest peoples and civil society representatives taken part in a meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) — the governing international agreement on the fight against global warming.

In Ghana, the participants from Africa, Asia, and Latin America spoke out on behalf of the millions of people who live in and depend on rainforests around the world. Their message to governments was clear: forest peoples are the traditional protectors of the rainforest and they must play a central role in any future plans to save forests and fight climate change.

Forest destruction releases more CO₂ each year than all the cars on the planet. Healthy forests absorb and store vast quantities of carbon, helping to regulate temperature and generate rain. Quite simply, if we lose rainforests, we lose the fight against climate change. Rainforests are home to millions of people around the world; we can't save the forests without them. As RFUK's experience over the past 20 years has shown, one of the best



Isn't THIS how trees are supposed to look?

ways to keep forests standing is to ensure that forest peoples have a stronger say in how their local environment is protected. To do that, they must have a seat at the table when decisions are being taken about the future of the forests. That's why, from August 18-27 in Ghana, we helped bring together representatives of forest-dependent communities and civil society organizations from Africa, Latin America, Asia, Oceania, Europe and North America, to share information, develop strategies, and engage with the government officials who are busy hashing out a new global deal on climate change.

Their common objective was to ensure that any future agreement includes effective measures to protect rainforests and to secure the rights and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities. The civil society participants issued a statement outlining key principles and processes that must be in place before any mechanism for avoiding forest destruction or reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation can be implemented ...

Although they came from different countries and contexts, the participants agreed that any policy on forests and climate must:

- Secure the rights of indigenous and local communities to their lands and resources;
- Recognize and reward the role these communities have played and continue to play in preserving the forest;
- Ensure that forest protection in developing countries is additional to, and not instead of, steep reductions in emissions in industrialized nations;
- Respect the principle of free, prior and informed consent and enable full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes regarding the use of forests;
- Guarantee that local communities benefit from any payments for forest protection; and
- Prevent the actors who are historically responsible for forest destruction and degradation, such as industrial logging companies and agribusiness, from benefiting from climate-related schemes to finance forest protection.

Civil society representatives from the Congo Basin, the world's second largest rainforest, also issued their own statement outlining key priorities for protecting rainforests and tackling climate change in central Africa. Similar concerns were also voiced by the Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change in their statement, which stressed the need to include indigenous peoples in the decision-making process around strategies for combating climate change.

GLOBAL HEATING NEWS

Gore Urges Civil Disobedience to Stop Coal Plants

By Michelle Nichols

Reuters via CommonDreams.org

September 25 (excerpt) — Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmental crusader Al Gore urged young people on Wednesday to engage in civil disobedience to stop the construction of coal plants without the ability to store carbon.

The former U.S. vice president ... told a philanthropic meeting in New York City that "the world has lost ground to the climate crisis."

"If you're a young person looking at the future of this planet and looking at what is being done right now, and not done, I believe we have reached the stage where it is time for civil disobedience to prevent the construction of new coal plants that do not have carbon capture and sequestration," Gore told the Clinton Global Initiative gathering to loud applause.

"I believe for a carbon company to spend money convincing the stock-buying public that the risk from the global climate crisis is not that great represents a form of stock fraud because they are misrepresenting a material fact," he said. "I hope these state attorney generals around the country will take some action on that."

[Ed.: John Conner asks, "Is he in jail now?"]

Australia Urged to Evacuate Sinking Pacific Islands

By David Barbeler

The Canberra Times

September 29 (excerpt) — An immigrant from a tiny Pacific Ocean nation is appealing to the Australian Government to assist in evacuations because she



says her homeland is sinking under rising sea levels.

Currently bedridden with pneumonia, Kiribati Australia Association member Wanita Limpus told the Climate Emergency Week rally yesterday outside Queensland's Parliament House how climate change was destroying her home nation.

Her statement came as an Australian scientist who led the United Nations' investigation of climate joined 15 of his colleagues in urging Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to cut carbon emissions by 25 per cent.

Roger Jones co-wrote the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's fourth assessment and he has signed a letter to Mr. Rudd, Climate Change Minister Penny Wong and Environment Minister Peter Garrett.

The scientists say if the Government does not legislate to cut emissions by 25 per cent of 1990 levels by 2020 then it "will leave Australians with a legacy of economic, environmental, social and health costs that will dwarf the scale of national investment required to address this fundamental problem."

Sweden and Denmark Kicked Fossil Fuels and Got Rich

By Mitch Potter

TheStar.com

September 27 (excerpt) — Scandinavia is cold enough to grow a Mats Sundin. Yet nowadays nearly everyone in the hockey hero's native Sweden keeps warm in winter without

burning so much as a drop of oil. Such are the spoils of the Nordic energy paradox, where a generation of pragmatic energy policy is putting paid to the notion that life cannot prosper on a lower-carbon diet.

For those who would have their cake and eat it, too, look to Sweden, where the raw data is to be envied: between 1990 and 2006, the country enjoyed economic growth of 44% in fixed prices, even as it cut carbon emissions by 9%. Denmark's numbers show a similar decoupling of GDP from the use of fossil fuels, with 43% growth contrasting with a 14% carbon reduction in the same time frame. The shift was driven by a complex array of policies. But at its root, experts say, was the world's first carbon tax on fossil fuels.

Wind Power to Light up NJ

By Scott Fallon

Bergen Record

September 24 (excerpt) — Long known for its coal-burning power plants and oil refineries, New Jersey is about to take a major step toward clean energy with offshore wind turbines that would generate enough electricity to power half of the houses in North Jersey. A pilot project to install dozens of turbines off the coast is scheduled to be approved next week and will act as a cornerstone in Governor Corzine's push for renewable energy.

Lexus Ad Banned Because of Climate Claims

By Mark Sweney

September 24 (excerpt) — A national press advertising campaign for a Lexus hybrid four-wheel drive car has been banned after it claimed it was "perfect for today's climate".

Viewers complained that the ad misleadingly implied that it caused "little or no harm" to the environment. The press ad, for the Lexus RX 400h, made the claim: "perfect for today's climate. (And tomorrow's) ... Driving the world's first luxury hybrid SUV makes environmental, and economic, sense ..."

Four complaints were made to the Advertising Standards Authority that the claims were misleading because they "gave a misleading impression of the car's CO₂ emissions in comparison with other vehicles."



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How 6,700 Tons of Radioactive Sand from Kuwait Ended Up in Idaho

By Penny Coleman
Alternet.org

September 17 (excerpt) — On April 26, 2008, the BBC Alabama arrived in Longview, Washington carrying 6,700 tons of Kuwaiti sand. The sand had become contaminated with depleted uranium when U.S. military vehicles and munitions caught fire at Doha Army base in Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War. The depleted uranium was being repatriated. The sand was a gift of the Kuwaiti government.

So was the cost of repatriation. Neither government will discuss just how much the tab was.

The Longview *Daily News* reported that Mike Wilcox, vice president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 21, initially had been "concerned about the safety of longshoremen and the entire

community when he heard a shipment of depleted uranium was coming to Longview."



But the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined that the sand contained "unimportant quantities" of radioactive material, and officials from the Department of Health would be available to test radiation levels — just in case any of the sand spilled.

At the last minute, the Army notified port authorities that tests had revealed that the sand was also contami-

nated with lead — in fact, four times more lead than the EPA's limit for hazardous materials. Transshipment was delayed for a few days awaiting a green light from the EPA ...

Over the next month, longshoremen loaded 160 containers onto railcars bound for an Idaho-based waste disposal site owned by a company called American Ecology ...

Doug Rokke, who quit his job directing the cleanup of radioactive battlefields for the Army, contacted American Ecology and discovered "that they had absolutely no knowledge of U.S. Army Regulation 700-48, U.S. Army PAM 700-48, U.S. Army Technical Bulletin 9-1300-278, and all of the medical orders dealing with depleted uranium contamination, environmental remediation procedures, safety and medical care."



This is a white variety of Trillium. There are also black (which looks deep burgundy) and red. You can see the fuzzy center, which gets a bit more feather-like after petals fall. A trillium heart is what is left of the flower when the petals have all fallen off. It looks like a feathery small heart. Photo by Cathy Pedler, Erie PA

Trillium Heart By Theresa Darling, Warren PA

Below the overlook, balancing
balancing, don't fall watching
being clever (or sometimes, just being)
together through the stony field of monoliths
why, I ask. You say *water dripping from above*
as we proceed a unison of feet
while music rains down on us
like manna but it's two young men
performing for their women
I'm thinking *Give them fifteen, twenty years*
and they'll be *throwing things, unhappily*
drinking too much when I catch myself
Shame, shame I'm much too
sophisticated and upbeat to go there
while comparing the distance between rocks underfoot
and fat clouds overhead *dreamer* you call back at me
Can you hear that?
I said I didn't recognize the key and suddenly
just like that, there it was and you
out ahead of me, too far
I thought to myself to call you back
Look, I think, *a trillium heart*
and the humming air became a prayer
when I bent to get a closer look I could see
clearly it was a trillium sans petals
its tiny white heart, fashioned feather-like
right there, love,
there in the forest's womb.

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

Shrewsbury Takes Stand for Community Self-Government Against Sludgers and Attorney General

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund

Fourth Community in U.S. to Ban Chemical Bodily Trespass

September 4 (excerpt) — Yesterday the Board of Supervisors in Shrewsbury Township, York County PA voted unanimously to adopt the Local Control, Sewage Sludge, and Chemical Trespass Ordinance. With full knowledge that the Pennsylvania Attorney General had sued East Brunswick Township in Schuylkill County to overturn a similar Ordinance, Shrewsbury chose to adopt one that differs from East Brunswick's by being even more strenuous in defending the rights of residents.

In a move that amounts to an open rejection of the authority of the Attorney General to protect the interests of sludge haulers against the

authority of people to self-govern in their communities, the Board of Supervisors of Shrewsbury Township enacted a law that bans corporations from dumping sewage sludge as "fertilizer." The Ordinance also states as a matter of law that, within the community, corporations possess no constitutional "rights," privileges or immunities intended for people. The community included this provision as a challenge to corporate representatives who use court-bestowed constitutional "rights" and legal privileges to nullify local laws and override the legitimate rights of citizens.

In adopting the law, Shrewsbury Township became the fourth community government in the country to define liability and impose penalties for chemical bodily trespass, following the lead of the Town of Halifax, Virginia; Mahanoy Township in Schuylkill County, Pennsyl-

vania; and Packer Township in Carbon County, Pennsylvania.

Ben Price, Projects Director for the CELDF said, "We started this process a year ago, and the Supervisors have been very responsible in studying the issue, listening to their community, and coming to a conclusion that all too many of us have reached: that if the right to self-government is denied to people in the communities where they live, then it is denied completely. The right to self-govern cannot be claimed if people are denied the right to exercise it in their own communities ... Shrewsbury joins a growing list of communities that have begun to exercise self-governing rights as a direct challenge to state and federal intimidation, coercion and denial of people's rights on behalf of corporations."

Contact Ben Price at
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BenGPrice@aol.com

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Part XI The Long-Term Perspective (See ipcc.org for 11/07 Synthesis Report.)

Determining what constitutes "dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system" in relation to Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change involves value judgements. Science can support informed decisions on this issue, including by providing criteria for judging which vulnerabilities might be labelled "key."

Key vulnerabilities¹⁹ may be associated with many climate-sensitive systems including food supply, infrastructure, health, water resources, coastal systems, ecosystems, global biogeochemical cycles, ice sheets and modes of oceanic and atmospheric circulation.

The five "reasons for concern" identified in the Third Annual Report (TAR) remain a viable framework to consider key vulnerabilities. These "reasons" are assessed here to be stronger than in the TAR. Many risks are identified with higher confidence. Some risks are projected to be larger or to occur at lower increases in temperature. Understanding about the relationship between impacts (the basis for "reasons for concern" in the TAR) and vulnerability (that includes the ability to adapt to impacts) has improved.

This is due to more precise identification of the circumstances that make systems, sectors

and regions especially vulnerable, and growing evidence of the risks of very large impacts on multiple-century time scales.

• **Risks to unique and threatened systems.** There is new and stronger evidence of observed impacts of climate change on unique and vulnerable systems (such as polar and high mountain communities and ecosystems), with increasing levels of adverse impacts as temperatures increase further. An increasing risk of species extinction and coral reef damage is projected with higher confidence than in the TAR as warming proceeds.

There is medium confidence that approximately 20-30% of plant and animal species assessed so far are likely to be at increased risk of extinction if increases in global average temperature exceed 1.5-2.5°C (2.7°-4.5°F) over 1980-1999 levels. Confidence has increased that a 1-2°C (1.8°-3.6°F) increase in global mean temperature above 1990 levels (about 1.5-2.5°C or 2.7°-4.5°F above pre-industrial) poses significant risks to many unique and threatened systems including many biodiversity hotspots. Corals are vulnerable to thermal stress and have low adaptive capacity. Increases in sea surface temperature of about 1-3°C (1.8-5.4°F) are projected to result in more frequent coral bleaching events and widespread mortality,

unless there is thermal adaptation or acclimatization by corals. Increasing vulnerability of indigenous communities in the Arctic and small island communities to warming is projected.

• **Risks of extreme weather events.** Responses to some recent extreme events reveal higher levels of vulnerability than the TAR. There is now higher confidence in the projected increases in droughts, heatwaves, and floods as well as their adverse impacts.

• **Distribution of impacts and vulnerabilities.** There are sharp differences across regions and those in the weakest economic position are often the most vulnerable to climate change. There is increasing evidence of greater vulnerability of specific groups such as the poor and elderly in not only developing but also developed countries. Moreover, there is increased evidence that low-latitude and less-developed areas generally face greater risk, for example in dry areas and mega-deltas.

• **Aggregate impacts.** Compared to the TAR, initial net market-based benefits from climate change are projected to peak at a lower magnitude of warming, while damages would be higher for larger magnitudes of warming. The net costs of impacts of increased warming are projected to increase over time.

• **Risks of large-scale singularities.** There is high confidence that global warming over many centuries would lead to a sea level rise contribution from thermal expansion alone which is projected to be much larger than observed over the 20th century, with loss of coastal areas and associated impacts. There is better understanding than in the TAR that the risk of additional contributions to sea-level rise from both the Greenland and possibly Antarctic ice sheets may be larger than projected by ice sheet models and could occur on century time scales. This is because ice dynamical processes seen in recent observations but not fully included in ice sheet models assessed in scenario AR4 could increase the rate of ice loss.

There is high confidence that neither adaptation nor mitigation alone can avoid all climate change impacts; however, they can complement each other and together can significantly reduce the risks of climate change.

FOOTNOTE:

¹⁹ Key Vulnerabilities can be identified based on a number of criteria in the literature, including magnitude, timing, persistence/reversibility, the potential for adaptation, distributional aspects, likelihood and 'importance' of the impacts.



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(Palin Parallels ...) "The People's Pundit"

By John Tierney
The New York Times

Let us now praise
Guy Goma

May 20, 2006 (excerpt) — Goma had his 15 minutes of fame this week, mostly in the form of video replays of his terror-stricken face during a British news show. But there is so much more to learn from him.

Goma was at the BBC, waiting to be interviewed for a computer job, when a producer mistook him for another Guy and led him into a studio. Suddenly he was

on live television being introduced as Guy Kewney, an expert brought in to comment on the verdict in the trademark dispute between Apple Computer and the Apple Corps record label.

It was that classic nightmare: finding yourself naked at a test you haven't studied for, with the extra twist of taking it in a foreign language. Goma, who had emigrated from the French-speaking Congo, started learning English only four years ago.

Hearing his introduction, Goma gaped at the host. His eyes widened, then flicked sideways, looking for help off-screen. But then he took a deep breath and faced the first question: "Were

you surprised by this verdict today?"

"I am very surprised to see this verdict," he said truthfully, and proceeded to offer an unassailable explanation for his reaction: "because I was not expecting that."

"A big surprise," the host said. "Exactly," Goma replied authoritatively.

Goma showed an admirable ability to improvise his way out of a discussion of trademark law.

When asked whether the Apple verdict would allow more people to download music, he saw his opportunity and ran with it.

"Actually," he said, "you are going to see a lot of people down-

loading to the Internet and the Web site and everything they want." Smiling with assurance, he shifted to international affairs, explaining that the Internet would be "much better for development" because it was "faster."

The host admiringly agreed that the music industry did indeed seem to be evolving toward more downloading.

"Exactly," Goma said, and waxed on more confidently than ever, revealing that the Internet is "an easy way for everyone to get something."

"Thanks very much indeed," the host said enthusiastically, ending the segment.

The true identity of a man who was mistakenly interviewed on BBC News 24 has been revealed. Guy Goma, a graduate from the Congo, appeared on the news channel in place of an IT expert after a mix-up. But Mr. Goma, who was wrongly identified in the press as a taxi driver, was really at the BBC for a job interview. Mr Goma said his appearance was "very stressful" and wondered why the questions were not related to the data support cleanser job he applied for. The mix-up occurred when a producer went to collect the expert from the wrong reception in BBC Television Centre in West London.

Women's Right to Vote

Submitted by Joan Norris Daurio, New Providence NJ (from an email)



Prisoners Doris Stevens, Allison Turnbull Hopkins, and Eunice Dana Brannan chained to chairs. AP Photos 1919. Submitted by Billie Nadler Hnatt, Toms River NJ.

This is the story of our Grandmothers and Great-grandmothers as they lived only 90 years ago. It was not until 1920 that women were granted the right to go to the poles and vote. The women were innocent and defenseless. And by the end of the night, they were barely alive. Forty prison guards wielding clubs and their warden's blessing went on a rampage against the 33 women wrongly convicted of "obstructing sidewalk traffic."

They beat Lucy Burn, chained her hands to the cell bars above her head and left her hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air. They hurled Dora Lewis into a dark cell, smashed her head against an iron bed and knocked her out cold. Her cellmate, Alice Cosu, thought Lewis was dead and suffered a heart attack. Additional affidavits describe the guards grabbing, dragging, beating, choking, slamming, pinching, twisting and kicking the women.

Thus unfolded the "Night of Terror" on November 15, 1917, when the warden at the Occoquan Workhouse in Virginia ordered his guards to teach a lesson to the suffragists imprisoned there because they dared to picket Woodrow Wilson's White House for the right to vote.

For weeks, the women's only water came from an open pail. Their food — all of it colorless slop — was infested with worms. When one of the leaders, Alice Paul, embarked on a hunger strike, they tied her to a chair, forced a tube down her throat and poured liquid into her until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks until word was smuggled out to the press.

So, refresh my memory. Some women won't vote this year because — why, exactly? We have carpool duties? We have to get to work? Our vote doesn't matter? It's raining?

Last week, I went to a sparsely attended screening of HBO's new movie "Iron Jawed Angels." It is a graphic depiction of the battle these women waged so that I could pull the curtain at the polling booth and have my say. I am ashamed to say I

needed the reminder.

All these years later, voter registration is still my passion. But the actual act of voting had become less personal for me, more rote. Frankly, voting often felt more like an obligation than a privilege. Sometimes it was inconvenient.

My friend Wendy, who is my age and studied women's history, saw the HBO movie, too. When she stopped by my desk to talk about it, she looked angry. She was — with herself. "One thought kept coming back to me as I watched that movie," she said. "What would those women think of the way I use — or don't use — my right to vote? All of us take it for granted now, not just younger women, but those of us who did seek to learn." The right to vote, she said, had become valuable to her "all over again."

HBO released the movie on video and DVD. I wish all history, social studies and government teachers would include the movie in their curriculum. I want it shown on Bunco night, too, and anywhere else women gather. I realize this isn't our usual idea of socializing, but we are not voting in the numbers that we should be and I think a little shock therapy is in order.

It is jarring to watch Woodrow Wilson and his cronies try to persuade a psychiatrist to declare Alice Paul insane so that she could be permanently institutionalized. And it is inspiring to watch the doctor refuse. Alice Paul was strong, he said, and brave. That didn't make her crazy. The doctor admonished the men: "Courage in women is often mistaken for insanity."

Please, if you are so inclined, pass this on to all the women you know.

We need to get out and vote and use this right that was fought so hard for by these very courageous women. Whether you vote **democratic**, **republican** or **independent** party — remember to vote.

History is still being made.

The Examined Life: On Leading

By Marion Stuenkel, Madison WI

Almost half a century ago, hiking down a mountain trail in the Rocky Mountains, our elected leader missed the turn off and we ended up too many miles from where we intended to be.

We, all of us Girl Scout counselors-in-training, were lead astray by the leader we had chosen. We'd been very happily singing along, sated with our energy, vistas and lunch beside a high mountain stream whose cold water we'd drunk from our cupped hands before cloud-gazing through pine treetops on sun-warmed rocks.

I find hiking down a trail I've been up is delightful. All eight of us knew that turn off, but we followed our leader having relinquished responsibility as though by doing our duty, by voting the best choice for leader, our job was done. Never again, I thought, would I let a vote for a leader relieve me of being an aware, informed, responsible follower.

Really now, only I can control my contribution to global warming. The responsibility is mine. Everything wasted to extinction or depletion can be laid at the feet of those who, like me, consume them. Whether I squander my opportunity to do what I can do to arrest global climate change is up to me.

I've always wondered why the horse wouldn't drink when led to water? Was it because the water was no good? Horses can smell water; they don't need to be led to it. So if a horse doesn't drink, is it because (s)he's not thirsty at the time (s)he's led on?

Where's my horse sense? Upon being led to whatever metaphorical water, I drank, believing that was the sensible thing to do. I thought I had to drive, or be out of it. I thought I had to have a single-family dwelling or be depriving my son of a home and an investment in his future. I thought weekends were for road trips and vacations should be spent over long distances. I knew that psychologists and sociologists were hired by advertising agencies to lead me to their product but I thought I was so smart I could see through their influence and pick and choose sensibly.

Led by the nose I've carved a chunk out of earth, air, fire and water

and cut a swath of destruction. All because I wanted and got what I was supposed to want and get. I even was persuaded to believe the idea that leaders were what made the difference and was convinced that it was all Hitler's fault, for example. The German people had just saddled themselves with a bad man.

Socrates wrote in his Apology that "... the unexamined life is not worth living..." His was not an apology in the sense of having made a mistake or having done something wrong. His words were a defense against a charge. I did forget what I learned in the Rockies, which was that whatever leader I choose, I must follow wisely. No matter who my national political leaders are and what they have done or might do administratively, legislatively or judicially, it is still up to me to lead myself along the sustainable way this afternoon, this evening and every tomorrow remaining to me.

Over a hundred years ago Eugene V. Debs, five times a presidential candidate and the organizer of the first industrial union said, "*Too long have the workers of the world waited for some Moses to lead them out of bondage. I would not lead you out if I could; for if you could be led out, you could be led back again. I would have you make up your minds, there is nothing that you cannot do for yourselves.*"

I can arrest my part in global climate change and, in fact, only I can do my part. The solutions are all right before me. I know what I have to do. It is up to me. Not can I, or may I, but will I, lead myself to live sustainably in moment-by-moment increments?

Yes! The President doesn't plan my daily activities nor make my vacation plans. It is not up to him whether I choose local food. He does not flick the lights on in my apartment. No matter who is chosen or not President of the United States the responsibility for the resources I use is still mine. My mind is made up to address my part in global climate change — no matter what.

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



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Musings



Here is the correct photo for last month's article by Cynthia S. Waugh, "What's Happening to The Mountain State?" Sludge Pond at Mountaintop Removal Site: These artificial ponds are filled with a toxic sludge that is a safety worry because these impoundments leak and break, especially during heavy rain. West Virginians remember the 2000 Kentucky impoundment failure "... what federal officials called the worst environmental disaster in southeast U.S. history" (www.loe.org). Families near MTR sites continue to find contaminants in their drinking water: arsenic, manganese, lead, barium, selenium, aluminum (www.pbs.org), and the list continues to grow. Photo credit: Southwings

Coal River Mountain Watch Fact Sheet: Myths & Facts

Submitted by Cynthia S. Waugh, Sykesville MD

Myth: Mountaintop removal mining provides jobs.

Fact: As more coal is produced in mountaintop removal strip mining, the number of coal mine workers decreases. Although coal production rose 32% between 1987 and 1997, mining jobs dropped 29% during the same period.

Myth: Mountaintop removal mining improves local economies.

Fact: The top 15 coal-producing counties in West Virginia suffer from some of the worst poverty levels in the nation even though they produce 15% of the nation's coal. (Source: U.S. States Census Bureau, West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety & Training)

Fact: In 1998, tourism pumped far more money into the West Virginia economy than the coal industry. (Source: Citizens Coal Council)

Fact: Coal companies force people living near the mines to sell their homes and leave. Whole communities (i.e. Blair, WV) have been wiped out. (Source: Citizens Coal Council)

Myth: West Virginia needs more flat land for development purposes.

Fact: Over 300,000 acres of West Virginia have received surface mine permits. At the present rate of development, this is enough developable land to last 3,000 years. (Source: Dennis Burke)

Fact: In the Coal River Basin area alone there are 95,000 acres of flat land 600-800 feet

above the infrastructure, enough to build:

- Five 5,000-acre parks
- Ten 100-acre prisons
- 50 shopping malls
- One hundred 100-acre trailer parks
- Four hundred 500-acre schools

(Source: Dennis Burke)

Myth: All surface-mined land today is reclaimed equal to or better than it was prior to mining.

Fact: The Appalachian Highlands is characterized by some of the best forest habitat in the world. Current reclamation practices are converting these forests to grasslands, which may significantly impact neotropical bird populations and other sensitive species if left unchanged. (Source: Trial Lawyers for Public Justice)

Fact: In the original mining permit applications, companies are required to include specific details which demonstrate that the land can and will be put to some productive use, such as recreational, commercial, agricultural, etc. Curiously, a number of mountaintop removal permits have been approved which include no specific details about post-mining land use. (Source: <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/9638/reclaim.html>)

Coal River Mountain Watch: POB 651, Whitesville WV 25209 304-854-2182 www.crmw.net

A Glimmer of Hope After Bad Planning

By Al Fry
Garden Valley ID

In many of the farm belts of our nation, profits have run ahead of common sense — and housing is replacing food production. This obvious trend toward suicide is only one assault on food.

A Cornell University study found India and China losing precious soil at over 30 times the replacement rate. We enlightened Americans are at around 10% yet we are making up for this stupidity by turning our biggest food crop (Corn) into alcohol ... as fast as we can. Never mind that Brazil has run on alcohol alone for decades by using sugar cane.

With the huge increase in population looming, where are any leaders with some common sense? The present representatives might as well be taken from lists of criminals and clowns.

Harry Truman had a certain amount of savvy and he was not impressed by the typical ivory tower theorists. They get indoctrinated by the spin and spam designed to keep us good serfs. The hidden 'elite' who control the corporate empires have used oil to keep their empires thriving for decades now. Our local Rockefellers control some ten trillion in hidden assets.

We might be stuck in this dark age drama for another

century except for some recent competition from mavericks like Russia, China and Venezuela. They no longer rejoice in helping our government front men borrow the billion dollars or so a year they need to keep the games all going. It was the fascist plan to destroy our economy and bring us under total control.

Now, as we view our slanted news, the very 'bad guys' on our screen may in fact be the 'good guys' ... as far as blocking the plans of our manipulators. Reverse the message the media gives you and you just may get some of the hidden truth. Truth and honest leaders are our only hope at this point.

A Walk through the Solar Living Source Book with Iona

Real Goods' compendium of alternative energy knowledge and items is amazing. The subtitle of the Solar Living Source Book by John Schaeffer is "Your complete guide to renewable energy technologies and sustainable living." Who could ask for more? Every page (and there are over 600 large pages) makes the reader feel good— real good!

I think the most important concept here is Relocalization and I guess Schaeffer agrees because he chose it as the lead chapter.

"We begin this 30th-Anniversary Edition of the Real Goods Sourcebook (sic) with an examination of what are likely the two most critical issues of our time and the rest of the 21st century: peak oil and global climate change... A new global movement is forming to challenge the existing economic system in light of energy constraints, threats from pollution, erosion of ecosystem services, the social costs of mass consumerism, and a built environment designed around automobiles. This movement draws from a rich history of activism related to environmental and social concerns and is termed "Relocalization" by the Post Carbon Institute, a think tank, media outlet, and networking and support organization for local groups around the world. Relocalization is a promising strategy — perhaps the most potent strategy — for effectively grappling with the enormous challenges posed by the probable impacts of both peak oil and climate change."

Fourteen chapters cover nearly everything you need to know to help the planet in these crucial times. Thumbing through the pages, there are many things I'm not equipped to understand— and frankly can't afford — from the practical (Hi-Speed Digital Battery Charger for AA or AAA batteries for \$29 on page 247) to the preposterous (Snorkel Hot Tub Heaters for only \$875 on page 410). First Schaeffer tells you how things work, then offers products to help you implement new ideas. After each chapter is a brief bibliography.

I loved the pages about housing alternatives totally planned from the beginning to use natural materials and alternative energy.

Passive solar homes, those made of adobe or rammed Earth or cob, plus the now-familiar straw-bale buildings are all wonderfully built to take advantage of all Earth's offerings while establishing a symbiotic relationship with the homeowner, giving her or him a lifetime of clean energy.

The book contains lots and lots of pictures, diagrams, graphs, charts, work sheets, financial calculations, energy calculations, payback periods, etc. And LOTS of science on solar,

Switch from your dryer to this and in no time at all you'll have saved that much money since dryers are real energy hogs.

By page 291 I'm ecstatic — window ideas to save energy — the project I'm about to begin! Sewing machine already poised to start making quilts or coverings of some sort.

On page 320 we're once again out of our price range, but if you're looking for a new range, this is your section -- Energy Efficient Home Appliances, including everything you ever wanted to know about lights. Whoops -- no range here.

On to Water: plumbing, ponds, pumps, saving, heating, solar (one of the best investments you can make if you can afford it). Water and Air Purification, Composting Toilets and Greywater, Permaculture and Biodynamic Agriculture are all in here, too.

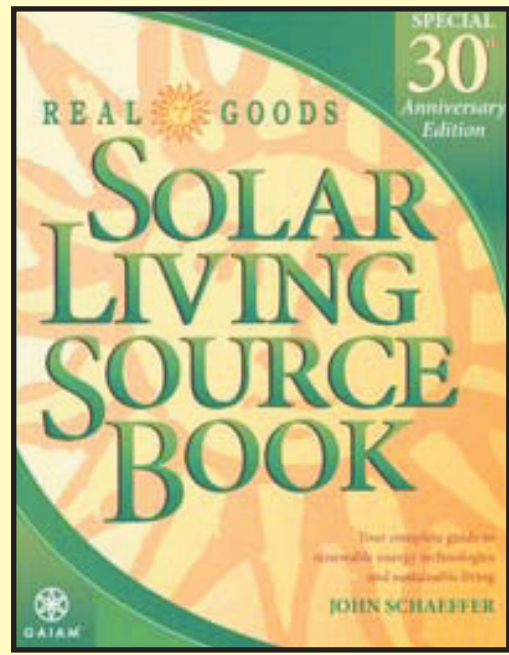
WHOA -- a Solar Ant Chamer? What on Earth is this? For \$110 you can control

vicious fire ants that "attack animals, people and even electrical devices" without poisoning the planet. Next item of interest: Mosquito Dunks for standing water to destroy larvae, only \$12.

Finally we're here — solar cookers — page 474. "Someday ..." And, not a range, but a convection oven — something else I'd love to buy someday. When I did the Kilowatt Ours Curriculum earlier this year (January to August "Order of the Earth"), I learned that cooking takes lots of energy. I've tried to make two solar cookers but they weren't successful. "Someday"

Cleaning products and transportation come next, but last— LAST — Natural Burial. Great idea! My friends and I were already trying to figure that one out but Cynthia Beal is writing a book on the movement: Be a Tree: The Manual for Turning Yourself Into a Forest. Beautiful, beautiful ideas and photos conclude The Sourcebook.

At \$35, this makes a wonderful present for anyone who cares deeply about our planet. One could spend hours and hours perusing the pages and learning what to do next to improve their own environment in their own way, while incidentally helping us all.



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November Events at Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ



October 31-November 2: Introduction to a New Cosmology. Begins with dinner at 6 p.m. Friday and ends with Sunday lunch. This weekend overview explores the enormous shift in understanding evoked by the story of an evolutionary universe and our embeddedness in Earth's web of life. New expansive understandings are offered of the human capacity to shape an ecologically viable future for the good of the total planet. Led by Miriam MacGillis, founder and director of Genesis Farm. Register early! The May "Introduction" weekend sold out a month ahead. Cost: \$245 includes lodging and all meals.

November 12: Film Series: A Double-Feature! The Story of Stuff and Sustainability as an Infinite Game 7:00 p.m. — A New Cosmology Introduction; 7:30 — Show Time. The first film is a fast-paced, 20-minute look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns; exploring the many connections between social and ecological issues. It will teach us something, make us laugh and may change us. The second film presents an inspiring image to carry us into the future: economist and entrepreneur Paul Hawken suggests that the more than one million grassroots organizations committed to social justice, Earth's ecological well-being and global spiritual awakening may well be the planet's immune system.

November 15: Symposium: Awakening the Dreamer/Changing the Dream: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Register at 9, bring bag lunch and \$25. Genesis Farm hosts this informative and empowering symposium, now offered in nine countries on four continents. Developed and presented by The Pachamama Alliance, the symposium focus links three of humanity's critical concerns: environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment. For further information see www.awakeningthedreamer.org.

November 16: Sunday Brunch at the Farm: Michael Diamond — Here's What To Do Now: Get a Pencil: This program will lay out a detailed plan for changing our political landscape to a place that is receptive to solving the problems which threaten to take us, our country and our planet down into further degradation, regardless of which party is in power. Michael has wide experience in the public and private practice of law.

Call 908-362-7221 or go to www.genesisfarm.org

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Grassroots Power

STUDENTS PROTEST DEFENSE CONTRACTORS AT CAREER FAIR

By Alexi Chi
 BCHeights.com
 (Boston College's



Members of the Global Justice Project knelt in front of the Raytheon table at the career fair. Media credit: Ian Thomas.

independent newspaper) September 18 (excerpt) — A group of 20 Boston College (BC) students stood out from the throng of suited undergrads who crowded Conte Forum during Tuesday's career fair. Those students, clad in "Who Would Jesus Bomb" T-shirts and kneeling silently, were protesting the presence of weapons manufacturers at the annual BC career fair.

The protest was organized by the Global Justice Project (GJP), a non-hierarchical organization whose mission is to educate and advocate for justice and democracy at BC. Fifteen student demonstrators knelt at the recruitment tables of mil-

itary contractors Raytheon and BAE Systems. To the side of the kneeling students, six others participated in a satirical theater demonstration, posing as recruiters from a fictitious competing weapons manufacturer,

the Civil Liberties On-Line Weapons Network Services (CLOWNS). The protestors actively tried to recruit career fair attendees to work for their company, offering "frequent buyer airfare packages ... to defend and promote democracy abroad."

Midway through the event, students unfurled a banner, reading "Do Jesuits support cluster bombs? Kick Raytheon and all war off campus!"

"I feel that by refusing to un-invite Raytheon, the BC administration is condoning the company's policies, which to me is clearly contradictory to the Jesuit philosophy of this institution," said Tim Dingman, a member of the GJP.

FIRST NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STANDARD SETTING INITIATIVE MOVES INTO HIGH GEAR

Industry, NGOs, Academia, Governments Agree on First Steps Toward National Standard

Press Release, Leonardo Academy (September 29, 2008) — The first successful steps toward developing a national consensus standard for sustainable agriculture in the United States have now been taken by a diverse, multi-stakeholder committee selected to lead this endeavor.

At an unprecedented opening session, more than 50 representatives of U.S. agricultural production, food and clothing manufacturing, retail, government, environmental and labor organizations, academia and certification launched historic negotiations over what should be considered "sustainable agriculture." The representatives were selected from a pool of nearly 200 individuals who applied to serve on the Standards Committee, the guiding body for development of the standard.

During the meeting held last week, committee members identified some of the difficult issues that are likely to dominate the discussions to come, such as: 1) the relationship between organic, mainstream and sustainable agriculture; 2) the place of genetically engineered crops in sustainable agriculture; 3) the degree to which sustainable agriculture

standards should establish a path for continuous improvement; 4) inclusiveness of small and mid-size farms as well as mainstream and conventional agriculture; 5) the sequestration of carbon in soils and the role of agriculture in the global fight against climate change; 6) the strength of labor protections; 7) the intersection of product safety and sustainability; and 8) whether the scope of the standard should extend beyond plant agriculture to include livestock and other sectors of agriculture.

"The issues involved in sustainable agriculture are complex," said Dr. James Barrett, Environmental Horticulture Department professor at the University of Florida, who served as interim chairman at the Standards Committee's inaugural meeting. "As a result, there are many diverse, valid points of view that will need to be articulated and considered as this process unfolds."

The entire standard-setting process is being conducted under the rules of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the national voluntary standards body that has overseen the development of thousands of guidelines in nearly every business sector. Leonardo Academy, a non-profit organization that specializes in using market-based incentives to advance sustainability and improve the environment, is facilitating the current process as an ANSI accredited standard developer ...

DELAWARE TO GET SMART METERS: HOMEOWNERS TO BENEFIT

Daily Times Staff Report via PennFuture.org

September 17 (excerpt) — A Delmarva Power plan to install new, state-of-the-art "smart" meters as part of an effort to help reduce energy use by its customers was approved Tuesday by the Delaware Public Service Commission. The meters will be installed at the premises of the company's more than 300,000 electric and gas customers. The "smart" meters will provide for two-way communication between the utility and its customers enabling them to track energy use throughout the day, the company said.

"We're going to provide our customers with the tools for reducing their energy use, particularly when it costs the most. These 'smart' meters are just the beginning but with them, and other related initiatives, we can work with our customers to use less energy, therefore reducing customer's bills," said Gary Stockbridge, Delmarva Power's regional president.

The meters are a key component of the "smart" grid, which will eventually be able to detect outages at a customer's home remotely without the customer having to call to report the outage. It will also reduce the need for estimated bills, the company said. While the new meters may be installed as early as next fall, Stockbridge said it will take some time to fully integrate them to a point where customers realize all the benefits.

Some of the reasons why the benefits from the new meters would outweigh their costs include: the reduction in wholesale energy prices from customers using less energy during peak, expensive times; the reduction in customers' monthly bills because they will have the tools to alter their energy use more than ever before; and more efficient utility operations as well as the less quantifiable benefits that using less energy has on the environment, the company said.

ECUADOR APPROVES CONSTITUTION PROTECTING RIGHTS OF NATURE

Ecuador Follows PA Lead: First Country to Declare Rights-Based Environmental Protection

September 28, 2008 (excerpt) — By an overwhelming margin, the people of Ecuador today voted for a new constitution that is the first in the world to recognize legally enforceable Rights of Nature, or ecosystem rights.

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, based in Chambersburg, PA, is pioneering this work in the U.S., where it has assisted more than a dozen local

municipalities with drafting and adopting local laws recognizing Rights of Nature.

The first community anywhere to recognize the inalienable right of natural communities to exist and flourish was Tamaqua Borough, in Schuylkill County. Other communities across the state, and now in Virginia and New Hampshire, have followed Tamaqua's example.

Today's constitutional vote marks the first time a national government has taken Nature out of the rights-nullifying legal status of property and moved the natural world into the realm of fundamental rights.

Contact: Mari Margil, Associate Director CELDF
 503-284-2814 or mmargil@celdf.org

HOW DO YOUR LEGISLATORS STAND? LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS: WWW.LCV.

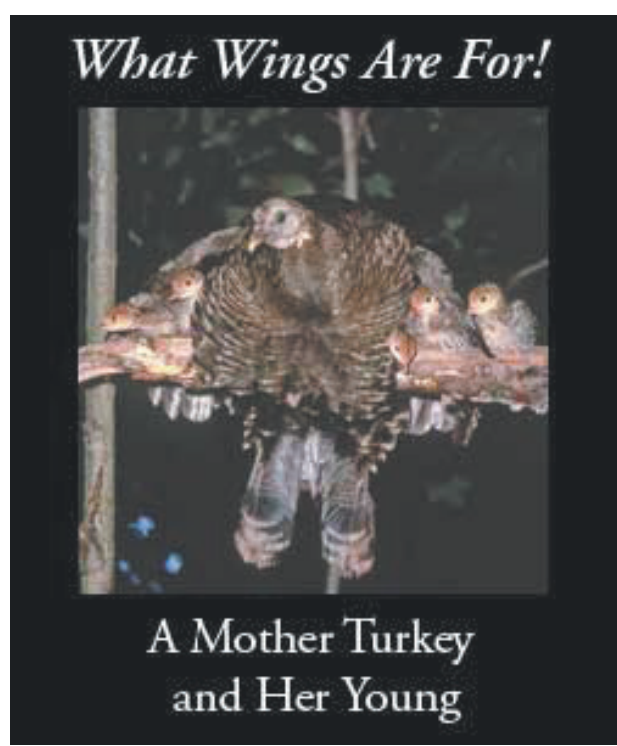


Photo courtesy of United Poultry Concerns

Val's Vegetarian Column A Magical Moment and a Tribute to Turkeys

By Valerie Stanley, Laurel MD

My horse, Lady is always entering my thoughts. We spent just over 30 years together, and so often I feel she brings back memories of wonderful times together to my awareness. As I thought about this column, I felt a gentle reminder about the Potomac morning about 20 years ago when we had gone for a trail ride and out of the early dawn mist strutted a wild turkey! Lady wasn't frightened; we both remained motionless in awe of this unique and spectacular bird we were blessed to see together.

As we all get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, I think it only fair that I devote this column to turkeys and pass on some of their amazing, but little known, characteristics. All of these facts are from Karen Davis' well-researched book entitled More Than a Meal: The Turkey in History, Myth, Ritual and Reality, Lantern Books, 2001.

- Turkeys who have not yet hatched make chirping noises that are audible to the mother turkey who responds to them.
- After hatching, turkeys regularly spend four to five months with their parent.
- For the first four or five weeks, the young turkeys sleep under their mother's wing on the ground.
- As they get a bit older, the young turkeys move to a low branch at night, where they huddle and sleep under the mother's wings.
- Turkeys have demonstrated that they can recognize and remember hundreds of individual turkeys from their flock.
- Turkeys have been known to rush to the side of another turkey who has been shot and to remain there even though the shooting continues.
- The same behavior is seen in domesticated turkeys. Several will rush to the side of a turkey who has died and huddle beside the dead bird.
- Turkeys who have lost their young to predation continue to return to the nest for days, carrying food. This behavior is now recognized to demonstrate the emotional attachment between the mother and her brood and demonstrate the loss that she feels.

One can have a marvelous Thanksgiving dinner without having as its centerpiece a sentient creature whose heart used to beat the same as in you and me. Think of all of Nature's bounty that one has at Thanksgiving besides. And God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." (Genesis 1:29)

At our home, we routinely have a filling and satisfying meal with nut roasts, lentil loaves, all sorts of vegetables and of course, who can forget, lots and lots of mashed potatoes!

For wonderful alternatives to the routine Thanksgiving turkey, please see the recipes at <http://www.upc-online.org/>, the Web site of United Poultry Concerns.

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Grassroots Power



This is the first yellow delicious apple from John and Iona Conner's new orchard. Photo by Iona

Are Police Spying on MD Citizens?

(Continued from page 3)
based Progressive Maryland, which promotes liberal causes, to Defend Life, a Washington area anti-abortion coalition. The organizations include immigrant advocacy group CASA of Maryland, PeaceAction Montgomery, Christian Peace Witness for Iraq, the gay rights group Equality Maryland and a coalition formed to fight high electricity rates in the Washington-Baltimore area. As a result of July's disclosures, Stephen H. Sachs, a former U.S. attorney and former state attorney general, was appointed to head an independent review of state police intelligence-gathering. Sachs and Gov. Martin O'Malley (D) are scheduled to release the findings today. Sachs is expected to explain why officers assigned to the Division of Homeland Security and Intelligence infiltrated organizational meetings, rallies and e-mail group lists when Robert L. Ehrlich (R) was governor and to comment on whether they broke any laws. The state Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a hearing on the spying for Tuesday.

State police leaders have said that death penalty opponents were monitored in response to a series of protests of a scheduled execution and that undercover work is an integral part of police intelligence-gathering. The ACLU and other civil liberties groups said the monitoring was not warranted because the protests were nonviolent.

"The police said they were spying because they were worried about disruptive or violent anti-death penalty protests," ACLU staff attorney David Rocah said. "If that worry was the true motive, it could exist with respect to any and all of the groups we are filing for ... All of these are pretty hot-button issues."

If police say they were not tracking other groups, "they will still have some explaining to do" as to why they chose to spy on some protesters and not others, Rocah said. State police spokesman Greg Shipley said the agency "will address the requests and provide any information [the ACLU] is entitled to under the law."

ACLU officials also said yesterday that they are seeking a sponsor for state legislation to protect the activities of nonviolent protest groups from police surveillance.

Children First, a Baltimore group that has protested lead in

the city's drinking water, is one of the organizations seeking information about possible surveillance. Director Tyrone Powers, a former FBI agent, said Baltimore detectives visited his home before a rally outside school system headquarters in 2003 and asked him to call it off. He declined, and the officers told him that they had a file on him, he said.

Jack Ames, a founder of Defend Life, said the arrest of 18 group members at a protest in Harford County made him wonder whether police were monitoring him. Loitering and disorderly conduct charges against the members were later dropped by the state's attorney's office.

Rocah said ACLU found that state police conducted surveillance on a worker-owned Baltimore bookstore named Red Emma's, which had not been the site of a protest but which hosts lectures on politics.

When the ACLU released 46 pages of documents in July on surveillance of anti-death penalty and antiwar groups, Red Emma's workers looked back at e-mails they had received from one of the agents, who used the alias Lucy Shoup. Shoup inquired about a scheduled speech by Bernadine Dohrn, a law professor at Northwestern University and former member of the radical group Weather Underground.

Mad Woodsman's Manifesto

(Continued from page 1) with an emphasis on family and community dependency. Massive, dishonest, and often violent manipulations of the cost and availability of energy, coupled with the multifaceted terrorism of war and looming environmental catastrophe serve to maintain the demoralized apathy of dependency that keeps the masses viewing their political leaders as abused children look at their parents: with a weird mixture of awe, love, and fear so intense that it blocks them from realizing the pathetic miscreants ought to be caged and medicated.

Article III: Unloved work is the great, unacknowledged problem of the Industrial Age. The entrapment of most people (even the relatively affluent) in lives of labor they do not and cannot love is an essential component in the pervasive atmosphere of apathy and defeatism which nurtures the passivity requisite to maintain our collective willingness to tolerate false and needless wars, environmental degradation, and the steady erosion of basic civil rights. What, in a village or on a small farm, would have once been called a "work ethic" has devolved into an ethic of drudgery. This process has been reflected and supported by a parallel devolution of education into vocational training.

Article IV: There are too damned many people. Pollution is, among other things, a symptom of overpopulation. Political leaders have not taken meaningful steps to limit population growth because they do not want to. A steady supply of the young and poor flowing forth from a large, frightened, apathetic working class is necessary fodder for cannons, meaningless and/or dangerous work, votes easily purchased with shallow, cynical lies and the constantly-expanding markets that fuel the constantly-expanding fortunes of the rich. There is no reason disconnected from the greed of the rich and powerful that the world should have a human population larger than three billion.

Article V: No one has ever cornered the market on salvation or enlightenment. Neither dogma, nor scripture are necessary prerequisites for a profound, life-enhancing spirituality. Incantations, rituals and ceremonies can alter only the consciousness of the practitioner, not tangible realities, laws of probability, causal relationships, or, on a moral level, responsibility for one's actions. Magic doesn't work. To err is natural. To forgive is human. There is no forgiveness in nature.

Faith exists as a dynamic equilibrium between belief and doubt. As such, faith cannot serve as a vehicle of fanaticism. Fanaticism is based on a static state of certainty. In spiritual matters, certainty is always false and often dangerous. People do not kill others as an act of faith; they kill as an act of certainty.

While in the intimate, communal environment of a tribe or small, unified community, spirituality tends to impose healthy restraints on leadership's inherent susceptibility to egotism and greed. When the scale of a society expands beyond the realm of direct interaction among virtually all members, the restraints of spirituality must be replaced with a constitution. When religion allies itself with political power and wealth, it inevitably becomes an instrument of oppression.

Article VI: There is no inherent mystical or moral value in the shapes of flesh anyone is hormonally and/or aesthetically drawn to consensually play with. When a politician tells you your marriage is threatened by the gay couple who lives down the street, the underlying message is that the politician believes you are delusional and unintelligent. If you feel troubled, threatened, or frightened by the details of anyone else's sexual desires, the appropriate combination of counseling and medication may help in resolving your problem.

Article VII: Time spent watching television represents a net loss of information. People would receive more information in an hour sitting quietly by a creek than from their daily several hours of television. A person who claims to be deeply religious, but whose political opinions are conspicuously lacking in compassion is usually someone who has been electronically dined by an unbalanced excess of the shallow, fragmented, sensorially impoverished swill of commercial television.

Article VIII: The programmatic destruction of wilderness and wild lands is not merely a matter of the carelessness of corporate greed (although it is indeed that) — it is an instrument of oppression. It is no coincidence that a nation which ostensibly values personal freedom above all other social and political concerns came into being amidst a great wilderness. The wild hunter-gatherer life that is humanity's most ancient heritage is the origin of the living possibility of personal freedom. When the last of our wild land is either gone or its wildness is so irre-

mediably compromised as to be non-functional, we will have lost the hunter-gatherer option of our primal nature

If that dark day comes, our society, no matter how affluent it may be, will become a prison. Our dwellings will cease to be places of comforting shelter and become cages. Our food will cease to be a vehicle of celebration and exist as mere fuel. Our leaders, who speak with righteous fervor about spreading freedom abroad, are digging up freedom's foundation here at home and selling it to multinational corporations at bargain basement prices. They will not set aside a reasonable portion of our nation's wildness for our spiritual and psychological sustenance for the very simple reason that they do not want to. It is not in their best interest to nurture wildness in the hearts of their constituents. They would rather rule a nation of sheep than a nation of coyotes — it's easier and much more profitable.

Article IX: The Bill of Rights is dissolving because our political processes are dominated by an elite class of hacks and hustlers who do not need it. Our variously corrupt and devious political leaders are supported by a class of peasants so utterly reduced to mindless subservience by a relentless flood of consumerist propaganda cleverly disguised as light entertainment and demoralized

When the last of our wild land is either gone or its wildness is so irremediably compromised as to be non-functional, we will have lost the hunter-gatherer option of our primal nature. If that dark day comes, our society, no matter how affluent it may be, will become a prison. Our dwellings will cease to be places of comforting shelter and become cages.

by unrequited desires that they eagerly vote against their own best interests. They proudly send their young away to die violently in third world shit holes to defend the economic interest of the corporations who bury their lives in drudgery and poison their land.

Article X: Caring for the sick, wounded, elderly, and very young and feeding the hungry are fundamental, collective responsibilities of a civilized society. Failure to address those responsibilities is worse than mere neglect, oversight or incompetence; it is savagery. Our leaders have chosen not to meet these responsibilities because they don't want to. The tragic powerlessness of the victims provides a valuable contribution to the aura of apathy and defeatism necessary to maintain the desired level of subservience in the general population. Those same victims also serve as convenient scapegoats for middle-class dissatisfactions, especially as the middle class is eroded by the increasingly brazen depredations of the corporate ruling class.

Article XI: Corporate agribusiness is a cancerous growth on the soul of agriculture. That it produces cancer from the soil of America should be surprising only in its poetic horror. As an outgrowth of corporate industry's desperate clinging to the nitrate munitions profits of world war, its current entanglement in America's lust for foreign oil is not surprising. Those who preach and bray so loudly about the sanctity of life should consider the monstrously arrogant sacrilege of patenting a genetically modified life form and punishing farmers for saving their seeds. The terrible irony of getting fat while growing steadily poorer is a very dark and cynical joke indeed. Traces of sick laughter in the background are visible in the evil, sleazy grins of our politicians.

Article XII: The corporate meat industry is a moral blight on humanity. The killing of creatures living within the natural expression of their evolutionary heritage for food is natural and, when done with reverence and compassion, can be as clean an expression of primal divinity as planting a seed, making love, or giving birth. Vegetarianism only avoids the blood that can be removed from the hands with soap and water. The real moral issue in eating meat isn't killing for food — it is forcing one's fellow creatures to live in squalor and misery for profit. Calculated depravity cannot be excused by efficiency or convenience.

Article XIII: The venality of our leaders does not excuse the exchange of our complicity for high fructose corn syrup and motorized toys. Our failure to see our glittery simulation of affluence as a terrible impoverishment is the fuel that feeds the current epidemic of political dysfunction. You don't have to let your body swell into a swinish reflection of a politician's soul. You can feel the land beneath your feet. You can watch the creeks flow. You can eat fresh, flavorful tomatoes with sensuous abandon in August and September. You can eat venison with sharp, poignant appreciation in January. You can love the soil, the sunrise, the wind, the snow, the laughter of children and the musings of the old when they are untroubled by pain and fear. Carry those in your heart when you make love. Carry them in your heart when you make art. Carry them when you vote.

Reg Darling is a retired bureaucrat living in Warren, PA with his wife, Terry, and two Siamese cats. He is the author of Coyote Soul, Raven Heart: Meditations of a Hunter-Wanderer. His new book, Hartwell Road, will be available this winter.

Government-in-Waiting

(Continued from page 1)
form of a cello? Or of a loved one's silhouette? And why not give each of the twenty sections a different color? Then do simple mental math with the twenty sections. Choose just one twentieth of the timeline, i.e. one color, and note its *insignificance* in relation to the total length of the line.

... Only a small portion of the time-line contains European imperialism and its result: the United States. *In other words, the awful American empire only takes up one twentieth of the known human story here.*

If I project this time-line into the future, I envision containing Washington's violent global influence to our time period. And recreating a 21st century commons can once again be a long term set-up.

... I am not being all rosy about this. It is not helpful to take a bland, New Age ecology-only approach to this task. There are also painful and more complex tales waiting impatiently in the wings — tales waiting first for emergence and then for transformation into useful mythologies. Less savory stories about oppression and

race, privilege and poverty, gender, genocide and greed — these, too, desperately need to see the light of day. Some state governments' 2007 legislation apologizing for slavery is a step in the right direction.

... But private citizen actions are needed too. As Bill Fletcher said, writers and artists can help with this job. Education nominee Howard Zinn's amazing little book *Artists in Times of War* is full of ideas about citizens whose brave actions need amplifying, and how that might be done. And Edward P. Jones' fiction *The Known World* is an example of how the awkward past can be revealed; it is elegant and heartbreaking, but also informative about nineteenth century Virginia.

... Media outlets also have a responsibility to tell our continent's most important news, as Immigration Department nominee Baldemar Velasquez noted in his Conversation. The ongoing development of progressive media in our time is a grand thing.

... Finally, location matters. The one-size-fits-all traditional American patriotism stretching from coast to coast doesn't always work for 21st century hopes, crises and sensibilities.

The buried past in relation to place continues to have a profoundly destructive influence on us each day. There may not be only one or two or even three useful master narratives out there for all Americans anymore. But there are many narratives-in-waiting across this continent.

... We are up to the task of transforming significant old stories into the words, sights, sounds and actions we each crave. And with the most powerful ancestral tales gently revealed, honored, and retold in useful ways, Americans may yet muster the moral strength to create the government we need.

This essay is dedicated to the memory of my American Studies professor and labor historian, Roy Rosenzweig, who taught me many years ago that the most important voices from the past are often the quiet ones.

Diane Wittner is director of Chesapeake Citizens Unraveling Empire and Creating Community from Within: www.chesapeakecitizens.org. To learn more about the Backbone Campaign's Progressive Cabinet project, visit www.progressive-cabinet.org.

Tyla Matteson Honored

(Continued from page 1)
-mental organizations and communities,

Tyla enjoys a legendary reputation for her untiring hard work, perseverance, tenacity, and a "24/7" commitment to protecting and preserving the state and region's natural environment. She ranks foremost among the Virginia Chapter's communitate and thoroughly committed leaders ("the Best of the Best!") whose two decades of work in Virginia and the region has improved all our lives, both directly and through example.

Tyla has been a Sierra Club member since 1985. During that 23-year period, she has compiled an extraordinary record of volunteer leadership in the Virginia Chapter and its York River Group.

The chapter leadership positions which she has held

include chair, executive committee member, chair of three active committees and a member of five additional functioning committees. She also served as a chapter delegate and alternate delegate to the Appalachian Region's Conservation Committee.

Tyla's group leadership positions include chair, executive committee member, newsletter editor, chair of four active committees and a member of four additional committees. Her other positions and memberships included Virginia Chapter representative to the Council of Club Leaders and member of the National Ballot Review Committee.

Comments from Tyla

I appreciate very much being recognized with a national Sierra Club award for my years of service. It is an honor and also a humbling feeling not only to

receive the award, but to receive the warm wishes of so many of you who have sent their congratulations.

I have enjoyed the excitement and the volunteer time that goes along with our Sierra Club actions. We are now in our 13th year of the long fight to Save the Mattaponi River, and although the fight continues, as long as we never quit, we stand a chance to win in the end.

The same belief goes for our other campaigns: stopping the Wise County power plant, addressing global warming with Cool Community committees and electing and working with legislators who place environmental stewardship high on their list.

I can't think of anything else I would rather be doing than being with like-minded Sierra Club friends, working to protect our natural heritage.