



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

October 2008

Vol. 8 No. 10 Issue 79: To press 9/18/08

Solar Car Takes Trip Around the World

By C. Arnold McClure, *The Valley Log*, Southern Huntingdon County PA, September 3, 2008



This solar car stopped in Orbisonia, Pennsylvania on Labor Day and asked Ed and Susan Harry of OHI Hardware if they "could have a charge" from the grid. As they waited for their battery to recharge, two Swiss men discussed the issue with Valley Log publisher C. Arnold McClure. Photo by C. Arnold McClure

Solar car is here now,
independence from oil
is here now.

"The technology for a solar electric-powered car is here now," said two men from Switzerland who stopped in Orbisonia on Monday. "I want to show we can be independent from fossil fuels and stop global warming with the technology we now have," says the man from Switzerland, Louis Palmer.

Tour Director and developer of the car, Louis Palmer, of Lucerne, Switzerland, and companion for this part of the journey, Raphael Domjan of Neuchatel, Switzerland (both 36 years old) plugged the car into the 220-volt outlet at OHI Hardware in Orbisonia, then answered questions from eager onlookers.

Around the World on Solar Power

Palmer is getting close to the end of his round-the-world journey in the solar-

powered car and was eager to talk about the technology involved and the trip that he has taken to prove and display the technology. North America is the fourth continent across which the car and the occupants have traveled.

Months ago, Palmer and the solar powered, totally electric car left Switzerland, crossed Europe and then the Middle East, visited New Zealand and Australia, crossed Asia to China. They did not go to Japan because Japan was the only country in the world to not allow the solar taxi to drive on its highways. They then flew to Vancouver, Canada. A drive down the coast to Seattle and then Los Angeles preceded the cross-country journey to Detroit, then Montreal and Toronto.

Met with General Motors in Detroit

Palmer, when asked the question, confirmed that they met with the General Motors team that is developing the Volt electric car for GM. "We were very well received by GM," said Palmer, "we have no enemies there."

Last night, the two travelers spent the night in the firehouse in Tyrone, Pennsylvania. Tonight, they expect to arrive in Washington D.C. where a reception at the Swiss Embassy will be held. They will then go to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston, before sailing for Algeria and then back to Europe. The plan is to be home by Christmas.

(Continued on Page 15)

Cleared: Jury Decides Threat of Global Warming Justifies Breaking the Law

By Michael McCarthy, excerpt

Independent.co.uk September 11, 2008 — The threat of global warming is so great that campaigners were justified in causing more than £35,000 (\$62,300) worth of damage to a coal-fired power station, a jury decided yesterday. In a verdict that will have shocked ministers and energy companies the jury at Maidstone Crown Court cleared six Greenpeace activists of criminal damage.

Jurors accepted defense arguments that the six had a "lawful excuse" to damage property at Kingsnorth power station in Kent to prevent even greater damage caused by climate change. The defense of "lawful excuse" under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 allows damage to be caused to property to prevent even greater damage — such as breaking down the door of a burning house to tackle a fire.

The not-guilty verdict, delivered after two days and greeted with cheers in the courtroom, raises the stakes for the most pressing issue on Britain's green agenda and could encourage further direct action.

Kingsnorth was the center for mass protests by climate camp activists last month. Last year, three protesters managed to paint Gordon Brown's name on the plant's chimney. Their handiwork cost £35,000 (\$62,300) to remove.

The plan to build a successor to the power station is likely to be the first of a new generation of coal-fired plants. As coal produces more of the carbon emissions causing climate change than any other fuel, campaigners claim that a new station would be a disastrous setback in the battle against global warming and send out a negative signal to the rest of the world about how serious Britain really is about tackling the climate threat...

What is Happening to The Mountain State?

Part III: "The Answer, My Friend,
Is Blowin' in the Wind"

By Cinthia S. Waugh, Sykesville, MD

During the past two months in August and September's issues of *The Order of the Earth* ("OE"), I've tried to convey a sense of your connection to the Appalachian Mountains, in particular the mountains of West Virginia. Folks from West Virginia value different parts of their state, just as Pennsylvanians covet the historic

Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg and Marylanders cherish the watershed that provides habitat for the delectable blue crab. All of us know of physical areas we want to see protected in our own states because we can envision the future of each treasured landmark or attribute and understand its innate, long-term value.

The rudiments for West Virginia are viewed as so important that the state's attributes become part of our children's public school curriculum and instructional content. Think for a moment about West Virginia's mountains. Children in the 8th grade learn about their state's history and physical

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INSIDE The Order...

Let us know what YOU are doing to help create or restore ecological balance in your life and in the world.
NOVEMBER'S DEADLINE:
OCTOBER 10
Email ionaconner@pa.net

"The Order of the Earth News" 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 again.

Publisher/Editor — Iona Conner
Publishing Partners — Kim Stenley, Christine Maccabee, Zachary Chludil, Arika Millikan and John Conner

L layout/Design — Katherine Lukaszewicz and Arika Millikan

P rinting — The Herald-Mail Co., Hagerstown, Maryland, a family-owned business using 40% recycled paper and soy-based ink.

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From the Editor



Dear Friends,

I am really excited to bring you these excellent articles from my friends, old and new — Cindy, Bill, Barbara, Marion, Al, Kim, Valerie, Sandy and Derrick. I have known a few of them for many years and some are wonderful newcomers.

This is such an amazing project. We are extremely fortunate to have so many great writers/thinkers/poets/artists to help us better understand the workings of our precious planet, while at the same time taking a critical view of the agencies and powers that undermine the best of efforts.

Since I fully expect to get arrested some day protecting old-growth forests, I was pleased to see that in Britain, a jury agreed that sometimes civil disobedience must be done to prevent greater harm.

The man who helped train me (Arnie McClure) by letting me work for a while at his local newspaper, *The Valley Log*, was (as usual) on the ball when a solar car drove through town. After you see the photo on page 15, you'll understand why it drew so much attention. Arnie is a great reporter and wrote such a fine story, that I asked his permission to publish it. He gladly sent me the text and photos.

Feel free to send us **your** work. We are always happy to see new faces and hear new voices.
For the Earth, Iona

1st Amendment to the United States 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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Masthead Photo by Iona: "Volunteer" Pumpkin growing out of the composed remains of three gorgeous pumpkin plants given to us last year by my 11-year-old granddaughter. Since I don't like to pull out anything with potential, I let it grow this year in my flower garden creating a flower/vegetable garden. We also had an acorn squash "volunteer" show up, grow and nourish us. These plants are like all the people who help put "OE" together -- volunteers!

**DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:
10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

"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. Mail to: HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. THANKS!!

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For the First Time in Human History, the North Pole Can Be Circumnavigated

Geoffrey Lean, Independent.co.uk, August 31, 2008, excerpt



A polar bear seen in waters off the Alaska coast in August. Some have swum north, apparently trying to reach the polar ice. Photo by Geoff York, World Wildlife Fund via Reuters

Open water now stretches all the way round the Arctic, making it possible for the first time in human history to circumnavigate the North Pole, *The Independent on Sunday* can reveal.

New satellite images, taken only two days ago, show that melting ice last week opened up both the fabled North-west and North-east passages, in the most important geographical landmark to date to signal the unexpectedly rapid progress of global warming.

Last night Professor Mark Serreze, a sea ice specialist at the official U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSCID), hailed the publication of the images — on an obscure Web site by scientists at the University of Bremen, Germany — as “a historic event,” and said that it provided further evidence that the Arctic icecap may now have entered a “death spiral.” Some scientists predict that it could vanish altogether in summer within five years, a process that would, in itself, greatly accelerate.

But Sarah Palin, John McCain’s new running mate, holds that the scientific consensus that global warming is melting Arctic ice is unreliable.

The opening of the passages — ea-

gerly awaited by shipping companies who hope to cut thousands of miles off their routes by sailing round the north of Canada and Russia — is only the greatest of a host of ominous signs this month of a gathering crisis in the Arctic.

Early last week the NSCID warned that, over the next few weeks, the total extent of sea ice in the Arctic may shrink to below the record low reached last year — itself a massive 200,000 square miles less than the previous worst year, 2005.

Four weeks ago, tourists had to be evacuated from Baffin Island’s Auyittuq National Park because of flooding from thawing glaciers. Auyittuq means “land that never melts.”

Two weeks later, in an unprecedented sighting, nine stranded polar bears were seen off Alaska trying to swim 400 miles north to the retreating icecap edge. Ten days ago massive cracking was reported in the Petermann glacier in the far north of Greenland, an area apparently previously unaffected by global warming.

(*New York Times*, August 27, 2008) — Polar bears are powerful swimmers and have been recorded on swims of 100 miles, but the ordeal can leave them exhausted and susceptible to drowning.

This is America. We Don’t Jail Journalists Here.

Jailing journalists is unacceptable in a democracy. But that’s exactly what is happening at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota. Award winning journalist and host of “Democracy Now” Amy Goodman was arrested on Monday by St. Paul police while covering a protest outside the Republican National Convention. Though clearly identified as press, Goodman was charged with “obstruction of a legal process and interference with a peace officer.” Two of her producers were arrested for “suspicion of felony riot.”

This video (see link at end of story) is upsetting, but you deserve to know what’s really going on. Goodman and her producers were released Monday night. AP photographer Matt Rourke was also arrested and released after police doused him with pepper spray and forced him to the ground, scraping up

his elbows and knees.

Worse, charges are still pending against all of these journalists simply for trying to do their jobs.

This story has been virtually ignored by the mainstream press. The cable channels are providing extensive coverage of events related to the Republican National Convention, but there has been a virtual news blackout on the arrest of Amy Goodman and the “Democracy Now” team.

Americans deserve to know that journalists are being jailed at the RNC. E-mail CNN President Jonathan Klein and NBC News President Steve Capus today (NBC News controls MSNBC) to demand coverage of this brutally important story.

http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/dont_arrest_journalists/?r_by=-569219-ICq6ENx&rc

As Unlawful Arrests Continue, St. Paul Feels Like a City Under Siege

By Liliana Segura, excerpt from AlterNet September 3, 2008

Sitting outside the Black Dog Cafe in lower St. Paul late Tuesday morning, a lanky kid in dreadlocks and a black Bob Marley T-shirt stopped, asked me for a light, and sat down next to me. It was drizzly and gray, and eerily quiet. The night before, nearly 300 people had been arrested by Minnesota police in a sweeping display of brute force. Among them were journalist Amy Goodman and two Democracy Now! producers, both of whom were physically assaulted. With helicopters overhead and the National Guard out, it felt like a city under siege.

I asked the guy if he lived in St. Paul. “Yeah.” It turned out he lives next door, in the building where I’ve been staying, an artist’s co-op on Broadway Street. I was about to ask him what he thought about the scene here when he sort of laughed and said, “Yeah, you know — I was just arrested.”

At around 9:45 that morning, John, 20, was walking home from the bank a few blocks away when he spotted what he thought was a police riot club — a ubiquitous weapon on the streets here. “It was right off of West 7th Street in, like, a planter; I checked it out but it ended up being a broomstick.” He put it down and kept walking, when suddenly he was surrounded by police officers — “three squad for sure, maybe four” — one of whom was a woman. “She was like, ‘Get on your stomach or I’m gonna tase you!’” He asked them what he had done, but they wouldn’t say. Instead, they asked him leading questions about other people they’d just arrested. “They

said, “So, who was in the white van you were associated with?” “I was like, white van? I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

John said he hasn’t done any anti-war organizing — “I’d like to” — but since the arrival of the Republican National Convention and the protesters against it, he has been checking out the scene around town.

“Yesterday I was just cruising around. I was in the Funk the War March — they had this huge Gandhi statue and a globe ...” But despite the mostly peaceful protests, when it comes to security, “It’s been crazy.” He showed me videos he’d taken on his phone while he skated around, lines of cops in riot gear — “There was a bunch of people getting maced over there” — and shots of the buses and unmarked minivans the police have used to detain people and take them away.

I asked him if he had been read his rights. “No, they didn’t read me my Miranda rights at all. ... They cuffed me, and when I complained to one guy about the cuffs being too tight, he was like, ‘Oh yeah? Well, let me tighten that up for you.’”

While he kept asking why they were arresting him, John did not resist — “I was really cooperative; I didn’t want to be held” — but he did remember something he had been given at one of the marches. “Finally I pulled this out,” he said, showing me a slip of paper that read, “ACLU Important Contact Information.” “Yeah, you should hold onto that,” one of the cops told him ...

Will Loss of Wetlands Accelerate Climate Change?

By Bill Boteler, Washington D.C. Part II (see last month for Part I)



As the sun illuminates the National Refuge in Maitland, Florida, an Egret appears in the wetlands as a new morning begins.

Photo by Scott Mahon, scottmahon.com

Go to www.theorderoftheearth.com for Part I

Another problem for wetlands is pollution from human activities, especially those which increase the amount of nitrogen or phosphorous in the water. Runoff from areas where there are wastes from livestock, untreated sewage, and farming that uses synthetic fertilizers, spike the algae which suck the oxygen out of the water. This process (called eutrophication) has created huge dead zones in the ocean and it also harms wetlands. In the Chesapeake Bay, algal blooms have created dead zones of low oxygen while also blocking sunlight to underwater plants, preventing their growth.

Throughout much of the world, development continues to be the greatest threat to wetlands. These wetlands take a great variety of forms including: marshes, estuaries, mudflats, mires, ponds, fens, pocosins, swamps, deltas, coral reefs, billabongs, lagoons, shallow seas, bogs, lakes, and floodplains. Many are located in coastal areas where 60% of the world's population is currently concentrated.

Rising prices for food and projects to grow biofuels have spurred increased interest in draining and developing these areas for agricultural production.

In Indonesia, for example, there are special wetland areas called "peatlands" which the Indonesian government has been trying to develop for palm oil, timber, and paper and pulp. To produce biofuels, the Indonesian government has envisioned increasing oil palm plantations which now cover just over 6 million hectares [37,200 square MILES]

to an area over 26 million hectares [161,460 square MILES]. Doing so would release a massive quantity of carbon and methane, now stored in the peat, into the atmosphere.

One special kind of wetland that is found in tropical, coastal areas is the coastal mangrove swamp. These ecosystems are based on mangrove trees which are able to withstand water that is high in salt. These trees have stilt-like roots that rise into the air above mud flats. These swamps are home to a rich variety of plant and animal life. As they grow, they actually build new land. When hurricanes batter the coasts of tropical countries, it is often the mangroves that help hold back the full force of wind and water, protecting human communities. Sadly, the world has lost 35% of all its mangrove forests. In some cases, these forests have been torn apart merely to create temporary ponds for growing shrimp for export to rich countries.

Wetlands also exist in areas where water is permanently frozen. Throughout the tundras and boreal forests of North America and Siberia there are vast areas of wetlands and bogs. In them are deposits of peat that have been building up for millenia. Under cold conditions, organic matter breaks down very slowly, if at all, and tends to hold carbon that might be released under warmer conditions. Climate change is affecting these areas of the planet disproportionately and as they thaw, the carbon and methane trapped in them is released. Some scientists feel it may be too late to do much about this carbon and that we should instead focus

our energies on the warmer areas of the world where there are wetlands not being affected by climate change.

Besides their role in holding carbon from the atmosphere, wetlands perform a variety of services to humankind that are quite special. These services include: protecting coastal areas from storms, filtering and cleaning water supplies, slowing soil erosion, providing habitat for the world's waterfowl and breeding grounds for most of the world's fish.

It is perhaps for these reasons that the "Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat," was established on February 2, 1971 in the city of Ramsar, Iran. The convention is usually referred to as "Ramsar" for short.

Before leaving their conference in Cuiaba, Brazil this summer, the participants in the International Wetlands Conference made a declaration which I'll summarize here:

1. We recommend that the contracting parties of the Ramsar Convention and others support initiatives that take advantage of global remote sensing data sets and techniques to consistently and accurately map wetland extent, dynamics and variability. We encourage the providers of space-borne remote sensing data sets to ensure the long-term continuity of these crucial information sources.

2. We call for the appropriate and effective protection measures that will quickly reverse the negative impacts on wetland quality and quantity, including bio-fuel policy, inappropriate water management, land use, and climate change.

3. We call attention to the urgent need to immediately intensify the various national and international efforts to study, protect and wisely manage all wetlands. We support increased funding of research and the implementation of scientific

Sources

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Hebert, H. Josef 1997. "Rate of Wetland Destruction Slowing" Associated Press
http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.usa_loss.htm

Sea Level Rise:

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/effects/coastal/SLRMassachusetts.html>

Loss of Land %:

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/effects/downloads/massachusetts.pdf>

Fires:

<http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/living/Family.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-07-08-0003.html>

Types of Wetlands:

http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/freshwater/about_fres

Biofuels Production:

http://www.climateark.org/shared/alerts/send.aspx?id=indonesia_peatland

Estimates of the size of the world's wetlands:

<http://www.ramsar.org/about/info2007-01-e.pdf>

results that are urgently needed to reduce the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change, mitigate the drivers of climate change, and adapt to the consequences.

4. We recommend that wetland protection should be given highest priority to maintain their services for the benefit of the local population.

5. We stress that joint efforts across political boundaries are needed to optimize all our efforts to stop and reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands. Sound policies and activities are needed now.

6. We call attention to the fact that many signatories of the Ramsar Convention have not yet fulfilled their requirement to establish and implement a specific wetland policy, to prepare a national wetland inventory, and to maintain the ecological character of all wetlands through wise use. We ask for immediate action from the respective governments to accomplish their agreements in the Ramsar Convention. We encourage non-member states to join the Ramsar Convention and to strengthen the global effort needed to sustain manageable wetlands.

Bill Boteler is a writer and environmentalist living and working in Washington, D.C.

Poem by Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada

The blessed
There are some who are
Stem and leaf

Cell-Tower Siting Comments Due 10/14

From Janet Newton, The EMR (Electromagnetic Radiation) Policy Institute

The message below comes from Frederick Ellrod at the law firm of Miller and Van Eaton, a firm in Washington D.C. that specializes in representing municipalities across the U.S. on telecommunications issues. It explains how you can participate in the effort to stop the Cellular Telephone and Internet Association (CTIA) in its action to push the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to take away more authority of local government to decide where antennas will be sited.

On September 10, 2008, the FCC extended the deadline for filing Comments until September 29, 2008, and the deadline for Reply Comments to October 14, 2008. From the FCC Web site:

DA 08-2070

September 10, 2008

WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU GRANTS EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE COMMENTS ON CTIA'S PETITION FOR DECLARATORY RULING REGARDING WIRELESS FACILITIES SITING
WT Docket No. 08-165

Comments Due: September 29, 2008
Reply Comments Due: October 14, 2008

Mr. Ellrod's message is directed to local government officials who are responsible for zoning policies and decisions for antenna sites.

If you are a local government officer you can respond directly to Mr. Ellrod or Mr. Hobson. If you are a citizen who has been active in siting proceedings in your municipality, get this message into the hands of your local officials.

Thank you for your willingness to participate.

Janet Newton, President
The EMR Policy Institute
www.emrpolicy.org; 802-426-3035
POB 117, Marshfield VT 05658

Message from Frederick Ellrod at Miller and Van Eaton, Washington DC:

Please contact Jim Hobson (jhobson@millervaneaton.com) or Rick Ellrod (fellrod@millervaneaton.com) at MVE if you can provide any information.

Background: See our Web site at http://www.millervaneaton.com/content/agent?page_name=HT%3A++CTIA+Pet

ition+for+Declaratory+Ruling

As you know, the petition filed by CTIA to preempt local zoning authority over wireless sites is based on numerous undocumented claims about delays by local governments. We need information about specific cases going the other way, showing:

- That local communities process claims at a reasonable pace, considering the number of applications they have before them and the issues raised;
- That delays can be caused by tower applicants, either by failing to take local zoning into account in planning in the first place, or in the process itself; and
- That zoning procedures and negotiations lead to changes in the applicant's original proposal resulting in a mutually acceptable plan.

We are also seeing some interest from the press in finding a "compelling example" or two where local zoning is important — for example, where localities are being pressured by applicants to accept unreasonable plans. In other words, we are looking for good examples of local conflicts over antenna or tower siting that illustrate what this issue is about — especially where the fight is currently under way.

It would help us if you could provide us with the following information:

- If you post your ordinances or practices for wireless siting to a Web site, please send us the link(s).
- Are requests to site towers handled through your normal zoning processes?
- Who considers the applications — a zoning board or similar entity?
- Do you have any special procedures that allow wireless applicants to avoid zoning procedures that would otherwise apply if they meet certain standards? What are those procedures?
- How many applications/zoning matters overall did the board address in 2008, through June 30? In 2007? (We're looking here to get an idea of how busy these boards are as a whole and not just focusing on wireless. If you can provide the same information for each year 2002-2007, that would be helpful.)
- How many wireless site applications have been filed in the same periods?
- How many wireless site applications are now pending with you? How old is

the oldest, and how old the newest?

- If the oldest is more than 45 days (for collocations) or 75 days (other than collocations), please explain why it has not yet been resolved.
- How long does it usually take to process an application?
- What are some examples where the local application process resulted in agreement on a different plan from the one originally proposed?
- Can you give examples of cases where the process was particularly controversial, why it was controversial, and how it was resolved?
- What are some cases where the applicant itself caused delays in the process?
- Do you ever resolve an application within 45 or 75 days, as described above? If not, why not? If not all applications are resolved in those time frames, can you explain why it may take more time?

We are interested even if the specifics can't be assembled until after Sept. 15, because the reply comments and follow-up ex parte meetings will allow us to continue broadening the record.

We understand that you may not be able to collect all this information easily, and some information may not be available. But it would be useful to receive it even in piecemeal form. Your responses don't need to be long — as a practical matter, we cannot put too much detail into the pleading. But we want to be sure that the Commission has information that would permit it to question the claims made by CTIA.

If you have any additional facts that you think might be useful, feel free to send them to us, even if they are not captured by our questions.

Please contact Jim Hobson (jhobson@millervaneaton.com) or Rick Ellrod (fellrod@millervaneaton.com) at MVE if you can provide any information.

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Peace Slate in Oregon

By Joanne Cvar, Green Party, excerpt



(*Green Pages*, newsletter of the Green Party a few months ago) The Pacific Green Party of Oregon is currently fielding a "peace slate," with candidates for nomination in four of the five congressional districts in Oregon. All are committed to ending the war in Iraq and all have pledged never to vote for funding the continued occupation through supplemental funding bills or for an increase in the basic military budget.

"Imagine, for a moment, real leaders for peace in Congress, added to the few already there, who are not beholden to the existing party leadership," says Charles Newlin, Pacific Green party Coordinating Committee member ...

African Wetlands Protected

(World Wildlife Fund via Environmental News Network, July 28, 2008) — An area of the Democratic Republic of Congo containing the largest body of fresh water in Africa has been added to the Ramsar Convention's list of Wetlands of International Importance, making it the largest region ever to be designated as such. At more than six-and-a-half million hectares (40,365 square miles), the Ngiri-Tumba-Maingombe area is twice the size of Belgium and has one of the highest concentrations of biodiversity anywhere in the world. It is also a major carbon sink.

"WWF is delighted that Ramsar has recognized the importance of this extraordinary wetland and the efforts of the Democratic Republic of Congo to protect it," said James P. Leape, Director General of WWF International. "This is a significant step forward for the welfare of communities who depend on this wetland for their livelihoods and for the wildlife that lives there." [See Wetlands story page 4.]

Voting: Sex and Selection[©]

By Barbara Erakko Taylor, Hannibal MO

When I saw two political signs on one lawn, I had to laugh. There was the MC-CAIN banner ... and the OBAMA banner sharing the turf. You'd have to wonder what was going on inside the house — a collegial conversation ending in a loving embrace, or zoned-off TV sets.

I only need to put out one banner, unless my dog starts to spray it with decided determination — which technically could be a YES or a NO vote.

But all kidding aside, this election is important. And I want to discuss "the female issue." I'll admit right away, I'm a female and I was born a Democrat in a Republican family. I literally came out of the womb that way so nobody can blame me. But I admit, when I was 10, I danced at the voting center with my girlfriend singing, "Nixon, Nixon, he's the one." What can I say ... I liked to dance. My father really thought I came from Mars and tried consistently to reform me, to no avail. That's why I say it's a birth thing.

I was surprised during the primary that I was supposed to vote for Hillary because she was ... a female. This made absolutely no sense to me. Why would I check the sex beneath the pants suit to decide who should run the country? Presumably I was expected by pollsters to have this gender conversation: "Hello, oh female. Why are you better qualified than ... oh the eighteen thousand men who have run before you to know how to handle foreign affairs, terrorists, economy, health care, Social Security, and education?"

"I'm genetically DNA-wired. I'm the FIRST credible female to run ... and I'm smart." Hillary didn't say this. It's said for her by the media and campaign strategists — to us, the female voters.

This does not garner my vote. Apparently violating my gender, race, and age, I voted for Obama. It was a tough up-down call — both candidates profoundly moved me.

So now we have another female, Sarah Palin. Up to McCain's choice of Palin for vice president, I could see his presidential qualities. While I wanted Obama, I respected McCain on some issues. But he is an older man. To me, his vice presidential choice would provide the first evidence we'd have of what he repeatedly told us was his mature presidential ability. True, he looks like he's a rocket star ready to hit his 90s at a run — but statistically, he's still ... old.

Here are my issues — and I invite women, Republican and Democrat, to respond. If he really cares about our country — REALLY cares — and he wants to make sure we are safe from terrorists, how can he choose a candidate (male or female) who — however politically savvy — has no foreign experience?

If both Obama and McCain consider the United States in the crosshairs of absolute devastating danger — who, really, would want Palin calling rapid-fire shots. Not me. I want a McCain equivalent. She is no equal. She's not even close.

I feel betrayed. I've been told to REALLY worry about our country and who runs it. McCain has beat this into my head with ad after ad telling me Obama is a little wet-eared newt. Then McCain chooses a newt's newt. I don't consider looking across a body of water at another country to constitute foreign policy experience, even if she is wearing a politically correct skirt.

My other long-standing (presumably) woman's issue concerns pro-life. I am absolutely pro-life — but for me it goes end-to-end. I'm Catholic. I know our teachings. No abortion — no euthanasia — no death row. There's no halfway house on pro-life. It's not pro-baby.

Palin is pro-baby; I'd be shocked if she were pro-life. I hope she has a post-birth plan because plenty of unwanted, unexpected, unplanned babies who become un-nurtured and uneducated end up on welfare, in prisons, and yes ... surprise ... on death row.

When I look in the mirror and say to myself, "I'm pro-life." Does it pay my taxes or my mortgage? Put gas in my car? Does it buy my food or keep me safe? No.

These are important issues. Babies have to have somewhere to live, somehow to eat, some way to be safe. That's pro-life — making sure we ALL make it.

I don't want to be "the female vote" — packaged as a commodity. I have more respect for myself than that. It would never have occurred to me to vote in the primaries or the election based on sex. I don't even think about it. The only question I ever ask is: What are your positions on the issues that affect our nation?

I would feel ashamed of our sex if we go — like sheep — to vote for Hillary Clinton or Sarah Palin — because they are females. Nothing is more insulting to me, to my integrity, to my intellect, or to my heart and my love for this country than to imply, assume, or say — gender trumps issues.

It doesn't.

Respect YOUR self. Respect YOUR truth. Respect YOUR heart. Then vote!

Barbara Erakko Taylor designed information systems for federal agencies before stepping into a harder job of raising children. Today she creates peace jewelry — one bead for every country in the world — and hand-woven shawls. The author of two books on silence, she continues to write and is at work on a new manuscript about the spirituality of elderly forgetfulness. Her Web site is www.peaceandprayergifts.com.

All Our Relations Sacred Gardening: A Workshop Sunday, October 12, 10:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Blueberry Gardens Center, Ashton, MD Cost: \$70

In these changing times Earth Mother is calling us to heal ourselves and our relationship to nature. Our gardens are where we can intimately rekindle a deeper relationship and reverence for the life around us to promote healing.

Come join us at this workshop to learn Native American practices and world views that will encourage deeper gardening practices honoring nature energies, garden health and planetary healing. The workshop will start with a plant and seed swap.

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- How to bless your garden when you open it up in the spring and put it to bed in the fall;
- Claiming your relationship with the Creator and Earth Mother to honor



your sacred place in the world and garden;

- Your garden as an altar;
- Intuitive gardening;
- Deepening your relationship and awareness of life around you; and
- Nature as teacher and healer.

Workshop Leader:

Mare Cromwell is a professional gardener, author and speaker. She has apprenticed with a Cherokee Medicine Woman for 12 years. With a Masters degree in Natural Re-

sources from the University of Michigan, she has also worked in the environmental field for 27 years both internationally and locally in the Baltimore/Washington region.

*Mare's book, **If I Gave You God's Phone Number... Searching for Spirituality in America**, was published in 2002.*

*In addition to her gardening and writing efforts, Mare occasionally speaks on eco-philosophy and eco-spirituality topics such as **Environmental Hope, Living Simplicity, Deep Ecology and "Right Relationship"**. But most of the time, she can be found weeding someone's garden.*

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What is Happening to the Mountain State?



Photo #1 MTR site. Courtesy of Coal Mountain River Watch (CMRW). "Appalachian coal has fueled the nation for over a century but it is a non-renewable resource and will run out some day. In 2000, the U.S. Geologic Survey estimated that the most economically recoverable coal in West Virginia would be mined out within 20-30 years A wind farm will produce energy for as long as the wind blows ... Mountaintop Removal mining is a bad choice for West Virginia for many reasons. Economically, it employs fewer workers than underground mining, requires the state and companies to pay for incredibly expensive land reclamation and even after this expensive process, the leftover land is often unstable for economic development and unsuitable for wildlife or forest land." www.coalriverwind.org



Photo #2: Sludge Pond. These artificial ponds are filled with a toxic semi-liquid sludge that is a safety worry to all that know that these impoundments have been known to leak and break, especially during times of 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). Residents recall numerous floods of '03 and '04, the May '02 flood in McDowell Co., the Massey Valley Fill Disaster in '02 and the 1972 Buffalo Creek disaster that killed 127 people and injured over 1,000 in which hundreds of homes were lost, not to mention the environmental impact. Families near MTR sites continue to create lists of contaminants found in their drinking water: arsenic, manganese, lead, barium, selenium, aluminum (www.pbs.org), and the list continues to grow. "It's estimated that there is over one hundred billion gallons [of coal sludge/slurry] amassed in active WV impoundments (Moyers'Journal www.pbs.org)." That's 110,000,000,000 gallons!

(Continued from page 1) characteristics, memorize the counties and county seats, along with mapping rivers, lakes and more. This is a unique item in the West Virginia curriculum as eighth graders don't always learn so much detail about their states.

But what happens if actual named mountains get blasted away? Not blasted from a war; rather at the hands of a coal company practicing a coal extraction method called Mountaintop Removal (MTR)?

MTR is a dangerous and destructive type of coal mining that removes up to half of the mountain's tops while clear-cutting all native

timber, removing all vestiges of wildlife in its land, air and water, (see photo #1) while poisoning and/or burying streams as mountains are blown up for coal, which is then sold to burn for our electrical power.

Last month in the September issue of "OE" (p. 7 photo caption), I emphasized an MTR term: valley fill. After mountains are blown up, the rock and waste are emptied into nearby valleys covering the headwaters forever. Just like Mountaintop Removal, valley fills cannot be reversed. Once a stream is buried, there is no way of retrieving it.

An additional key term to know is: sludge/

slurry. Coal is bathed in toxic chemicals to keep coal dust at bay before reaching the coal train for distribution. These chemicals in the past have been allowed to be stored on bordering public properties. (Go to: <http://duke.securenet-server.net/~mnoerpel/pennies/> to see an elementary school and town battling for a healthy school.) The toxins and sludge/slurry waste or black, 'lava-like goo' is dumped into open air ponds (see photo #2) for storage high atop mountains, habitually behind dam walls, hidden away from the

general public's eye. If you would like to read more about this practice, see my story, Part II in the September issue of *The Order of the Earth*.

Oftentimes, this toxic slurry becomes too burdensome for coal-mine owners to store in ponds, so millions of gallons at a time are injected into abandoned, previously deep-mined caverns. The slurry dam holding pond and the coal mine injection method has been known to damage and poison entire towns' water supplies (Continued on page 8)



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What is Happening to the Mountain State?



Photo #3: It is estimated that one wind farm would create jobs for 200 local people during construction and 50 permanent jobs during the life of the wind farm. It takes only 27 years for a wind farm to provide a greater number of one-year jobs than ... four surface mines combined... and to provide 440MW of electricity — or enough energy for 150,000 homes — indefinitely, as well as a sustained tax income that could be used for the construction of new schools ...

Photo Credit: Coal Mountain River Watch

(Continued from page 7) along with individual sources for well water, yet the practice continues.

For years West Virginia citizens and environmentalists have been challenging the power of coal-mine owners and CEOs by joining grassroots organizations to battle the huge coal barons, only to claim small victories in our court systems that simply slow down the strip-mining process. Usually this process involves ordinary folks who must stop one project to navigate the court system, so that their energies can encounter another travesty. Ordinary citizens in grassroots efforts find it daunting to keep up with large coal companies and their surfeit of attorneys kept on staff full-time. Coal companies are clever with their use of attorneys as they continuously try to hoodwink citizens. (See www.coalriverwind.org for the latest debacle.)

Due to coal companies' damaging individual well water supplies and entire town system's supplies, citizens have been forced to be their own advocates for attaining and demanding clean water, clean air and undamaged personal property. The general public takes their water samples to court with detailed lists of chemicals that have been found to cause health issues in order to prove their case for something as straightforward as clean water. This calls for time away from jobs, families, etc., simply to

reclaim what should rightfully be theirs — clean, uncontaminated drinking water. Many families have spent years encountering more than one negative issue pertaining to MTR site property damages, which involves court hearings, litigation and more legal action. Many families become exhausted with the fight and sell their homes, businesses and property to the coal company that caused the damage from the beginning, which leads to more land for the coal lords, and the cycle continues. It seems that the goal is to make living in southern West Virginia as uncomfortable as possible for those who try to create a stand against Mountaintop Removal practices.

During the current administration, many coal-mine safety regulations and Clean Air Act regulations have been lifted to help speed up the coal extraction process for deep mine operations, as well as MTR (strip) mines. There is still speculation that if previous safety laws remained in place, then possibly mining disasters such as the Sago Mine Disaster in Upshur County, WV would not have happened. This sort of disaster is quickly forgotten by those not faced with the immediate fallout on a day-to-day basis. Right now, operations that produce large scale equipment such as dump trucks and dozers cannot keep pace with the heightened demand for West Virginia coal.

You may be asking, "What is the hurry? Why can't the operators be considerate of property owners without additionally damaging and burying waterways?"

The answer is political. MTR mines are on a 'full speed ahead' regimen for fear that a new government change in November may be more perceptive and sagacious due to our heightened and worthy local, national and global environmental concerns.

So, where is the good news? The news of hope began causing a stir in West Virginia several months ago. During one of my summer visits, the front-page news of Beckley's *Register Herald* newspaper touted: "Wind Farm Construction Set to Begin Next Spring" [Greenbrier County]. (See photo #3) Recently, another report from the Coal River Wind Project had surfaced only to have hopes dashed by West Virginia's own Governor Joe Manchin, who is touting a new cry that he is a 'Friend of Coal' rather than a 'Friend of the Mountains.'

As I write this article, what appeared to be a promising 6,000-acre site for a West Virginia wind farm has been nixed (as of September 10) by an obsequious governor, fearing to stand up to Massey Coal's CEO, Don Blankenship. The Coal Mountain River Wind (CMRW) organi-

zation set in motion to oppose Massey's latest attempt to MTR mine approximately 6500 acres, announced this week in an email: "We thought we had months to stop the proposed Mountaintop Removal coal mining operation for Coal River Mountain. The coal company — Massey Energy — circumvented the law and altered their permits and are set to begin blasting the mountain for coal."

As of 9/10/08, Massey Coal has 20 days of their original 30 days to acquire the remainder of the permits needed before beginning the detonation of 10 miles (approximately 6,500 acres) of forested land, annihilating all wildlife crossing their path while poisoning fish and habitats, not to mention creating more hazardous air quality while intensifying the Earth's CO₂ levels. This month has been an eventful, yet sad, month to say the least, for healthy-mountains proponents.

What should West Virginia be pursuing, rather than more MTR coal extraction? Most pro-mountain advocates and environmentalists will tell you that West Virginia's answer lies in wind power. The West Virginia mountain ranges offer the Grade 4-7 that is needed for promising wind farms (see photo #4). Wind farms keep mountains intact. "Since the footprint

of a wind farm includes only the turbine pads, a few access roads to the ridge and one along the ridge line, the rest of the mountain is preserved and available for economic development and recreation. It is estimated that "[a] ... wind farm would only lead to the clearing of 50-100 acres of forest — which is much smaller than the proposed mining area of 6,000+ acres." (www.coalriverwind.org September 2008)

So, what can you do? Lots! First, go to www.coalriverwind.org and sign the petition that lets West Virginia officials know that there is another choice. Call, email and/or write to Governor Joe Manchin (below). Tell him that you are in support of wind farms and against more MTR. Spread the word! Only Gov. Manchin can rescind the order for another MTR site that he granted this week (pending permits).

WV Gov. Joe Manchin

**Toll free: 1-888-438-2731 or
1-304-558-2000 or Fax: 304-342-7025**

Address: 1900 Kanawha Blvd, E.

Charleston, WV 25305

Email: Governor@WVGov.org

Web site: www.wvgov.org

Ask others to sign the petition and pass along all that you know about MTR and its direct connection to our electricity use and *(Continued on page 16)*

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The Examined Life: On Pests



By Marion Stuenkel, Madison WI

The 17-year Locusts emerged in Chicago when I was a girl and again when my son was a toddler. I love the word Cicada, their common name. The mating call of the annual variety is a summer sound to me but I think the periodic locusts are like neighbors playing a well-loved piece of music too loud, too long. Cicada wings must have been the pattern for the beautiful fairy wings of illustrations. The cicadas' shells are repellent yet compelling to pick up and arrange as a miniature-attacking horde. I'll admit I've almost dropped whatever I was carrying when cicadas landed or fell on my head or limbs.

Reading about cicada habits I visualize females cutting pockets in small branches and twigs of trees to lay their eggs with their long, knife-like egg layer, or sucking juices from roots after they have burrowed two feet in the earth. It's fascinating, if a bit chilling. The description of soft white nymphs emerging in large numbers when the proper night comes — attaching to trees then getting harder and darker as their tissues dry after they have split their skin down the middle of their backs — is rather Gothic.

I'm usually learning from information provided by some university somewhere in cooperation with a state agency. The wonderful descriptions of life cycles are invariably followed by a paragraph labeled CONTROL, which is about interrupting life cycles. About killing what is identified in the CONTROL paragraph as a pest. It is as though we study creatures and learn to understand their ways only so we can do away with them — unless they are consumable.

Mosquitoes bug me. I don't like Asian Beetles grabbing ladybug living space. Earwigs give me the creeps. I don't want paper wasps for neighbors. I shoo flies if company's coming. I didn't stop my son focusing solar energy through a magnifying glass to incinerate red ants. I was not fond of mice carrying bubonic plague in New Mexico and the Roadrunner is my favorite bird because he eats rattlesnakes. So no, I am not without dislikes.

But, as Socrates wrote, "... that the unexamined life is not worth living..." in his *Apology* I must face up to what CONTROL means. 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 have been mindful in caring about elephants, tigers and wolves whose predations are suffered by villagers in Africa, Asia and out west U.S.A. I've bemoaned efforts to be rid of those pests probably because their size, beauty and mammalian nature emphasized our relationship and connectedness. But about the more prolific, less attractive and diminutive pests I never acknowledged that CONTROL meant extermination by poisons. I just skipped over that part of the Science Fact Sheets.

This summer, my grandson and I saw a hole in the ground about the circumference of his walking stick. A pile of lava-flow-like-looking mud sat next to it. When we identified what we had seen as a crawfish burrow, a Darwin like thrill possessed us. We began to love the critters as though we had created them ourselves. Reading about them on the Science Fact Sheet we learned crawfish play an important role in aquatic ecosystems.

Trout, egrets, bullfrogs, and otters are some who eat them. Because crawfish will eat plant and animal material, both living and dead, they help reduce the amount of decaying matter thereby improving water quality.

What comes next on the Science Fact Sheet? CONTROL — which must be had over this creature because he is capable of collapsing dams. Why did it take me so many years to notice that all the scientific study from university and state result in attempts to control nature?

All I can say is that I had a mindset of world control rather than self control. A friend quoted to me, "Those who survive are those who fit in best with the rest of life."

I'm seeking my place.



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 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Government Devalues Life

By Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

What's your life worth? It's the million dollar question.

According to David A. Fahrenthold, writing in the *Washington Post* earlier this month, "... an Environmental Protection Office (EPA) lowered its official estimate of life's value, from about \$8.04 million to about \$7.22 million."

Fahrenthold reports that government agencies routinely calculate a monetary value for human life, "... not any particular person's, just that of a generic American." The figures are "used to judge whether potentially life-saving policy measures are really worth the cost."

Are you or is anyone in your family a generic American?

Is saving yourself, significant other, child, parent or friend from potential complications or death due to respiratory ailments or heart failure worth the additional cost of more stringent air pollution controls?

The EPA's air office doesn't think so. It's the agency that reduced its Value of a Statistical Life.

And since the agency has devalued life, it would follow that it's more likely to relax or forgo regulations protecting public health since the value of the life affected by or lost to air pollution now counts for less.

This isn't the first time a government agency has attempted to devalue life. In 2003, the EPA tried to devalue the lives of senior citizens, claiming they were worth less than other adults. Public outcry averted that change.

The concept of Value of a Statistical Life is ludicrous. Attempting to calculate a monetary figure for human life debases

it. An economic cost/benefit analysis can't do life justice.

It also exposes the dementia inherent in our economic system and culture. It says: Life isn't sacred or priceless; it is only worth so much.

It says: The risks and costs of doing business (read generating wealth) are more important than the lives affected by these practices.

How about the lives of the 192 miners and family members who died from exposure to deadly asbestos fibers working in a vermiculite mine near Libby, Montana?

Or the 350 New Jersey residents who are being exposed to chemical vapors emanating from underground pollution left from decades of operation by DuPont's former explosives plant?

Or the lives of any and all of those who became ill or died or will become ill and suffer and possibly die from exposure to the products and by-products of manufacturing the chemicals we know little about and are told are safe?

How much are their lives worth? Insane? Yes. New? No.

Throughout the history of Western civilization some lives have always been deemed more valuable, more worthy of protection than others, whether it was men subjugating women, masters subjugating slaves or the rich subjugating the poor. This is the legacy of a dominator culture.

In the words of Lois C. Gibbs, the woman who exposed the horrors of Love Canal: "If you think you're safe, think again. And, if you're ever in doubt about what a" (Continued on page 16)

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Endgame by Derrick Jensen

Hailed as the “philosopher poet” of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization, and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen’s book *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.” Be sure to buy both volumes.



I have two problems, also, with Mumford’s claim that the widening of communication and economic intercourse under civilization benefits people as a whole. The first is that it presumes that uncivilized people do not communicate or participate in economic transactions beyond their local communities. Many do. Shells from the Northwest Coast found their way into the hands of Plains Indians, and buffalo robes often ended up on the coast. (And let’s not even mention non-civilized people communicating with their nonhuman neighbors, something rarely practiced by the civilized: talk about restricting yourself to your own community!)

In any case, I’m not certain that the ability to send emails back and forth to Spain or to watch television programs beamed out of Los Angeles makes my life particularly richer. It’s far more important, useful, and enriching, I think, to get to know my neighbors. I’m frequently amazed to find myself sitting in a room full of fellow human beings,

all of us staring at a box watching and listening to a story concocted and enacted by people far away. I have friends who know Seinfeld’s neighbors better than their own. I, too, can get lost in valuing the unreality of the distant over that which surrounds me every day. I have to confess I can navigate the mazes of the computer game “Doom 2: Hell on Earth” far better than I can find my way along the labyrinthine game trails beneath the trees outside my window, and I understand the intricacies of Microsoft Word far better than I do the complex dance of rain, sun, predators, prey, scavengers, plants, and soil in the creek a hundred yards away.

The other night, I wrote till late, and finally turned off my computer to step outside and say goodnight to the dogs.

I realized, then, that the wind was blowing hard through the tops of the redwood trees, and the trees were sighing and whispering. Branches were clashing, and in the distance I heard them cracking. Until that moment I had not realized such a symphony was

taking place so near, much less had I gone out to participate in it, to feel the wind blow my hair and to feel the tossed rain hit me in the face. All of the sounds of the night had been drowned out by the monotone whine of my computer’s fan.

Just yesterday I saw a pair of hooded mergansers playing on the pond outside my bedroom. Then last night I saw a television program in which yet another lion chased yet another zebra.

Which of those two scenes makes me richer? This perceived widening of communication is just another replication of the problem of the visual and musical arts, because given the impulse for centralized control that motivates civilization, widening communication in this case really means reducing us from active participants in our own lives and in the lives of those around us to consumers sucking words and images from some distant sugar tit.

Deep Green Resistance Workshop with Derrick October 24-26, Oregon

We live in the most destructive culture to ever exist. In Derrick’s talks around the country, he repeatedly asks his audiences, “Does anyone think this culture will voluntarily transform to a sustainable way of living?” No one ever says “Yes.” If we really accept the seriousness of the situation, what would that mean for our strategy and tactics? This is the urgent question we will be exploring during the Deep Green Resistance (DGR) workshop over the weekend of October 24-26.

Topics include: Organizing the Resistance, Bringing It Down: Bottlenecks and Levers, Security Culture, Liberal vs Radical: Some Conceptual Basics, Fighting Future Fascism, Preparing for the Crash, and Q. & A. with Derrick.

Cost is a sliding scale of \$225-450, which includes meals and lodging/camping. Work exchange and some scholarships are available. DGR is being held B’nai B’rith Camp in Lincoln, Oregon. Register at tours@derrickjensen.org.

Fighting for Love in the Century of Extinction: Book Review by Iona

I love this book!

The subtitle is “How Passion and Politics Can Stop Global Warming” and it is by Eban Goodstein, the man who organized the tremendously successful Focus the Nation events on thousands of college and high school campuses earlier this year to educate young people about climate change and to wake them up to their role in the electoral process, namely by asking important questions of their politicians with an end result of tracking them once they

are elected.

Here is a sample: “Anti-government politicians who came of age in the right-wing bubble that was Washington, D.C., over the last decade will fight any ambitious clean-energy and climate-stabilization agenda tooth and nail. And so the critical challenge now is to win back the country — the U.S. Congress and the presidency — to solid majorities favoring a new world-view. ...”

And this: “To seriously slow the process of mass extinc-

tion driven by global warming, state-level victories must lead — quickly — to federal electoral victories in 2008 and a powerful, bullet-proof, clean-energy coalition in the U.S. Senate and House by 2010.”

The book gives a basic education about global heating but also stresses the importance of love: “...The love, the sense of connection, that a religious person feels for nature is the same love that a spiritual-but-not-religious person feels. Nature is a mediating guide to spiritual ex-

perience for all of us, whether we think a particular manifestation of God is involved or not. The love is as deep and as intense, and if we truly listen to that love, then it leads us directly into a passionate defense of nature. If global heating threatens to wipe out half of life on this planet, and it is within your power to stop it, — even if you understand your love for creation to be “simply” the product of four billion years of evolution.”

Please, read this great little book. You will love it, too.

**FIGHTING
FOR LOVE
IN THE
CENTURY OF
EXTINCTION**
HOW PASSION AND POLITICS
CAN STOP GLOBAL WARMING



EBAN GOODSTEIN

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Part X

Policies and Instruments for Governments to Create Incentives

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Annual Assessment Report was released November 17, 2007. "[This is] the most essential reading for every person on the planet who cares about the future," said Geoffrey Lean of *The Independent* on the report's release. Since ours is a Global Warming paper, we are presenting the report as a series. For the whole report, go directly to www.ipcc.org. Below is our next installment.

Future energy infrastructure investment decisions, expected to exceed 20 trillion \$U.S.¹⁶ between 2005 and 2030, will have long-term impacts on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, because of the long life-times of energy plants and other infrastructure capital stock. The widespread diffusion of low-carbon technologies may take many decades, even if early investments in these technologies are made attractive. Initial estimates show that returning global energy-related CO₂ emissions to 2005 levels by 2030 would require a large shift in investment patterns, although the net additional investment required ranges from negligible to 5-10%.

A wide variety of policies and instruments are available to governments to create the incentives for mitigation action. Their applicability depends on national circumstances and sectoral context (Table SPM5, see our September issue or www.ipcc.org).

They include integrating climate policies in wider development policies, regulations and standards, taxes and charges, tradable permits, financial incentives, voluntary agreements, information instruments, and research, development and demonstration (RD&D).

An effective carbon-price signal could realize significant mitigation potential in all sectors. Modelling studies show global carbon prices rising to 20-80 \$U.S./tCO₂-eq (equivalent) by 2030 are consistent with stabilization at around 550 ppm (parts per million)* CO₂-eq by 2100. For the same stabilization level, induced technological change may lower these price ranges to 5-65 \$U.S./tCO₂-eq in 2030.¹⁷

There is *high agreement* and *much evidence* that mitigation actions can result in near-term co-benefits (e.g. improved health due to reduced air pollution) that may offset a substantial fraction of mitigation costs.

There is *high agreement* and *medium evidence* that Annex I countries' actions may affect the global economy and global emissions, although the scale of carbon leakage remains uncertain.¹⁸

Fossil-fuel-exporting nations (in

both Annex I and non-Annex I countries) may expect, as indicated in the Third Annual Report, lower demand and prices and lower GDP growth due to mitigation policies. The extent of this spill-over depends strongly on assumptions related to policy decisions and oil market conditions.

There is also *high agreement* and *medium evidence* that changes in lifestyle, behavior patterns and management practices can contribute to climate change mitigation across all sectors.

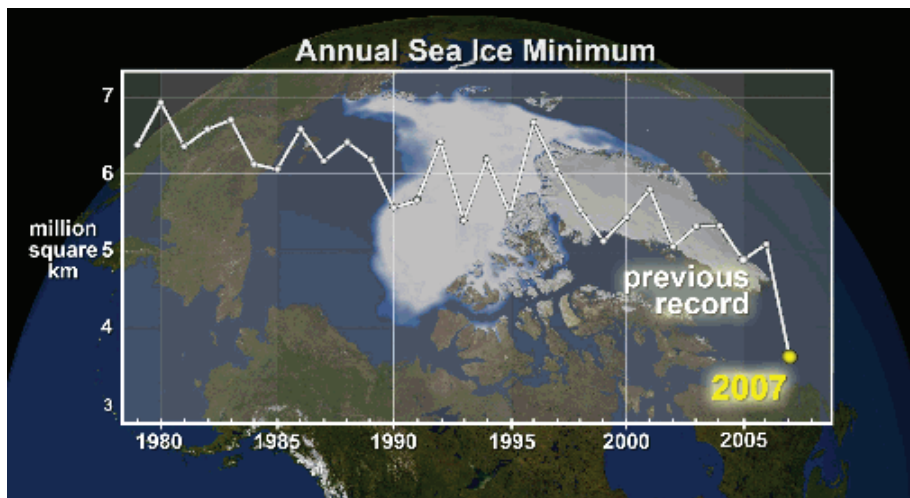
Many options for reducing global GHG emissions through international cooperation exist. There is high agreement and much evidence that notable achievements of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are the establishment of a global response to climate change, stimulation of an array of national policies, and the creation of an international carbon market and new institutional mechanisms that may provide the foundation for future mitigation efforts. Progress has also been made in addressing adaptation within the UNFCCC and additional international initiatives have been suggested.

Greater cooperative efforts and expansion of market mechanisms will help to reduce global costs for achieving a given level of mitigation, or will improve environmental effectiveness. Efforts can include diverse elements such as emissions targets; sectoral, local, sub-national and regional actions; RD&D programs; adopting common policies; implementing development oriented actions; or expanding financing instruments.

In several sectors, climate response options can be implemented to realize synergies and avoid conflicts with other dimensions of sustainable development. Decisions about macroeconomic and other non-climate policies can significantly affect emissions, adaptive capacity and vulnerability.

Making development more sustainable can enhance mitigative and adaptive capacities, reduce emissions, and reduce vulnerability, but there may be barriers to implementation. On the other hand, it is very likely that climate change

The Arctic Ocean could be nearly ice-free by the end of summer 2012. From the Web site of Climate Emergency Network in Australia. It's very striking to see what has happened with Arctic sea ice over the last 30 years -- going down at a fairly consistent rate, overall -- and then the precipitous drop from 2006 to 2007.



can slow the pace of progress towards sustainable development. Over the next half-century, climate change could impede achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

FOOTNOTES:

¹⁶ 20 trillion = 20,000 billion = 20×10¹²

¹⁷ Studies on mitigation portfolios and macro-economic costs assessed in this report are based on top-down modelling. Most models use a global least-cost approach to mitigation portfolios, with universal emissions trading, assuming transparent markets, no transaction cost, and thus perfect implementation of mitigation measures throughout the 21st century. Costs are given for a specific point in time. Global modelled

costs will increase if some regions, sectors (e.g. land-use), options or gases are excluded. Global modelled costs will decrease with lower baselines, use of revenues from carbon taxes and auctioned permits, and if induced technological learning is included. These models do not consider climate benefits and generally also co-benefits of mitigation measures, or equity issues. Significant progress has been achieved in applying approaches based on induced technological change to stabilization studies; however, conceptual issues remain. In the models that consider induced technological change, projected costs for a given stabilization level are reduced; the reductions are greater at lower stabilization level.

¹⁸ Further details may be found in Topic 4 of the Synthesis Report.

* This information is already out of date. Here is a current assessment of the necessary CO₂ goal according to the nation's premiere climatologist, Dr. James Hansen of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies at NASA, and his colleagues.

Target Atmospheric CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?

Abstract: Paleoclimate data show that climate sensitivity is ~3 deg-C for doubled CO₂, including only fast feedback processes. Equilibrium sensitivity, including slower surface albedo feedbacks, is ~6 deg-C for doubled CO₂ for the range of climate states between glacial conditions and ice-free Antarctica. Decreasing CO₂ was the main cause of a cooling trend that began 50 million years ago, large scale glaciation occurring when CO₂ fell to 450 +/- 100 ppm, a level that will be exceeded within decades, barring prompt policy changes.

"If humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted, paleoclimate evidence and ongoing climate change suggest that CO₂ will need to be reduced from its current 385 ppm to at most 350 ppm. The largest uncertainty in the target arises from possible changes of non-CO₂ forcings. An initial 350 ppm CO₂ target may be achievable by phasing out coal use, except where CO₂ is captured, and adopting agricultural and forestry practices that sequester carbon. If the present overshoot of this target CO₂ is not brief, there is a possibility of seeding irreversible catastrophic effects.

Val's Vegetarian Recipe

By Valerie Stanley, Laurel MD

Back in 1977, when I was working at INTERPOL (the International Criminal Police Organization — an exciting first office job after college, wouldn't you say?), a co-worker made some Bonanza Bread and gave me the recipe. It provides a wonderful, satisfying and energizing breakfast or snack. I must have made Bonanza bread or muffins dozens of times but, alas, I lost my well-worn copy of the recipe. Lo and behold, I did find it recently.

I included some substitutions for the eggs and milk and learned some interesting things in the process. There is a great product called Energee Egg Replacer that is available in health food stores, but ½ a banana blended until smooth or mashed well equals one egg. And ... instead of non-fat dry milk powder, there is a dry soy powder that one can get from a neat online source, [www.LuckyVitamin.com](http://www.luckyvitamin.com). The page for this product is <http://www.luckyvitamin.com/item/itemKey/54098#tabs>. If you use dry-roasted peanuts (unsalted), you will boost the protein in this recipe. I also like to use chopped walnuts.

BONANZA BREAD or MUFFINS

2 cups whole wheat flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
2/3 cup non-fat dry soy or milk powder (either instant or non-instant)
1/3 cup wheat germ
1/2 cup honey (if you want to substitute, use 1/3 cup of maple syrup)
3/4 cup chopped nuts
1/2 cup raisins
1/3 cup dried apricots, chopped (optional)
3 eggs (substitute 3 well mashed bananas)
1/2 cup corn oil (I use canola oil instead)
1/4 cup molasses
1/2 cup orange juice
1 apple, chopped
1 carrot, shredded



Combine dry ingredients in a large bowl and mix thoroughly; stir in the honey or maple syrup. Then add the mashed bananas, oil and molasses and blend well. Blend chopped apples, and/or shredded carrots with orange juice. Add this mixture to the rest of the batter. Pour batter into 2 well-greased loaf pans. Bake at 350° degrees about one hour, or until knife comes out clean. If you make muffins, bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Makes 2 loaves or 2 dozen muffins.

Why substitute eggs? Think what it would be like not to eat for 14 days....

"An egg producer may consider not disposing of his hens, even though their egg-laying abilities have run their course. He knows that he can get egg production to resume as before by inducing the birds to molt via forced starvation — up to 14 days. No U.S. law prevents this cruel practice."

From "101 Reasons Why I'm Vegetarian."

Next Month: Vegetarian Thanksgiving Entrees and Sides!

Valerie Stanley is an attorney and animal law professor. Her dream is to make eating vegetarian easy and fun. Please send any comments to her at valjoanst@yahoo.com. Valerie quotes T. M. McNally:

And it is of course trucks and automobiles and jet fuel — the hard facts of modernity — that have made both God and horses increasingly irrelevant to our culture. What is lost is our respect and affection for — our connectedness to — our fellow creatures, as well as a divine admonition to care for them properly.

The Corporate War on Plants

By Al Fry, Garden Valley ID

With most of the world's educational material and media news in the hands of a few dozen corporate giants, few of us get any unvarnished truth in today's world. Since profits are the first goal of corporations, nature and the natural order of things are usually of lesser importance. We see this strategy of profits first fast destroying our freedoms as well as our planet .. and time is running out.

One of the less recognized attacks on us has been the drive to get the world's farmers hooked on genetically modified (GM) seeds and plants. The Monsantos and other 'players' can patent these seeds and reap big profits. Since the growers of such seeds can't depend on the bees and usual 'open pollination' to grow more plants from their own stock, they are at the mercy of corporate manipulators.

The plants produced also are like clones of each other and fail to adapt to new attacks from new plant diseases, etc. To add insult to injury, further corporate profits are generated from calling many plants 'weeds' and getting many snookered state and government agencies to start up expensive spraying campaigns against all these invasive 'weeds.'

The herbicide producers spend a lot of money getting their pawns and lobbyists to allow them to spray our nation with poisons. A few hundred dead zones in our oceans are a testament to what eventually happens to much of this toxic cocktail.

The bees that pollinate our crops are fast getting eliminated from such strategies ... and heaven help us all when they are gone. In the meantime, we get to read articles about the invasive weed problems and how our handlers are helping us with advice from the usual university -indoctrinated pawns.

The book *Invasive Biology* (\$18 from Hudson R-2, Box 337, La Honda, California 94020)

exposes such pseudoscience scams. Most of the targeted 'weeds' on the hit lists are of great benefit and increase the biodiversity, etc.

Nearby residents with the usual brainwashing sometimes comment on the weeds on my property and I can point out that I usually have a thousand times more bees and hummingbirds feeding off the profuse weed blossoms than on surrounding groomed property.

Farmers often learn about the corporate scams the hard way.

Thousands of farm animals grew sick ... or even died when much of their feed contained GM feed grains, etc. Even now many of us have stomach problems when eating some GM corn, potatoes, etc. Doctors don't usually have a clue, but this all means more profits for the pill dispensers and the chemical-drug cartels.

With all of life so dependant on water, the corporate elite have tried to get a foothold on controlling water sources over much of the planet. People in Third World nations have often blocked such assaults but new strategies are cropping up constantly to continue this assault.

We Americans are pretty touchy but after our water gets poisoned with fluoride and chlorine it makes us more docile and willing to let the 'experts' control our lives even further.

Many Web sites continue this line of thought and anyone farming logically should get a catalog from Acres USA at 877-835-5555.

[Ed.: Acres published an excellent interview with F. William Engdahl, author of The Seed Barons: How Big Ag, Big Oil and Big Government Are Hijacking the World's Food Supply. Acres says of Engdahl, that he "is now doing some of the most aggressive writing and reporting on genetically modified food ... His energy expertise turns out to be ideal preparation for the biotech wars, another realm governed by huge, shadowy transnational entities with the power to affect millions of lives."]

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Dear Iona,

I have been enjoying reading *The Order of the Earth* since January. I am proud to be signing up for a subscription. I remember meeting you about ten years ago at the Common Market in Frederick, Maryland, and I bought some clothes when you were selling organic cotton. Around four years ago, I wrote to you asking about the Catoctin-Monocacy Climate Change Alliance. You sent me a very excellent packet of information to get started in climate action; unfortunately, I was not able to follow up at the time.

I have now returned to Maryland, after getting a chemistry degree. For the past two years I have been working at the Common Market. Recently I joined the Executive Committee of the Catoctin Group of the Sierra Club.

Your newspaper is special.

Reading the columns has already helped me out at least once. After I read "Dr. Liz Heals Old Campers," I was able to get in touch with Liz and, with her help, find a family who wanted to re-use and restore my vintage camping trailer.

Please look to satisfied readers like me as you gather support and for extending the reach of your newspaper.

Matthew Lindberg-Work
Knoxville, Maryland

Friends & Family,

I wish to share this speech which I doubt many of you heard, because it is an antidote to my own greatest hesitation concerning the Democratic ticket — Michelle as first Lady.

Her convention speech Monday night was reassuring to put it mildly. She is more than equal to the task. She will be a different-looking first lady, but she has just the talents and values needed for the job. America must somehow get beyond its racist history and attitudes. The Obamas represent our best hope in a long time for meaningful progress.

As you may know ... I campaigned for Joe Biden to be the Democratic nominee, with Hillary or Obama as VP ... well, it hasn't quite worked out that way. But I have come to believe that Obama is the wise visionary needed to change America's direction. He will restore the world's trust in American leadership and he will begin to pragmatically tackle our scary economic and energy problems, not to mention the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. His selection of Joe Biden as a running mate has reinforced my confidence in his judgement!

McCain is a good man whose time

has come and gone. As a senator he was the independent maverick we all admired, willing to work for important issues in a nonpartisan way. Now as the aging candidate Republicans have been forced to accept ... he has in turn been forced to repudiate (flip-flop) on many of these same issues concerning taxes, choice, global warming, immigration, attack campaigning, etc. As brave and likable as he is, I also have grave reservations about his temperament ... he can be volatile and emotional in times when cool-headed toughness will be essential.

To me this election is crucial. Our future as a nation, our survival as a race, depends on the direction we take, the decision we make. To this end I know I risk offending the political sensitivities of some of you, in the hope that in some small way I might possibly influence that decision.

Barb Rimbach, Salisbury, Maryland

Dear Iona,

Here is a letter I received from Michael Moore three years ago. Hope you all watched the Democratic Convention this week — it was very uplifting, although I wish they had gone after the Bush administration with guns blazing! VOTE OBAMA, and send Michael Moore a thank-you for all the attention he has called these last eight years to the undoing of this nation by the Bush/Cheney regime! VOTE OBAMA, NOVEMBER 4! And if you don't like some of Obama's policies and beliefs (abortion, for one...)



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HCR 83, Box 881, Shade Gap, PA 17255

write him and tell him so! His campaign *actually* writes back very thoughtful emails to me! And when he's in the White House come January, we can hold his feet to the fire — it won't be like the Bush *dictatorship* the American people agreed to endure by their silence these last two terms!

As Gustav heads toward Louisiana and Alabama right this minute, another cataclysmic catastrophe may be in the making over the next few days. Hopefully, it will dissipate and go back out to sea and dwindle down to nothing, and the people of that region won't have to be digging out once again from another Katrina.

Pray for the people of the gulf states and if it does come, donate, give blood, do whatever you can do to help! If Bush ignores it this time, well-l-l-l ... maybe it will be the final thrust this nation needs to DEMAND IMPEACHMENT and indictment of the Bush/Cheney regime!

Thanks, thanks, thanks! If your candidate is a Green, another independent, or **Obama**, get out there and work, work, work for them!! We **deserve** the government we ignore and don't work for!

Love, Nancy K.

And here's Michael Moore's letter: Friends,

I'm am speechless after listening to Barack Obama's speech last night. So I'm sending you something I wrote two weeks after Hurricane Katrina. It remains every bit as relevant today, on Katrina's 3rd anniversary, as when I wrote it on 9/11/05.

A Letter to All Who Voted for George W. Bush ... from Michael Moore (Introduction only)

On this, the fourth anniversary of 9/11, I'm just curious, how does it feel?

How does it feel to know that the man you re-elected to lead us AFTER we were attacked, went ahead and put a guy in charge of FEMA whose main qualification was that he ran horse shows?

That's right. Horse shows.

I really want to know — and I ask you this in all sincerity and with all due respect — how do you feel about the utter contempt Mr. Bush has shown for your safety? C'mon, give me just a moment of honesty. Don't start ranting on about how this disaster in New Orleans was the fault of one of the poorest cities in America. Put aside your hatred of Democrats and liberals and anyone with the last name of Clinton. Just look me in the eye and tell me our President did the right thing after 9/11 by naming a horse show runner as the top man to protect us in case of an emergency or catastrophe.

I want you to put aside your self-affixed label of Republican/conservative/born-again/capitalist/ditto-head/right-winger and just talk to me as an American, on the common ground we both call America ...

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What Can Two People Do About Global Warming?

By Iona (John asked me to write this up for his newsletter so I thought I'd share it with you.)

We've been living simply for 18 years, sometimes because of finances but mostly because neither of us has ever seen the need to accumulate material goods, other than those we use for our work and basic day-to-day living. With his Jesuit background and my Quaker background, we pretty much see eye-to-eye on most lifestyle issues.

We were blessed to get a small inheritance from my parents which enabled us to buy our own home in rural Pennsylvania, a place we can afford to live because everyone out here lives simply. This home enables me to do important work that I had to fight for in rental houses or

apartments— like hanging clothes on the line or composting, things I really believe in and love to do. We can garden and let the previously-mowed acreage grow back for wildlife. Sometimes it's impossible to do this type of eco-living on somebody else's property.

John has planted hundreds of trees and grows a magnificent organic vegetable garden. This year he created an orchard and the deer really love it.

Probably the most important move I've made recently has been to take a factory job locally rather than a more sophisticated, higher-paying one with a longer commute. I liked it but I just couldn't work full-time *and* do this

newspaper so I now have a great, part-time, home-based job.]

One horrible thing about the area where we live (and I had never faced this before in my former suburban homes) is horrendous logging. As a long-time environmentalist, I cannot for the life of me fathom why people sell off their beautiful woods, especially people like our neighbors who do not need the money. I suspect that lies coming out of the state university about forest health have been so well promoted that people actually believe loggers who tell them the little trees need to have the big ones cut down so they can grow. This is not true, but it feeds the industry.

I have become a dedicated forest activist — at least I can do talks and teach folks through my newspaper about the importance of saving forests and trees in the campaign to reduce global warming. Deforestation is responsible for much of the excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Trees (and oceans) are the air conditioners of the planet, so when too many trees are cut down, Earth's natural defenses against climate change are reduced.

We sleep in winter with the heat set at 50° but we are going to try 45° this year. Thankfully, we have a good deal of passive solar heat coming in the living room on cold days so we don't need to turn the heat on when the sun is shining. I bundle up in winter and wear a cool little cotton slip around the house in the heat of summer since we have no AC.

We replaced most of our light bulbs years ago. After doing the Kilowatt Ours curriculum (a program designed to complement the DVD by the same title used to teach kids about energy conservation) I did the following: learned how to read our electric bill's kilowatt measurements and compare month after month, turned off one light in the refrigerator, reset both the refrigerator and freezer temperatures, unhooked the garage door opener, and unplugged several appliances and lights that

we don't often use.

Actually, we don't "often use" many electrical appliances at all. I have never found cooking attractive so I have never wanted a lot of fancy kitchen appliances. We use the dishwasher and microwave that came with the house for storage. I like my pressure cooker, which saves energy.

I don't like shopping and I don't believe in buying anything new if I can find it used. We shop at flea markets, Goodwill and garage sales. I mend clothes and can make things last long after the time when most people would throw them away. "Threadbare" is a word I think people are unfamiliar with. It means essentially so worn out and thin that you can see where the threads are woven together and light passes through. Threadbare is A-OK!

"USE IT UP, WEAR IT OUT, MAKE IT DO OR DO WITH-OUT!" is my motto.

I recycle like a fiend. I believe every bit of paper recycled saves a small part of a tree. I believe every drop of water is sacred, as is every blade of grass or anything green that uses photosynthesis to create pure oxygen and soak up dangerous carbon dioxide. I use only salvaged or 100% recycled copy paper in my home office and this newspaper is printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink. I use refillable pens and stubbornly follow this line of thinking wherever I go. It's not just a way of life, it's a way of looking at everything as a precious gift from the Universe. A gift which we must use gingerly so that others may improve their lots and our children's children will have their fair share of natural resources. They are not ours to use up now.

I once had a small weather-snake business in which I sewed cotton tubes and filled them with sand for people's doorsteps and window sills where heat escapes in winter. I need to make a few more for our own house. We have glorious views out of our 30-year-old windows yet we do not have the money to replace them

with better ones. I am deciding whether to make window quilts or to try to fashion shutters with higher "R" values. I am also going to do something about the two attic openings — one a louvered fan hole and one a pop-up entrance to the attic. A friend showed me covers you can place inside the attic to prevent heat loss. I will also install electrical outlet insulating things.

Another area where we lose heat is our fireplace. I just read that we can buy a damper plug — we just need to remember to take it out when we do have fires. We don't use any house heat at night when we sit peacefully in front of the fire reading. (We don't own a TV so that saves energy, too.)

I realize these are minor adjustments but when so much of our life's energy and money goes into our grassroots work, we accept the fact that we are limited and we do the best we can.

Whenever I think of something new, I have the rare privilege of telling 1,000 to 2,000 readers of *The Order of the Earth* about it. I am a teacher at heart (and by degree, too). But I am always learning. I want to keep our heating bills down and I want to be one tiny person who puts the needs of the planet ahead of her own needs.

I just spent \$19 on a new book. It's called **The Home Energy Diet: How to Save Money by Making Your House Energy Smart** by Paul Scheckel. I'm hoping to learn a lot and pass my new knowledge along to you in future editions.

This is a lifetime mission for me. I am lucky to have a partner like John, who is one of the most simple livers I have ever met.

Which reminds me to tell you one last thing — choose a mate who shares your values. Life will be easier; you will live longer; and you can take pleasure in sharing home or life improvements like these that will live on for generations after you are gone.

I would be thrilled to publish some of YOUR ideas. Just send them to me; see page 2 for details.




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Solar Car Travels Through Orbisonia PA

(Continued from page 1)

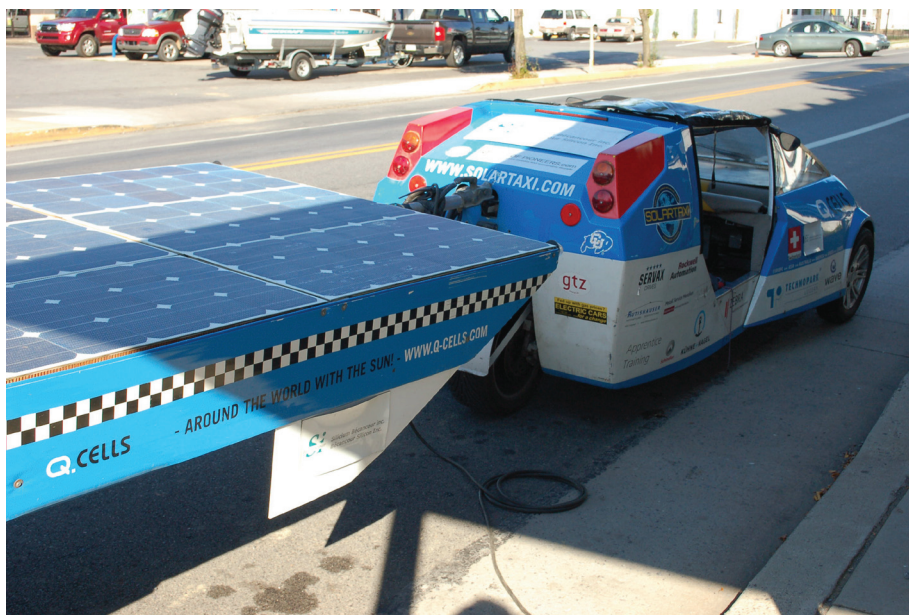
Technology of Car

Palmer says that when he was 14 years old, he dreamed of traveling the world in a car. He decided that he wanted the car to be solar-powered and emissions-free.

The totally electric car is powered by a Synchro electric motor. The electricity is stored in a Zebra Battery made of sodium, nickel, and ceramics. It is totally recyclable. The battery range is about 200 miles for the car. The top speed of the car is about 50 miles per hour.

The idea of the car is that the homeowner will have solar panels on top of the roof of his (or her) house from which to power the car. The solar panels produce electricity which is fed into the nation-wide grid or network of electricity. The owners of the solar panels get a credit for the electricity that they feed into the grid and they can use the credit (card) anywhere to take electricity back out of the grid.

"The only reason we built this solar trailer which we are towing is that we are traveling so far and across areas with no electric grid, so we have had to rely on our own panels," says Palmer. The solar panels are made by Q-Cells, a Swiss company, that Palmer says is the world's largest producer of solar panels.



Solar panels caused quite a stir passing through rural Pennsylvania, where there aren't any. Local newspaper publisher, C. Arnold McClure, interviewed the creators/drivers/travelers and shared his story with us. Arnie helped train Iona for newspaper work. Photo by C. Arnold McClure

Several manufacturers and four Swiss universities assisted in producing this prototype solar-powered electric car, Palmer says.

The car made for mass production will be "different from this car, which was developed for the round-the-world trip" said Palmer. "A production car will have a bigger battery and more safety features," he concluded.

Cost of Car?

When asked what the cost would be to have such a car complete with the home charging system, Palmer said that the car can be mass-produced for a cost of about \$10,000 and solar panels sufficient for powering the car would cost as little as \$10,000.

"The technology is available now and affordable," Palmer stressed. He noted that there are some electric cars out there

that cost a lot of money, but the price is dropping rapidly.

Reactions

Palmer said that the reaction to his car has been "great all over the world, in all the countries, from everyone, including ordinary citizens, governments, and the police."

Taxi Makes History

Palmer called the car a "Solar Taxi" because he has given rides to over 1,000 people in his journey. The man accompanying him on this portion of his journey, Raphael Demjan, is himself developing a solar-powered boat, Palmer said.

Demjan remarked that the community of Orbisonia seemed to be a very nice community and both men asked if they could see the East Broad Top Railroad. They were given a ride to the facility.

At that time, the battery indicated 70% recharged and they were just about "filled up" sufficiently to make the trip to Washington D.C. thanks to some electricity from Ed and Susan Harry of OHI Hardware to supplement that which came from the solar panels being towed behind on a trailer.

The first solar powered vehicle to circumnavigate the world had come through Huntingdon County on its history-making trip.

October Events at Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ



October 3-5: Learning from Tree and Stone: Getting to Know Home in the Fall. Begins with dinner at 6 p.m. on Friday and ends with Sunday lunch. Cost: \$225 includes lodging and all meals. "Getting to know home is the most human and necessary of occupations," according to naturalist and author Ann Zwinger. Much of Earth is largely outside our range of perception. We often behave as if it were invisible. Our imaginations are malnourished; our daily lives fail to develop our capacity to see and experience the wonder and joy of our home landscapes. Come away to the farm for a weekend, to make our home visible, to enlarge our vision, to see again the beauty, variety, and intricacy of life. Led by Seanna Ashburn, Genesis Farm staff. Seanna has been an educator for over 30 years.

October 6-10: Healthy Earth/Healthy Humans: Reclaiming Our Well-Being (Earth Literacy Program Seminar 7)*

October 8: Film Series: The Next Industrial Revolution 7:00 p.m. — A New Cosmology Introduction; 7:30 — Show Time: Shot in Europe and the U.S., this film explores how businesses are transforming themselves to work with nature, care about people, and enhance their profitability. Businesses succeed while reinventing technical enterprises to mimic Nature. Free but donations are welcomed.

October 13-17: Earth as Teacher: Laying Foundations for a New Era in Education (Earth Literacy Program Seminar 8)*

October 20-24: Recovering the Wisdom of a Seamless Web of Life (Earth Literacy Seminar 9)*

October 24-26 (27th optional): Build it with Straw: A Workshop on Sustainable Building \$25 Friday night introduction or \$225 for the weekend (includes lunch and Friday night lecture starting at 7 p.m.) Monday 9-5: Free; lodging is \$50 per night and includes breakfast.

*These week-long sessions begin Monday at 9 a.m. and end Friday at 3:30 p.m. Cost of \$550 includes lodging and all meals. **NOTE: A new series "Introduction to a New Cosmology" begins on October 31 and runs to November 2. Please see Web site for this one.**

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

What Is Happening to the Mountain State? And What You Can Do To Help

Government Devalues Life

(Continued from page 9) company is doing or what government is telling you, talk with your neighbors, seek out the truth beyond the bland reassurances of the authorities, and don't be afraid to dig your heels in to protect your community.

"The number of children with cancer is increasing, as are the incidences of breast and prostate cancers in adults. Children suffer more today than ever before from birth defects, learning disabilities, attention-deficit disorders and asthma. These diseases and adverse health problems are no longer located in someone else's backyard; they're in everyone's backyard, and in our food, water and the air we breathe."

And this will be wherever capitalism subjugates people. And this will continue to be the Value of a Statistical Life in America until the people rise up and demand an economics model that sanctifies life.

"The Order of the Earth" is for sale at the following Pennsylvania locations:

Alternative Choices, Green Castle
Appleby's Drug Store, Mount Union
Bric-a-Brac, Huntingdon
Burnt Cabins Campground
Gap Mini-Mart, Shade Gap
Little K's, Shade Gap
Miller's Diner, Mill Creek
Sandy Ridge Market, Orbisonia

Want to Understand More?

Go to Living on Earth's Web site to read/listen to a seven-minute, July 18, 2008 MP3 episode: "Living Next to Coal" at <http://www.loe.org/shows/shows.htm?programID=-8-P13-00029>

To read and see color photos concerning the limited MTR site reclamation attempts: <http://www.ohvec.org/galleries/reclamation/index>.

Also see: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/story?id=4604200&page=1> (4-7-08) regarding the 2008 WV Supreme Court scandal involving Massey's CEO Blankenship and his relationship with Chief Justice Elliott "Spike" Maynard. Use the same Web site to see ABC News Networks' 'face-to-face' video recording footage and attempt to interview Massey Coal's aggressive Blankenship for comments relating to his close ties with a state judge. **See and hear the physical attack and threat to their lives for challenging Blankenship on camera.**

Extended Book List:

Coal River by Michael Shnayerson

Fictional accounts that resemble injustices in coal history: The Appeal by John Grisham, Storming Heaven by Denise Giardina and The Unquiet Earth by Giardina

To learn more about the Sago mine disaster:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Primetime/Mine/story?id=1476409>

Read about the billionaire Sago Mine owner, Wilbur Ross: http://blogs.abcnews.com/theblotter/2006/12/families_accuse.html

Hear a five-minute NPR 2008 program stream explaining why some judges 'recuse' (disqualify) themselves in coal cases with John Grisham's literary analogy and explanation: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18826412>

"Coal Company to Begin Destruction of Major West Virginia Wind Energy Resource," Market Watch from the Wall Street Journal's Sept. 9, 2008: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/coal-company-begin-destruction-major/story>.

mining debate today?

Thank you to the folks who made writing this three-part series manageable:
The Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, especially Vivian; The Coal River Wind Project (Rory and Lorelei); Appalachian Voices: Bringing People Together to Protect Our Mountain Heritage (www.appvoices.org); Mary Ann Hitt and I Love Mountains; and Southwings (volunteer pilots) for permission to use aerial photographs of MTR sites.



Photo #4: Windmills. "Wind turbines do not produce any harmful by-products ... [and] add no chemicals to waterways Streams can be filled with native fish species, rather than having to be stocked with non-native fish When a mine goes in, access to land is often restricted. There is no need to restrict access to a wind farm and communities are given permission to hunt, four-wheel, gather herbs or hike on the mountain at their leisure." www.cmrw.org Photo Credit: CMRW

(Continued from page 8) global warming. Donate to any of the environmental groups that support wind energy and spend time to fight injustices. Last, but not least, reduce your energy use. Learn ways to reduce energy used in your home, at your office and locally. A good place to begin is with *National Geographic's Green Guide* (www.greenguide.com). Most energy-wise ideas save you money and save mountains as well.

Trying to fit decades of Mountaintop Removal history into a few pages is difficult. Regardless, I hope I created a spark of interest and that you feel an intrinsic urge to seek out more information.

Do you remember this song sung by Peter, Paul and Mary, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, Willie Nelson and others crooning the lyrics: "...How many years can a mountain exist, before it is washed to the sea? Yes, and how many years can some people exist, before they're allowed to be free...?"

Who would have known that these words that I vividly recollect singing when I was in elementary school in the '60s, would find relevance in a Mountaintop Removal coal

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