

# The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Photo by Anjali Suzanne Angel

Bill Harder with scaled-down version of worm composting bin, using three Rubbermaid containers.

## Feed a Red Wiggler Worm Composting 101

By Anjali Suzanne Angel  
Garden Valley, Idaho  
(First appeared in the July 7, 2010 issue of *The Idaho World*)

"Steamer Bill" Harder has gone green. His new motto is, "Feed a Worm – Nurture Mother Earth, Not a Landfill."

Harder is raising Red Wigglers worms in Garden Valley by using a process called vermiculture or worm culturing. He says, "Vermiculture has several benefits. Foremost, using worms provides the option to dispose of our wet food waste and reduce the amount of waste otherwise destined for the dump.

"Also, it produces a high-grade soil amendment called worm castings: The worms act rapidly to turn organic waste into a rich, beneficial soil amendment, proven to increase crop yields and provide the strength and nutrients that help plants to naturally respond to disease and pest issues."

You may well ask, "Isn't that what a compost pile is?" Harder explains, "Vermiculture is actually a hybrid of the common compost pile, which incorporates very similar management techniques but this is designed to maintain conditions favorable to the rapid decomposition of waste. In using worms, composting not only gets a kick

start, the worm castings are a valuable product in themselves."

Most gardeners probably know that having worms in their soil is evidence of soil and plant health. The worms themselves produce beneficial nutrients. The new Green Man says that corralling the worms into a controlled environment kicks up the gains and cuts down the wait time to get excellent compost.

Harder was introduced to worm culturing by Bill Ford, the marketing manager at the Business Enterprise Center in Corvallis, Oregon. Ford introduced Harder to Dan Holcombe and Jan McWilliams, who started the Oregon Soil Corporation in Portland, Oregon.

Holcombe is a professional vermiculturist and invented a small-scale worm bin called the Oregon Soil Corporation Reactor (OSCR).

Oregon Soil processes the produce from a chain of thirteen grocery stores in Portland. Its commercial operation targets large quantities of organic, wet waste, diverting it from landfills and creating a high-grade organic soil amendment that can be used for general gardening, as a potting soil additive or for 100 percent organic gardening.

Harder started worm-

*Continued on page 9*

## PA Citizens Declare Rights to Clean Water

Northwestern Pennsylvania  
Community Rights Network  
July 30, 2010

### Dear Friends of Sustainable Communities,

It's time to send a message to Harrisburg. Enough is enough. Municipalities across Pennsylvania are being sacrificed to unwise, poorly-thought-out development plans for natural resource extraction and our right to untainted water is being violated. The people in our communities are beginning to feel like they are living in resource colonies run for the benefit of giant multi-national corporations. And they are on to something.

Please read the Declaration of the Right of Commu-

nities to Water (right), as well as the very simple Resolution Endorsing the Declaration (page 6). We hope you will adopt the Resolution at your next municipal or organizational meeting and let us know that you have done so by sending an email indicating the municipality or organization, address, county and date of resolution to: cathy.pedler@gmail.com.

Today, the Commonwealth is issuing thousands of permits for drilling into the Marcellus Shale deposit for natural gas, despite the spate of explosions, toxic spills and ruined aquifers that have resulted from the "fracking" technique used for gas extraction.

The unspoken truth is that

*Continued on page 6*

## Declaration of the Right of Communities to Water

The undersigned members, affiliates and allies of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Community Rights Network (NWPACRN) declare:

THAT all residents, natural communities and ecosystems in Pennsylvania possess a fundamental and inalienable right to sustainably access, use, consume and preserve water from natural water cycles and sources within our respective communities;

THAT water is essential for the life, prosperity, sustainability and health of our communities and damage to natural water sources imposes great tangible loss to the people, natural communities and ecosystems of Pennsylvania, not just for today but for future generations;

THAT the people of Pennsylvania recognize that they may be forced to endure and attempt to repair harm inflicted on their vital water supply by certain corporate activities, which they have no commensurate authority to prevent under current state and federal law;

*Continued on page 6*

## University Founded on Law of Nature

### Sister Relationships Formed with Two U.S. Universities; Plus East-West Partnership with OE

#### Introduction:

There is an entire holistic, oriental medical university based on the Law of Nature – Daegu Haany in Korea, founded by its current president, Dr. Jung-Hwan Byun. The Order of the Earth publisher has a long-standing friendship with Dr. Pyong Ui Roh, a retired professor from the university (currently a research professor there).

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Byun and Pyong were in New Jersey so John and Iona Conner met them halfway for a few hours of conversation including the state of the world (especially global heating), health and future collaboration on behalf of Planet Earth. An East-West partnership was created that day. One could also say that on that trip, Daegu Haany University established a sister relationship with The Order of the Earth.

The following is an interview Iona conducted with Dr. Byun.



Photo by Iona

Dr. Jung-Hwan Byun, founder and president of Daegu Haany oriental medical university in Korea, visited the U.S. to create sister relationships with two American universities and OE.

OE: Why did you start an oriental medical school?

Dr. Byun: My grandfather was an oriental medical doctor and he told me that if I wasn't a good politician, then I had better be a good doctor. I wanted to take care of poor, sick people so I followed my grandfather's suggestion.

At that time Korea was a Japanese colony so I could not have become a politician but I was

never very interested in that anyhow. Western medical history is 400 years old but Eastern medicine has a history going back 5,000 years. Western medicine is like a brick house, which can be measured block by block. Eastern medicine is like a forest where the trees have strong roots and healthy leaves. We make healing remedies from the leaves, bark and roots of living plants. We follow the Law of Nature.

OE: You said you've been a vegetarian for 50 years. Why did you decide to adopt this way of eating?

Dr. Byun: 1. We were so poor when I was a young boy that we never had beef or pork. We were lucky if we ate meat once a year so my body's digestive system developed good digestion for vegetables. 2. Eating meat means somebody had to kill an animal. Killing living things is no good and I don't like killing living things. 3. When we get everything we want and satisfy our desires and then try to help others, that is no good. We need self-discipline so that we can help others and follow the Law of Nature. On my trip over here I noticed that so many Americans are obese. [Ed.: Dr. Byun is trim and radiant.]

OE: What are some meal suggestions?

Dr. Byun: We should start the day with an apple, like the saying goes, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Breakfast should be considered as a gold medal. Lunch is like a silver medal and dinner is like a poison metal. Eating a small dinner is best for our health. Also it's not good to eat late; that goes against the Law of Nature. We animals are meant

*Continued on page 6*

## The Healing Effects of Forests

Forests and other natural, green settings can reduce stress, improve moods, reduce anger and aggressiveness and increase overall happiness.

Photo by Essi Puranen



Submitted by Bill Boteler  
Washington, D.C.

ScienceDaily News, July 26, 2010

"Many people feel relaxed and good when they are out in nature but not many of us know that there is also scientific evidence about the healing effects of nature," says Dr. Eeva Karjalainen, of the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Metla. Forests – and other natural, green settings – can reduce stress, improve moods, reduce anger and aggressiveness and increase overall happiness. Forest visits may also strengthen our immune system by increasing the activity and number of natural killer-cells that destroy cancer cells.

Many studies show that after

stressful or concentration-demanding situations, people recover faster and better in natural environments than in urban settings. Blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension and the level of "stress hormones" all decrease faster in natural settings. Depression, anger and aggressiveness are reduced in green environments and ADHD symptoms in children reduce when they play in green settings.

In addition to mental and emotional well-being, more than half of the most commonly prescribed drugs include compounds derived from nature – for example Taxol, used against ovarian and breast cancer, is derived from yew trees, while Xylitol, which can inhibit caries, is produced from hard-

wood bark.

Dr. Karjalainen will coordinate a session on the health benefits of forests at the 2010 International Union of Forest Research Organizations' World Forestry Congress in Seoul. "Preserving green areas and trees in cities is very important to help people recover from stress, maintain health and cure diseases. There is also monetary value in improving people's working ability and reducing health care costs," she says.

The above story is reprinted (with editorial adaptations by ScienceDaily staff) from materials provided by USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/07/100723161221>.

# Is The End of the Car Culture Coming?

From Endgame by Derrick Jensen (2006)

Several years ago I interviewed Jan Lundberg, founder of the Alliance for a Paving Moratorium “(a diverse movement of grass-roots community groups, individuals and businesses with the common goal of halting road-building) because “a paving moratorium would limit the spread of population, redirect investment from suburbs to inner cities and free up funding for mass transportation and maintenance of existing roads.”

But there's more to it than just roads. Phasing out massive fossil-fuel use, Lundberg says, is crucial not only to saving the Earth's climate but to lessening the impact of the crisis that will occur when the world's oil supply begins to run out. “The challenge before us all,” he writes, “is to survive an ecological correction unprecedented for our species. The correction will likely include an economic collapse and a conversion to subsistence activities and trading.”

Lundberg grew up around the oil industry. His father ran Lundberg Survey, Inc., a company that collected statistics on gasoline prices and industry trends. In 1973, just before the oil crisis, father and son began publishing the *Lundberg Letter*, which became the number-one trade journal for the oil industry and went on to predict the second oil shock of 1979.

After his father's death in the mid-1980s, Lundberg quit the family business and directed his efforts toward energy conservation. By that point, Jan had realized that this culture's “waste economy,” as he calls it, is unsustainable and the cause of massive environmental damage and species extinctions worldwide. We are laboring, he says, under the false impression that we can “have it all” – the

physical comfort of the current way of living and a livable planet... He continued, “We're using up the oil far faster than anyone anticipated so the crash will be sooner and harder than even environmentalists predict.”

“But as oil becomes increasingly rare, it will become increasingly expensive, which will provide financial incentives to develop other forms of energy. Tar sands for example, or oil shale.”

“Economists say this all the time. They like to argue that scarcity results in price increases, making it more profitable to access poorer deposits. It's too bad that economics and the real world so rarely intersect.”

“True. I took a year of graduate study in Mineral Economics back in the 1980s and I remember informally renaming one of my classes ‘ME 514: Guessing at Things,’ and another ‘ME 525: Pretending to Have Answers.’”

“In this case the economists are confusing dollars with calories. The fact is that, as an oil field ages, it takes increasing amounts of energy to pump out the remaining oil. You need to subtract that energy cost from the total value of the energy extracted. Even now, the average energy:profit ratio for newly discovered oil in the United States has fallen to 1:1, meaning the energy required to find and extract a barrel of oil increasingly exceeds the energy contained in the barrel. At some point it will no longer make sense to use oil for energy, no matter how much you can sell it for. Too often, both economists and engineers forget that they cannot repeal the laws of thermodynamics. They forget, to switch ways of speaking here, something known to every child: that an orange only has so much orange juice in it.”



“Energy profit ratio?”

“That's a measure of how much energy must go into a process to get a certain amount of energy out. The early oil wells in Pennsylvania had a ridiculously high ratio because you had almost zero energy input. You just had to go scoop it up and burn it. But the ratios for all these other forms of energy are much lower. Ethanol, for example, has an energy profit ratio of less than 1:1, meaning it takes more energy to make it than you get out of it.”

“You make a great point,” I said, “but I still have another concern. The government already subsidizes the oil industry and subsidizes many other industries that make no fiscal, ecological or economic sense. Why would we think that the same government wouldn't just continue with these subsidies, even when they make no sense from an energy perspective? Why wouldn't the government just use the full force and power of the state to hand over money and energy, so that from the perspective of the corporation the tar sands are profitable?”

“That's a good question, espe-

cially because that's already happening. Our entire economic system is based on these subsidies, from agriculture to manufacturing to energy. Especially energy. That's why oil is so cheap right now. Just including the cost of the Persian Gulf military presence – for which we as taxpayers foot the bill – would at least double the price of oil.

“The thing that scares me even more than monetary subsidies, however, are the hidden subsidies that can never be accounted for. Can you put a price on global warming? Can you put a price on a pristine lake or river? The so-called economic view of our planet and of life is anti-life.

“So long as we cling to this economic view, we will be able to maintain the illusion of cheap oil for just a little bit longer, paying for the oil in ways that we don't know and don't necessarily feel.

“But I'll tell you what scares me the most about all this: everything in this economy is based on petroleum. It's not just cars. It's the food we eat, fertilized with petroleum products, transported by petro-

leum. It's the plastics we surround ourselves with. It's everywhere. Everything is oil. People don't even know. They don't even think. And it wasn't very long ago that we supported ourselves on a plant-based economy. Canvas, for example, was from cannabis and now it's from DuPont. One reason they outlawed hemp was that DuPont was able to make substitutes. Medicines, clothes, it's all there.”

“What about natural gas? Can the system keep going another couple of generations on natural gas and coal? Maybe coal gasification.”

“There's not a lot of natural gas out there. [Ed.: *Wrong here – there is a whole lot of natural gas in Pennsylvania and we are fighting against drilling for it, which contaminates our drinking water and ruins forests. See articles in previous issues of OE plus pages 1, 3-6 here.*] And coal gasification is another one of those inefficient processes in which you have to put in a lot of energy but you don't get that much out. Now, there's a hell of a lot of coal, if you're willing to destroy the surface of the planet to get it out and pump all the mine wastes into your rivers and the soot into the air. I'm not certain that even this culture is crazy enough to do that.” [Ed.: *Wrong again – they are!*]

“Let's cut to the chase. Do you think we'll see the end of car culture in our lives?”

“Yes. It may be because we run out of oil or it may be because of economic collapse from which we do not get up, based on the demand for oil so greatly outstripping the supply that the price goes through the roof. And the end of car culture may ultimately be a liberating event, for those who survive, as we try to remember how to live with what the land will give us. But if the collapse is so pervasive that too many nuclear events occur, even

the collapse may simply further the destruction that is the hallmark of this culture.”

“Let's take this step-by-step,” I said. “When we talk about the end of car culture, we're not talking just about the end of traffic jams and commuting . . .”

“Because the agricultural system is also petro-chemically based, we're essentially eating oil. So we're really talking about the collapse of the agricultural infrastructure and the associated transportation and distribution network, which goes beyond agriculture. It's the products, it's commuting, it's food.

## Email from Derrick

I have a new book out. It's called Resistance Against Empire. It's published by Flash-point/PM Press. Like How Shall I Live My Life? and Listening to the Land, it's a collection of interviews. It's now available on my Web site and should be available very soon in bookstores. Here is the description:

*A scathing indictment of U.S. domestic and foreign policy, this collection of interviews gathers incendiary insights from 10 of today's most experienced and knowledgeable activists. Whether it's Ramsey Clark describing the long history of military invasion, Alfred McCoy detailing the relationship between CIA activities and the increase in the global heroin trade, Stephen Schwartz reporting the obscene costs of nuclear armaments or Katharine Albrecht tracing the horrors of the modern surveillance state, this investigation of global governance is sure to inform, engage and incite readers.*

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## Global in Scope, "Down-Home" in Nature

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## The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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

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

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

**Masthead:** We say “Volume 10” because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name ten years ago. In 1995 she wrote a tiny booklet called “The Order of the Earth” and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion of that work. The photo in our masthead is one of the dogwood trees with berries for the birds last Fall in Shade Gap.

### Most High's Council of Elders

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

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

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

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

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

# Gas Drilling News



Photo by EnergyTomorrow/Flickr

A natural gas drilling rig in Piceance Basin in northwest Colorado.

## Drilling Industry, Gubernatorial Candidates Move to Weaken Some State Regulations

By Sabrina Shankman  
ProPublica, Aug. 5, 2010, excerpt

As the federal government focuses on strengthening regulations for deepwater drilling, the gas and oil industry is quietly trying to weaken state regulations for drilling on land.

The industry's current targets are regulations passed by New Mexico and Colorado in 2008 and 2009. The New Mexico regulations mandate that the industry use thick industrial liners in the pits that hold its toxic waste. The Colorado regulations tighten controls on just about every aspect of the industry, from the waste pits to air quality.

The industry is challenging the regulations in court and through administrative appeals, arguing that the regulations are unreasonably expensive and are forcing companies to move to states with looser regulations. That argument has also surfaced in the New Mexico and Colorado gubernatorial races, where candidates from both parties have promised to repeal, or at least re-evaluate, the rules.

But the facts lend little support to the industry's - or the candidates' - argument. An examination of drilling rig counts, the most common gauge of the industry's health, shows that the new rules have had little or no impact on drilling activity in New Mexico and Colorado. Rig counts did fall in both states shortly after the rules were estab-

lished - but no more than they did in other states as the recession began and then deepened. Now, with the economy slightly improved and gas prices rising, rig counts are soaring.

Nationally, rig counts are up 75.8 percent from June 2009, when drilling nationwide was at its lowest. New Mexico's rig count has rebounded 86.5 percent since then. Colorado's rig count hasn't kept pace - its rig count is up only 36.4 percent. But that's just a fraction lower than the uptick in neighboring Wyoming - 38.7 percent - where regulations are looser.

"It is the price of oil and gas that has by far a greater effect on oil and gas production rates and rig counts, not regulations," said Mark Fesmire, director of New Mexico's Oil Conservation Division, which regulates the industry.

Another gauge of the industry's activity is the number of drilling permits it applies for each year. In 2009, with the recession in full swing, permit approvals in New Mexico dropped 40 percent - but they also dropped sharply in Wyoming, which saw a 31 percent drop.

Colorado, meanwhile, had only a 14 percent decline - and this year it's on pace for a 30 percent increase from 2009.

"This would make 2010 the second-busiest year for permitting in the state's history despite the twin impediments of low natural gas prices and decreased

economic activity," said Dave Neslin, executive director of Colorado's oil and gas regulatory authority, in a memo to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. The state issued 3,112 drilling permits in the first six months of the year, according to the memo.

Deborah Seligman, interim president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association, an industry group that has campaigned against the new regulations, concedes that the rig counts have rebounded somewhat but she said they're still not at the levels they were before the count dropped nearly two years ago. (New Mexico's rig count is 19.8 percent lower than it was in August 2008. But that's better than the national rig count, which is down 20.8 percent.)

"I don't think industry is out there to rape and pillage the world by any means," Seligman said. "Granted, accidents happen but, if there is an accident, if a pit liner leaks, you clean it up. This is like not letting your little boy cross the street, just in case he might get hit."

## Violations of the Law by Gas Drilling Companies in PA Marcellus Shale

2010 Summary of Violations by Operator as of June 18, 2010

PA Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Oil and Gas Management

via *Bedford Gazette* August 11, 2010

Submitted by Angel Smith, Clearfield PA

Operator	Total Violations	Permits Issued 2005-now	Wells Drilled 2005-now	Permits Issued 2010 Year To Date	Wells Drilled 2010 Year To Date
Chief Oil and Gas	78	115	63	52	22
Talisman Energy USA	60	364	141	131	141
East Resources	55	346	172	247	73
Chesapeake Appalachia	48	654	170	320	66
Seneca Resources	36	76	35	3	18
Pa. General Energy	35	64	40	100	14
Ultra Resources	29	136	33	63	15
Citrus Energy	23	12	2	4	1
Cabot Oil and Gas	22	161	74	43	18
Anadarko E&P	18	133	68	57	47
EOG Resources	18	164	64	74	25
Alta Opr.	16	18	9	4	3
Atlas Resources	15	329	146	63	14
XTO Energy	13	58	17	19	8
Range Resources Appalachia	12	482	227	122	77
19 others total	87	643	197	498	94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>3,773</b>	<b>1,458</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>636</b>

Gwen Lachelt, project director of the Oil and Gas Accountability Project for the environmental nonprofit Earthworks, said the argument used against pit rules is the same argument she hears in other states every time talk turns to stronger regulations.

"They have always said, 'This is going to drive us out of the state, make it unaffordable and we'll have to go elsewhere.' And it's just not true," Lachelt said. "So now it's the same story in New Mexico."

### Colorado: From Friend to Foe

Until its recent reforms, Colorado's regulatory environment for gas and oil drilling was considered one of the loosest in the country. Five of the seven members of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, which regu-

lates drilling, were required by law to be from the industry and many of the state's politicians and regulators had strong oil and gas ties. Before former Governor Bill Owens began his political career, he headed the Colorado Petroleum Association, a trade group. When Owens left office in 2007, he joined the boards of two energy companies.

Attorney Lance Astrella, who represents surface owners in disputes against oil and gas companies, said that if one of his clients had a case that could go either to court or to the Oil and Gas Commission, "I would have them go to court. I didn't think they could get a fair shake in front of the Commission."

But as gas drilling ramped up during the final years of Owens' governorship, residents became increasingly concerned about the pace of development. After the

current governor, Bill Ritter, took office, the number of industry representatives on the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was reduced from five to three and the commission was expanded to include two members from state regulatory agencies.

"The oil and gas industry had been the 800-pound gorilla on the block for a long time," said Pete Maysmith, executive director of Colorado Conservation Voters. "That changed, and with that has come great progress on the environmental front and I think a slow but hopefully increasing recognition that there's a different way to do things in Colorado politically."

In mid-2007 the state began the long process of revamping its oil and gas regulations, with input from the industry at every step of the way. . . .

# DEP Unlawfully Permitting Water Withdrawals

For Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling in Western PA: Only Riparian Owners can Make Use of Water in Streams and Rivers

Allegheny Defense Project  
Press Release, July 26, 2010

Natural gas companies have descended on Pennsylvania's forests and farmlands to drill into the Marcellus Shale. Each Marcellus Shale gas well requires millions of gallons of water for the drilling process. That water is taken from Pennsylvania's streams and rivers under the alleged authority of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP, however, does not have the authority to permit water withdrawals in Pennsylvania.

In central and eastern Pennsylvania, water withdrawals are managed by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and Delaware River Basin Commission. Congress created the two commissions as federal interstate compacts with the authority to permit water withdrawals within their respective basins. The rest of Pennsylvania, most of which is in the Ohio River basin, is governed by riparian rights common law, which allows only the owner of property along a watercourse to withdraw water for use on their land.

There is no state law regulating water withdrawals other than for municipal drinking water supplies.

In a letter sent to DEP Secretary John Hanger, the Allegheny Defense Project, the Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) outlined the current state of Pennsylvania law regarding water withdrawals and charged the DEP with operating an unauthorized water withdrawal program that allows natural gas companies to take water that they have no legal right to for their Marcellus

Shale gas drilling operations.

"The fact is, the DEP has absolutely no authority to permit water withdrawals in Pennsylvania," said Cathy Pedler, ADP's forest watch coordinator. "Outside of the Delaware and Susquehanna River watersheds, water withdrawals are governed by riparian rights common law, which means only those who live adjacent to the water can make reasonable use of the water on their land. A gas company cannot take water that flows through property it does not own."

Nevertheless, documents obtained by ADP reveal that the DEP is unlawfully authorizing water withdrawals from western Pennsylvania streams and rivers. On March 31, 2010 the DEP approved a Water Management

Plan for Hanley & Bird, Inc. The Water Management Plan allows Hanley & Bird to withdraw 1.44 million gallons of water a day from the Redbank Creek in Jefferson County for five years.

Under the Water Resources Planning Act of 2002, the DEP is required to develop Water Management Plans for the entire state. That law, however, does not provide any authority to the DEP to authorize water withdrawals.

"The Water Resources Planning Act is just that, a planning act," said Bill Belitskus, ADP's board president. "That law provided no substantive authority to the DEP to regulate or permit water withdrawals from Pennsylvania's surface waters. Each time the DEP approves a water management plan and tells a natural gas company that it can withdraw surface water for their drilling procedures, it is acting without authority and encouraging illegal conduct."

Visit ADP's Web site to see the documents we obtained from recent file reviews at the DEP's Northwest Regional Office: <http://alleghenydefenseproject.wikispaces.com/Marcellus+Shale>.

Contact Cathy Pedler at (814) 454-7523; Bill Belitskus at (814) 778-5173 or Ryan Talbott at (503) 887-7845.

## Chemicals Used by Hydraulic Fracturing Companies in Pennsylvania For Surface and Hydraulic Fracturing Activities Prepared by the PA DEP Bureau of Oil and Gas Management Compiled from Material Safety Data Sheets obtained from Industry

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene                 | Glycol Ethers (includes 2BE)     |
| 1,3,5 Trimethylbenzene                 | Guar gum                         |
| 2,2-Dibromo-3-Nitropropionamide        | Hemicellulase Enzyme             |
| 2,2-Dibromo-3-Nitropropionamide        | Hydrochloric Acid                |
| 2-butoxyethanol                        | Hydrotreated light distillate    |
| 2-Ethylhexanol                         | Hydrotreated Light Distilled     |
| 2-methyl-4-isothiazolin-3-one          | Iron Oxide                       |
| 5-chloro-2-methyl-4-isothiazotin-3-one | Isopropanol                      |
| Acetic Acid                            | Isopropyl Alcohol                |
| Acetic Anhydride                       | Kerosene                         |
| Acie Pensurf                           | Magnesium Nitrate                |
| Alcohol Ethoxylated                    | Mesh Sand (Crystalline Silica)   |
| Alphatic Acid                          | Methanol                         |
| Alphatic Alcohol                       | Polyglycol Ether Mineral Spirits |
| Aluminum Oxide                         | Monoethanolamine                 |
| Ammonia Bifluoride                     | Naphthalene                      |
| Ammonia Bisulfite                      | Nitrioltriacetamide              |
| Ammonium chloride                      | Oil Mist                         |
| Ammonium Salt                          | Petroleum Distillate Blend       |
| Ammonia Persulfate                     | Petroleum Distillates            |
| Aromatic Hydrocarbon                   | Petroleum Naphtha                |
| Aromatic Ketones                       | Polyethoxylated Alkanol (1)      |
| Boric Acid                             | Polyethoxylated Alkanol (2)      |
| Boric Oxide                            | Polyethylene Glycol Mixture      |
| Butan-1-01                             | Polysaccharide                   |
| Citric Acid                            | Potassium Carbonate              |
| Crystalline Silica: Cristobalite       | Potassium Chloride               |
| Crystalline Silica: Quartz             | Potassium Hydroxide              |
| Dazomet                                | Prop-2-yn-1-01                   |
| Diatomaceous Earth                     | Propan-2-01                      |
| Diesel (use discontinued)              | Propargyl Alcohol                |
| Diethylbenzene                         | Propylene                        |
| Dodecylbenzene                         | Sulfonic Acid Sodium Ash         |
| E B Butyl Cellosolve                   | Sodium Bicarbonate               |
| Ethane-1,2-diol                        | Sodium Chloride                  |
| Ethoxlated Alcohol                     | Sodium Hydroxide                 |
| Ethoxylated Alcohol                    | Sucrose                          |
| Ethoxylated Octylphenol                | Tetramethylammonium Chloride     |
| Ethylbenzene                           | Titanium Oxide                   |
| Ethylene Glycol                        | Toluene                          |
| Ethylhexanol                           | Xylene                           |
| Ferrous Sulfate Heptahydrate           |                                  |
| Formaldehyde                           |                                  |
| Glutaraldehyde                         |                                  |

# Natural Gas Drilling Ruining People's Lives

## Mayor Ready to Sell Home Due to Children's Nosebleeds, etc.

By Calvin Tillman, Mayor DISH, TX  
July 31, 2010  
Subject: Up in The Air

I made an announcement shortly after Memorial Day weekend that I would be putting my home in DISH on the market. This decision was made by my family after several instances of both of my children having nosebleeds during the night. These nosebleeds correlated with strong odors and spikes in the chemicals being emitted by the natural gas compression station a quarter mile from our home. We are still planning on putting our home on the market by the end of August. This is a tough decision but, to ensure the safety of my family, it is something that I will do.

A year ago, you essentially could not be outside for more than a couple of hours without being forced into your home by the noxious odors. In the few months prior to Memorial Day the odor events were limited to the late evening/early morning timeframe and happened a few nights a week for a couple of hours.

After the Memorial Day incident, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality brought a sampling canister for me to keep at my home for instances of the strong odor, I still have this canister. There have been periodic odor events over the past couple of months; however, they now only last for a brief time. By the time I get the canister ready to take the sample, the odor is gone. Unfortunately, my air conditioning system sucks the odor in the house and the odor sometimes lingers longer inside than outside. So over the past year, the situation has improved tremendously. Is it enough? I am not sure.

My announcement got a great deal more attention than I had anticipated. I had to make sure that those who know me and support me, knew why I was making this decision. I did not want everyone to find out when the For-Sale sign went up. There have been a flurry of media stories that have been taken by some to suggest that I will be resigning as mayor and moving from DISH immediately. Another report actually had me being forced out, which was wishful thinking for some. I have a great group of citizens here in DISH who have been extremely supportive of me and know that I will support and defend them to the end and it will be difficult should I end up leaving. I will be better about keeping everyone in the loop so there are no misunderstandings of my intentions.

When my wife and I made the decision to put our home on the

market, we had seen both of our children having several massive nosebleeds during the night. These nosebleeds coincided with the strong odor that filled our community. At this point we contemplated moving immediately and figuring things out after that.

Since that time neither of my children have had nosebleeds at that level and only a few minor nosebleeds and none at night. So we are not the motivated sellers we once were; however, due to the continuing problems and little faith in our regulatory agencies, we will be putting the house on the market.

Like most anyone reading this, we cannot put it on the market tomorrow. For the past three years I have worked around 80 hours a week and therefore the home has been neglected. So there are several projects that were half completed and need to be finished before we can market it. I am not anticipating a big market for the home but, if by some miracle it should sell, I would then have to resign as mayor but not a minute before. I will likely not leave it on the market indefinitely either; it will sell or it will not.

Every time that I have given either the operators or the regulatory agencies a pat on the back, something bad immediately happens. So it may be foolish but I have some level of optimism currently about this facility. Several things have been accomplished to make this a better facility and I am certain that no other facility has as many controls in place as this one does. But with the massive size of the facility, I am not sure if it can be . . . good, just better than the others. I am sure there is more than one photo of me on a break-room dartboard and I am also sure these companies have unwillingly spent a great deal of money but the conditions have improved greatly for the citizens of this community.

Some were also led to believe that I would simply disappear from DISH and from this matter all together, which again is wishful thinking. Whether I live in DISH breathing chemicals or somewhere out of this area, I will always be involved in this subject in some capacity.

In the next couple of months, I will be making an announcement about part of what will be in my future. For the past five years this has taken up a great deal of my time and we have somewhat been the poster child of what can happen to a community; therefore, it is impossible for me to simply walk away.

As always, I thank those who have supported me through this decision. As always, please pass this on or post it on blogs or Web sites.



Photo by Kathie Hendricks  
Author returns to childhood home in Marcellus Shale area of Pennsylvania and sees that "the stream . . . the water . . . was dark, the rocks stained deep brown, black."

## OE Reader Returns to Hometown; Finds Creek Polluted

By Jack Hendricks  
McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania

SPRINGVILLE, Pennsylvania — I spent the first six years of my life (1937 to 1943) in a house by the stream that was fed by the outpourings of water from the hills into which my tiny town was nestled. I played in the stream next to my house and it was clean and pure. Then we moved away and I seldom saw the town again until recently, in my 72<sup>nd</sup> year of life. I wondered if the house where I had lived still stood, if the town still looked the same.

We were staying in a cabin in beautiful Ricketts Glen State Park and hiking the remarkable fall trails with our son and grandchildren. We were thrilled to see the bright, clear water tumbling over dozens of waterfalls as we climbed the canyons.

One day we drove the reasonable distance to Springville, Pennsylvania. And there it was! The line of houses along the road was still there and my house indeed still stood, in nice shape, too! And there was the stream . . . the water was dark, the rocks stained deep brown, black.

Springville is a few of miles downstream from Dimock, Pennsylvania. Gas drilling into the Marcellus Shale involved sending a dangerous and secret brew of chemicals into the rocks deep inside the Earth. The chemicals had leaked into the ground water, into the wells and springs of Dimock. People were sickened and it appears that the people in this town of

a few thousand people can never drink water from their wells as they had since the town was founded long ago. Their water sources suffered permanent damage.

I noticed that the traffic through Springville on Route 29 consisted mostly of tanker trucks going both ways. Water for the drilling operation in Dimock going north, used fracking and drilling compounds going south for disposal. Where? Well, it's a contract job.

So the poisoned water from Dimock is coming through Springville. Some of it goes into community waste disposal plants where it is treated as sewage, then released into the creeks leading into the Susquehanna River, the same river that comes on down and pours into the Chesapeake Bay. Some of it cannot be accounted for at all. It goes . . . somewhere.

I stood on the sidewalk where my friend's hardware store once stood, near a café that wasn't there in my time. I was taking pictures of a town that still existed! A large man got out of his car and walked directly toward me, big smile on his face. I was shocked that he seemed to know who I was!

"Do you know me?" I asked. "Yup." He replied. He was half my age, how could he remember me? I was astonished to say the least.

"You're the guy from the newspaper" he said. But I wasn't! It was a misunderstanding. He was expecting a reporter with a camera to meet with him . . . but about what? He explained

## Farming Family Facing Horrible Consequences from Compressor

Wednesday, July 14, 2010  
Dear EPA,

We are not available to make the meeting. We have cattle and horses for one and for another the Spectra/Texas Eastern/Steckman Ridge compressor station is always blowing off and releasing something.

The natural gas drilling and storage wells and compressor station have turned our world upside-down; we no longer enjoy our property – it is polluted and will never be the same at all.

We had very high iron and arsenic in our water, plus manganese. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) never tested for fracking fluids. After the test, DEP told us we need a smoking gun! We needed the gas company to tell us they did pollute us!

Our animals died – cows, calves, horses, dogs, chickens! We were drinking the water, too. We can say that, looking back, my husband and I were always sick – running noses, head hurting, dull pain, breathing problems, rashes. In 2007 we had bloody noses.

When Steckman Ridge came into our town, they were reworking wells, moving pipes, our levels in our water jumped. Our water ran over the casing when these wells were shut down in 2007 and

ran over again with the work that was being done with this company. Steckman Ridge did a pre-water test, handed us our report and told us to have a nice day. After, reviewing our water test, we had levels that we were not supposed to even wash our hands in!

We, needing water, paid for a water system – \$11,000.00 – so we and our animals could drink water!

We have foam and oily-looking stuff on our creeks, on our pond. We have a very high number of sick people in our town.

Now, from 2009 to date there have been blow-offs at the compressor station countless times and DEP is looking the other way. Our streams are drying up; our pond is drying up.

My husband has been treated for high iron in his blood; he doesn't have the genes for it and the damage that is being done to his insides could, and will, be devastating.

We know that the wells have been fracked. We have hours of video.

We hope this helps. It's hard to tell someone what has happened in these years; there is a lot more.

Thank you,  
William and Angela Smith  
Clearville, Pennsylvania

that he was from Texas. Aha, a Marcellus Shale Gas Driller! "Yes" he said. He was eager to make a good impression for public relations reasons.

The license plates along the street read Texas, Oklahoma and other states that had been driller-boom states in the past. Now it's Pennsylvania's turn as drilling the shale beneath our feet has become economically feasible. That brings a few temporary jobs. But . . .

I have a degree in Geology and have worked in the field in the states from which the friendly guy came. I have seen two kinds of places. Beautiful places that have not been subjected to mineral exploitation and . . . ugly places ruined by mineral exploitation. Oil, gas, coal, whatever.

Pennsylvania is next. I am not happy about Springville's future or the future of many other towns and regions in our

state. Except where mining has made its scars, this is still a beautiful state. Unless we control the development of the Marcellus Shale gas deposits, our future will bring ruinous scarring of our landscape and horrible poisoning of our water.

Only the Pennsylvania state legislature can pass the laws needed to control this development. Those people get a lot of money in the form of campaign contributions from corporations, including the ones drilling into the Marcellus Shale; therefore, the legislature is likely to pass only the laws that favor them, that is, with little taxation or resistance or environmental control. Unless, of course, they hear the will of the people!

That's us, you and me. We, the people, have a job to do.

Here's Something Very Important to Remember When We Are Talking About Drilling for Natural Gas:

Natural gas consists of 75 to 90 percent raw methane and methane is 72 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

Nobody mentions this fact. Leave the gas in the ground!!

-- Iona --



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## Updates from Pennsylvania

Submitted by Jack Hendricks with this note:

Iona, here's some background on the Marcellus Shale exploitation. Jerry Policoff is on the board of Healthcare for All PA and is a candidate for the Pennsylvania legislature in the Lancaster area.

Jerry wrote:

The one thing they don't mention is that Governor Rendell has cut the budget of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) every year since he entered office (if memory serves, he cut it by 12% last year and another 9% this year). Since 2002 the DEP's budget, adjusted for inflation, is -60%. This does not even take into account the fact that their task will be made harder by the 5,000 new drilling permits expected to be granted this year.

I don't think any amount of regulation means squat if the agency responsible for enforcement has no funds with which to enforce. It kind of reminds me of Grover Norquist's desire to shrink government down to a size where you can drown it in the bathtub.

Pennsylvania already has one of the worst records among all states for oil and gas spills in the past ten years according to a new study by the National Wildlife Federation.

Between 2000 and 2010 we've experienced:

- 114 significant pipeline accident incidents (only Texas, Louisiana, California, Kansas and Illinois had more);
- 10 fatalities, number three behind Texas and New Mexico;
- 33 injuries, number two behind Texas.

(From <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/News-by-Topic/Global-Warming/2010/-/media/PDFs/Global%20Warming/Reports/Assault-on-America-A-Decade-of-Petroleum-Company-Disaster.aspx>.)

This record demands more funds for DEP, so why are we taking a blowtorch to its budget while issuing thousands of new drilling permits?

Jerry Policoff  
Campaign Web site:  
[www.policoff41st.com](http://www.policoff41st.com)

### Follow-up From PennFuture

This is a follow-up to Jerry's comments about Marcellus Shale. Note the reference to HB 2213.

From: Christine Knapp  
Date: July 29, 2010  
Subject: We've made great gains so far, thanks to you

What a whirlwind this year has been, full of successes, thanks to your continued support and action.

With you, PennFuture was able to advance a number of important public policies in Pennsylvania in May, June and early July. Here's a quick run-down of what happened and what's coming next:

### Victories

#### Environmental Funding

• Thanks to a strong effort by citizens like you, we stopped the proposed \$132 million raid on environmental funds in its tracks. One special highlight – the \$5.8 million portion of the Keystone Reclamation, Park and Conservation Fund used by land trusts to conserve properties with significant recreational, ecological and other values was saved.

• Stronger clean water rules, especially on Marcellus Shale drillers. Two vital water protection rules were approved. One rule sets a limit on total dissolved solid (TDS) pollution in streams and requires Marcellus Shale drillers to treat wastewater that they discharge to streams and rivers to drinking water standards. The other rule requires many developers to create or protect a 150-foot natural buffer between construction and our best and cleanest rivers and streams. Because citizens made their voices heard, the legislature made no attempt to block the rules, so they are poised to become law pending final legal review by the Attorney General.

### Unfinished Business

#### Marcellus Shale issues

When the legislature returns in September, we intend to make the Gas Drilling Impact Fee (severance tax) one of the first considered. The state budget bills included a promise that the legislature would pass this severance tax on natural gas from the Marcellus Shale by October 1. The drilling industry is attempting to dictate the terms of the tax and link its passage to other sweeteners for drillers. They may also attempt to "play out the clock" and delay the tax in this election year. We'll need your help to pass this tax and to make sure that a portion goes to protect the environment. We'll be holding events around the state to educate and galvanize Pennsylvanians around a fair tax that makes investments in the land, water, wildlife and communities at risk from the drilling. Stay tuned.

#### Save our Forests legislation

HB 2235 and SB 1420 would put a three-year moratorium on new deep natural gas leases in state forests. The House overwhelmingly approved HB 2235 on May 4<sup>th</sup> but the Senate didn't take action before the break. Without a moratorium in place, additional state forests could be opened up for drilling at any time. The Senate must act this Fall to ensure our precious public lands are not used as an ATM to balance the budget.

The bill to strengthen rules on Marcellus Shale drillers, House Bill 2213, would protect drinking water, high quality and exceptional value streams, and property owners from damage by natural gas drilling. The bill would also clarify and protect the ability of local governments to reasonably regulate oil and gas activities. The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee approved the bill on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Clean Energy and Green Jobs legislation

The Clean Energy and Green Jobs bill, HB 2405, would increase and extend renewable energy requirements that have helped boost Pennsylvania's clean energy sector. The House has scheduled a vote on the bill but we need to speak out to get it passed.

Green Building legislation, HB 444 and SB 728, both require high-performance green building standards in most new or remodeled building projects owned by the state. Both bills were recently voted out of Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and are waiting for the full Senate to vote. HB 444 was approved by the House in 2009. PennFuture and the state's green building advocacy organizations are trying to reinstate the provisions covering schools and other state-funded building projects that were removed in Senate committee.

Electronic waste recycling legislation, HB 708, establishes a recycling program for electronic waste. This important bill requires producers of computer equipment and televisions to take back their old products and arrange for them to be responsibly recycled. The bill's passage would help keep toxic waste out of landfills and help create home-grown e-waste businesses. The bill was overwhelmingly passed by the House on June 15<sup>th</sup> and has a very good chance in the Senate this fall.

There are many other bills that we're following, including legislation to promote cleaner fuels and help municipalities deal with blight. So look for alerts on those, too.

We need your help to make all these green bills law. You can help spread the word about our work by referring a friend to sign up for our emails. And of course, responding to our alerts and contacting your legislators makes it all happen!

You can keep up-to-date on all these issues at [www.mypennfuture.org](http://www.mypennfuture.org).

Again, many thanks for all that you do. Our success belongs to you.

Christine Knapp  
Director of Outreach



Photo by Abrahm Lustgarten, ProPublica

## Why Gas Leaks Matter in the Hydraulic Fracturing Debate

By Abrahm Lustgarten  
ProPublica, August 2, 2010

Last week's article about a hydraulic fracturing clause that was included in the Senate's drilling accountability bill sparked a lively debate on ProPublica's Web site about why methane contamination from drilling is relevant to a discussion of environmental risks of fracturing.

#### In response:

Methane migration is a critical part of the discussions of underground contamination risks from drilling and hydraulic fracturing because it demonstrates that a pathway exists for contaminants to move through the substrata to the surface or into water supplies. In many of the cases described in ProPublica's articles, methane – which was proved to be thermogenic and not from biological decay – is believed to have moved from thousands of feet underground or travelled several miles laterally, sometimes from the same layer of gas being exploited for energy.

Fracturing consists of injecting water and (usually secret) concoctions of chemicals deep underground, where it fractures the rock and releases the natural gas deposits. One of the most influential explanations of why fracturing presents no risk hinges on the assertion that the deep isolation and many layers of rock and earth effectively seal off the fracture zone from the surface – that it is impossible for chemicals, water, gas or anything else to move from thousands of feet below into shallow aquifers.

But the consistent and widespread detection of methane migration from unnatural causes – in places including Colorado, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York – shows that it is not impossible, that in fact there are underground pathways for such movement. And if methane can move, it's an indicator of other substances' ability to migrate as well.

Many of the methane migration cases have been traced to flaws in the cementing and casing of the wells, as many of our articles have explicitly explained. Research shows that others may have migrated directly through underground faults and fissures.

Scientists we ask about these issues consistently make two points:

1. The pressure of hydraulic fracturing inside a well structure exerts great force that can exploit cementing problems. In other words, a crack in the cement or casing might be fine until the pressure of hydraulic fracturing forces substances through it.

2. It doesn't matter whether contaminants reach aquifers through a spider web of geologic cracks created by hydraulic fracturing or in the spaces alongside the well bore that was pushed through the earth. Contaminants are reaching water supplies as a result of the processes and pressures being exerted underground.

The question of whether hydraulic fracturing is responsible for this contamination and whether it is causing other contamination, remains unanswered.

Neither our articles, nor anyone we have spoken with, has claimed to have reached a conclusion on that point. That is why the Environmental Protection Agency is conducting two simultaneous studies of these issues – one in Pinedale, Wyoming, which will attempt to assess a specific pattern of contamination there, and another broad national study meant to evaluate the potential risks of fracturing. These are the first studies we are aware of that have engaged a scientific process to study these issues.

Two things are clear now, however:

1. Hydraulic fracturing is the only aspect of the complicated drilling process where basic standards for safe operations are not set by the federal government.

2. If fracturing were regulated, for instance, under the Safe Drinking Water Act (the federal law that regulates every other type of underground chemical injection), the law would likely require the sort of well-integrity tests and localized pre-drilling geologic analysis to ensure that underground faults and fractures could not reach water supplies. It would also likely require that well casing and cementing be solid enough to withstand the pressures exerted by the fracturing process and thus prevent the well from leaking methane or chemicals or anything else.

ProPublica is a nonprofit investigative newsroom that produces stories in the public interest. Visit [www.propublica.org](http://www.propublica.org) for more information.

## Drilling Briefs

### Subcontractor Had Fines in Deadly Well Blast

By Joe Mandak, Associated Press  
Daily News, Huntingdon PA, excerpt

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania, July 28, 2010 — The employer of two workers killed in an oil and gas well explosion last week had paid nearly \$10,000 in federal workplace safety fines for two other well fires, including a 2007 explosion that burned an employee, records show.

Officials at Northeast Energy Management Inc. of Indiana, Pennsylvania did not immediately return a call for comment about the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) records.

The explosion and fire Friday was the third since September 2007 involving Northeast Energy Management workers at a western Pennsylvania well, OSHA spokeswoman Lenore Uddyback-Fortson confirmed. Huntley & Huntley Inc. of Monroeville, the drilling company that owned the well, has a clean OSHA record, Uddyback-Fortson said.

Northeast Management was cited for 10 serious violations and one other violation after the September 2007 explosion and fire at a well near Sligo in Clarion County, OSHA records show.

"Workers at a natural gas well "were exposed to an unsafe air mixture environment resulting in an explosion and fire causing injuries," OSHA said. A piece of equipment called the blowout preventer had been removed, causing the well to spew natural gas for two hours before an attempt was made to cap the well, the records show . . .

### Marcellus Drilling Report Tallies 1,400 Violations

By Genaro C. Armas, excerpt  
Daily News, Huntingdon PA, August 31, 2010

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (AP) — A report from a Pennsylvania environmental group says companies drilling for natural gas in the lucrative Marcellus Shale have tallied more than 1,400 violations of state rules since January 2008.

Monday's report from the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association say 952 violations had environmental implications. According to the report, the state DEP has recorded 100 violations of Pennsylvania's Clean Stream Law, 268 violations related to waste water reservoirs and 154 violations for discharging industrial waste . . .

## Federal Judge Halts Oil, Gas Development on Chukchi Sea

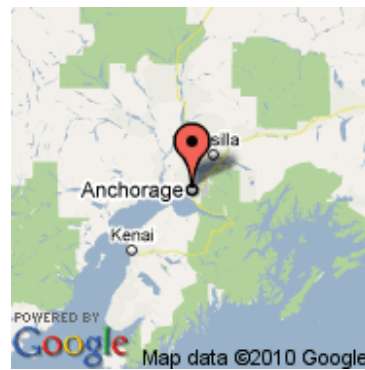
Need for further analysis of missing information tops reasons for halt.

Earthjustice Press Release  
July 21, 2010

JUNEAU, Alaska — A federal court ordered all activities under Lease Sale 193 in the Chukchi Sea off the north coast of Alaska halted pending further environmental review by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, formerly the Minerals Management Service.

The court determined that the agency failed to meet its obligation under the law to analyze the importance of missing basic scientific information about the Chukchi Sea and verify whether it could obtain the information prior to offering leases in the sea.

The court also faulted the agency for failing to analyze the potential impacts of possible natural gas development from the lease sale. In light of today's decision, Secretary Salazar should fundamentally reexamine the



decision to offer leases in the Chukchi Sea.

Earthjustice represented the Native Village of Point Hope, City of Point Hope, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Alaska Wilderness League, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Oceana, Pacific Environment, Resisting Environmental Destruction on Indigenous Lands, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society and World Wildlife Fund in a challenge to the lease sale in federal court in 2008.

The Minerals Management Service approved oil and gas drilling leases in the heart of the Chukchi Sea without adequately

analyzing the potential impacts of the sale. The court's decision shines a spotlight on the need for adequate scientific data before opening sensitive areas of the ocean to risky oil and gas activities. The danger of committing our ocean to risky oil and gas activities without full environmental review is highlighted by the ongoing tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Chukchi Sea is home to sensitive populations of endangered polar bears, bowhead whales and spectacled and Stellar's eiders, among many other species of fish and wildlife. The bounty of the Chukchi Sea is at the heart of the subsistence culture practiced by native Inupiat communities.

Despite the significance and sensitivity of the Arctic Ocean, there is a profound lack of basic knowledge about the sea and the wildlife that inhabits it. Data gaps exist on whale migrations and feeding habits. There is no reliable population estimate for species of walrus or seals. No population estimates for polar bears are available for the Chukchi Sea. Global climate changes are wreaking havoc on sea ice, upon which many species depend for

survival. An oil spill of any scale in this sensitive and often harsh climate would have devastating impacts. No technology exists to clean up an oil spill in these Arctic waters.

### Reactions on Today's Decision

"This is an important decision directing the Secretary to consider the need for more information on the Chukchi Sea. We have long argued that more science, more data and more research is needed in the sensitive waters of the Arctic Ocean before oil and gas lease sales or drilling are allowed to occur," said Erik Grafe, an attorney at Earthjustice. "Federal agencies have a basic obligation under the law to fully assess missing information about potential impacts of their actions, and to obtain it if they can, before they act. In this case, the court decided that the Minerals Management Service did not meet its obligation before it issued oil and gas leases in the Chukchi Sea."

"We are pleased with this decision. We hope Secretary Salazar will use this chance to fundamentally reconsider oil and

Continue on page 8

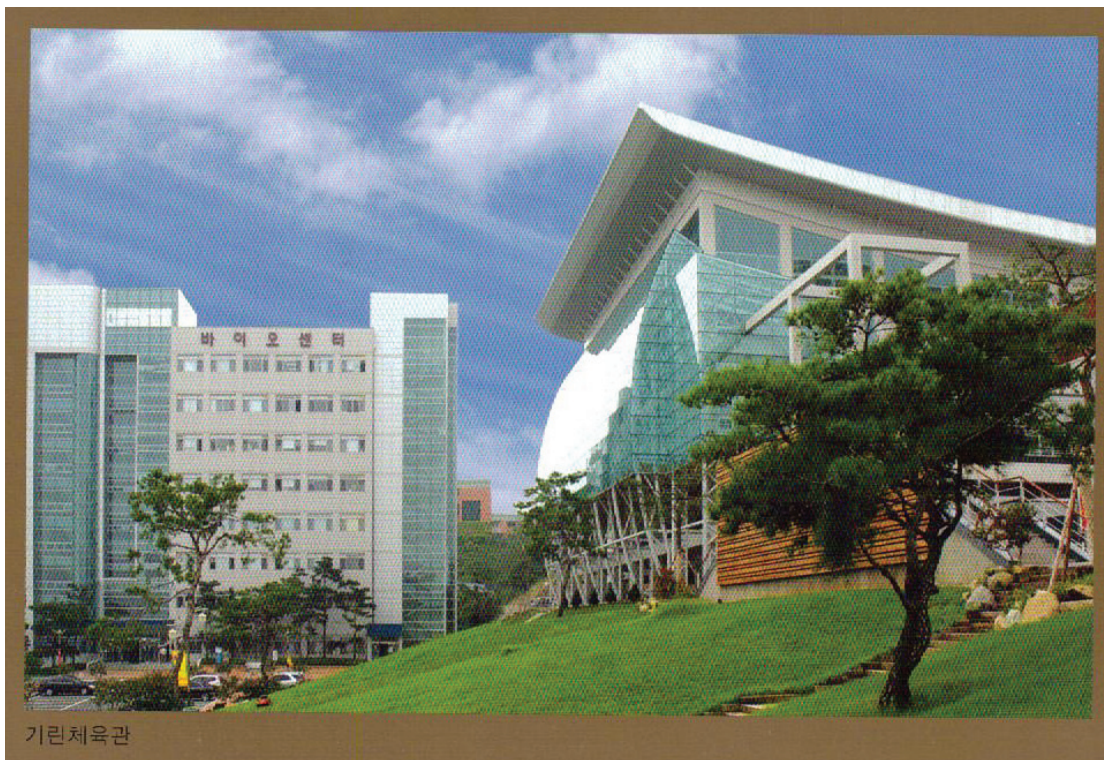


Photo supplied by Dr. Byun

Daegu Haany University recently added a course to teach students about climate change called Energy and Industry. 150 students signed up for it last year and now the course will be expanded.

## University Founded on Law of Nature

Continued from page 1

to sleep at night, not be digesting our food then.

**OE:** Would you explain the difference between Eastern and Western medical practices?

**Dr. Byun:** Last year we had a swine flu H1N1 pandemic. Everyone wanted to avoid getting the flu so they got vaccines. They thought that was the only solution but it was not a clever or wise idea. In Oriental medicine there are 90 different natural remedies to prevent such a flu. Think of a rabbit coming into your garden and everyone has a club. But there are different mechanisms to get the rabbit out of the garden. Western medicine depends on multi-, multi-, multi-billion dollar chemicals to fight bacteria and viruses. And then the bacteria and viruses adapt and change so those chemicals don't work any longer against them. One medicine is not good enough; they need to use different medicines to control a pandemic. Tamiflu is not the best medicine for flu.

**OE:** What else are you doing on your trip to the U.S.?

**Dr. Byun:** I went to Valdosta State University in Georgia and Eastern Kentucky State University to develop sister relationships. We had meetings to make a Memorandum of Understanding about how our professors and students will interact and help each other. For now our Korean students are finishing a one-month English course and I gave a talk to them. We are starting an exchange program. Professors from Kentucky are coming to Korea to teach English. Later on we will help them open courses in Oriental medicine. I also gave a speech to a Rotary Club in Georgia and they were very impressed.

**OE:** In our July 2010 issue, we published an article by Pyong about your new course developed to work against global heating and 150 students signed up. What's next?

**Dr. Byun:** In the Energy and Industry course, we are teaching our students to use natural resources – like solar, wind, geothermal – not fossil fuels. We will expand the program and more students will be involved

in the future. We have to use energy the wise way. Some people misuse energy against the Law of Nature. 1. We have to love Nature. 2. We must use energy in a smart way, not abuse it. 3. When we utilize natural energy, we are not damaging humans and other life.

**OE:** Please tell our readers about your round, gold lapel pin. [Ed.: Dr. Byun was handsomely dressed in a navy suit with a long-sleeve white shirt and tie even though the temperature was in the high 90s.]

**Dr. Byun:** This is a smiling Buddha. From the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century humans have fought over different religions, different ideas. Now we need harmony. This smiling face is a symbol to remind us to stop fighting.

**OE:** What is your next dream?

**Dr. Byun:** I hope the obese people I saw when I landed here will get thinner and have a happier life. My dream now is to help people have a happier life and I will try to devote myself to that purpose.

# AT LAST, A HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

Good news for thirsty people around the globe: The UN affirms the right to safe and clean drinking water.

By Daniel Moss  
YES! Magazine Web site, July 30, 2010

A remarkable piece of water history should have been headline news everywhere this week.

After over a decade of grassroots organizing and lobbying, the global water-justice movement achieved a significant victory when the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to affirm, "The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights."

The resolution – put forward by Bolivia and co-sponsored by 35 states – passed overwhelmingly with 122 states voting in favor and 41 abstaining.

Embarrassed to go on record against the right to this fundamental liquid, not one country voted against it.

"We're absolutely thrilled," said Maude Barlow, former senior advisor on water to the president of the UN General Assembly and current national chairwoman of the Council of Canadians and the Washington, D.C.-based Food and Water Watch. "This is a historic day. I think every now and then, the human species advances somewhat in our evolution and today was one of those advances."

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights, approved in



Photo by Living Water International

The U. N. resolution stating, "The right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights," passed overwhelmingly with 122 states voting in favor and 41 abstaining.

1948, did not specifically recognize a right to water. But in recent decades, worsening water scarcity and contamination, aggravated by global climate change, has made a resolution on water rights more urgent, said advocates.

pate in this important moment in history." **The United States also abstained in the vote.** (bold added)

Some country delegations said they abstained because they did not get instructions from their capitals in time to confirm their positions. Others were afraid of the resolution's implications for water they share with other nations, known as trans-boundary water. (However, General Assembly resolutions are non-binding political statements). Still others feared how the resolution would be interpreted and put into practice, especially given that more than 2.6 billion people are without access to proper sanitation.

"We urged the UK government to support the resolution but regrettably they have chosen to ignore our request," said Steve Bloomfield, head of the England's public water utilities union.

Despite the abstentions, the UN power politics to which

"EVERY NOW AND THEN, THE HUMAN SPECIES ADVANCES SOMEWHAT IN OUR EVOLUTION AND TODAY WAS ONE OF THOSE ADVANCES."

Maude Barlow

### Political abstentions

"It was a great honor to be present as the UN General Assembly took this historic step forward in the struggle for a just world," said Barlow. "It is sad however, that Canada chose not to partici-

## Declaration of the Right of Communities to (Clean) Water

Continued from page 1

**THAT**, while the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the federal government have bestowed legal protections and immunities upon corporations that benefit from extraction of natural gas, state and federal laws have concurrently disallowed the people, through their community governments, from prohibiting such harm;

**THAT** state preemption of local laws prohibiting activities damaging to natural water sources are repugnant to the fundamental rights of the people, their communities and ecosystems;

**THAT** environmental and economic sustainability can be achieved only when the people affected by governing decisions are the ones who make them;

**THAT** the people, through their municipal governments, have the political, moral and legal authority to protect their right to water;

**THAT** the people, using their local community governments, retain the right to make laws that prohibit certain corporate activities that would harm or deny the fundamental right to water;

**THAT** a campaign made up of people from municipalities throughout Pennsylvania be organized to assert the right of every Pennsylvanian to local self-government on issues with direct impact on the people, environment, health, safety, welfare and quality of life in the community;

**THAT** we, the people, must transform our individual community struggles over unsustainable and destructive public policies dealing with water, waste, energy, agriculture, timber and mining into a unified movement dedicated to establishing the fundamental right to local, community self-government; and

**THAT** this people's movement, built upon the aspirations of communities throughout the Commonwealth, must drive these changes into the Pennsylvania Constitution and the laws of the state.

A project of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund  
P. O. Box 2016, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17201; 717-709-0457; info@celdf.org.

## PA Citizens Declare Rights to Clean Water

Continued from page 1

our communities wouldn't have a fracking problem if local governments were allowed to make governing decisions to protect the health, safety, welfare, environment and quality of life in the places we call home. But state agencies follow mandates from Harrisburg. And the regulations adopted into law by state legislators are, more often than not, written and proposed by the very industries supposedly being regulated.

It's time to tell the politicians in Harrisburg that letting their cozy corporate relationships

replace the responsibility they owe to all 12.5 million Pennsylvanians in unacceptable.

Let's start with water and the right that every member of this Commonwealth has to water untainted by gas-extraction techniques that are permitted and licensed by the State House and its coterie of corporate lobbyists. There's nothing to talk about if the compromise we're being asked to make is a trade-off of our drinking water for natural gas. Turning our communities into ghost towns for short-sighted profit isn't "good business"

and it isn't "green energy."

Please read the Declaration of the Right of Communities to Water and then adopt the Resolution below endorsing the Declaration. Be sure to let us know that your municipality can be counted and we'll let the world know that you stand with your community in defense of their fundamental rights.

Cathy Pedler and Bill Belitskus  
Co-Chairs, Northwestern Pennsylvania Community Rights Network; 814-454-7523 (Cathy) or <http://nwpacrn.wordpress.com>.

## Sign the Resolution and Get Others to Sign, Too!

### Resolution in Support of The Declaration of the Right of Communities to Water

**WHEREAS**, municipalities of the Commonwealth have a responsibility to act to protect the health, safety and welfare of their citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy, untainted water from natural sources is one of this community's most valuable assets; and

**WHEREAS**, just government is ever at the consent of the governed and the People of this community do not consent to industrial damage to their natural water supply nor to disposal of waste water from gas extraction into their streams and aquifers; and

**WHEREAS**, a denial of local, self-governing authority by the State on behalf of gas-extraction corporations that will reap private profit from behavior destructive to the common good is unjust, illegitimate and beyond the authority of the State; then

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that (name of municipality, organization or individual(s)) supports including the Right of Communities to Water in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that we endorse The Declaration of the Right of Communities to Water as presented by the Northwestern chapter of the Pennsylvania Community Rights Network and that we do hereby become a signatory to that Declaration.

Please send completed endorsements to:  
Cathy Pedler, 912 West 2<sup>nd</sup>, Erie, PA 16507.

world citizens have grown accustomed did not prevail. As the world water crisis has worsened, opposition to this resolution became increasingly difficult to justify.

Next month, a meeting will be held to review progress on the Millennium Development Goals, one of which is to reduce by half the number of people without sanitation.

"It would have looked very bad indeed at that meeting for countries to have voted against the right to sanitation," said Anil Naidoo, coordinator of the Blue Planet Project.

### What a Difference a Word Makes

Pressures to weaken the resolution were considerable. Inserting the word "access" to water and sanitation was a point of debate. For diplomats, ensuring "access" would mean their governments would only have to guarantee that water is available for purchase, not that it is a fundamental right even for those who can't afford it.

That the resolution did not stop at "access" makes it more powerful. "It means governments have to provide the water even if people cannot pay for it . . . it's an impor-

tant distinction," Barlow said.

The final resolution "calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer, through international assistance and co-operation, in particular to developing countries, in order to scale-up efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all."

### The First Step in a Long Struggle

As with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the  
Continued on page 8

# The BP Oil Spill: Time to Get Unreasonable

By Brooke Jarvis  
YES! Magazine via AlterNet.org  
July 31, 2010

For decades, Diane Wilson (author of [An Unreasonable Woman: A True Story of Shrimpers, Politicos, Polluters and the Fight for Seadrift, Texas](#)) – a fourth-generation shrimper from Seadrift, Texas, a town roughly in the center of Texas' Gulf coast – has been fighting to clean up the messes of the oil and petrochemical industries. First it was the chemicals pumped into a local bay by a plastics factory, then the Dow Chemical Company's refusal to compensate the victims of the Bhopal disaster, then the Bush Administration's decision to invade Iraq in what she believes was a war for oil.

Many protests and hunger strikes later, that plastics factory signed a zero discharge agreement. The anti-war group that Wilson helped found, Code Pink, has become a prominent national voice for peace. So it's no wonder that Wilson is someone who believes in the power of protest – or that, when millions of gallons of oil started gushing into the waters she'd trolled since childhood, her anger turned into action.

That action has made national headlines and gotten Wilson dragged out of more than one Congressional hearing. On August 20, she was to find out if it would land her in jail for two years. But for Wilson, who's fond of saying that she's "nobody particular," there's nothing exceptional or complicated about what she's doing. "There comes a time," she wrote, "when the home needs protecting and the line needs drawing and anybody that dares cross it acts at their own peril."

**Brooke Jarvis:** People around the world have been horrified by this catastrophe. What has it been like for you and your neighbors in Seadrift?

**Diane Wilson:** It was almost like seeing your own death. You cannot imagine it but it appears to be happening. I think many people thought they really might see the end of the whole Gulf, just filling up like a river of oil, just wiping out everything. People are very, very upset about it. They don't know what to do because what is there to do? They can't leave. Down here you are the 4<sup>th</sup>-, 5<sup>th</sup>-generation fishing or shrimping the same waters. You have a sense of place and your identity is the place. I've been down here through I can't tell you how many hurricanes and people don't leave even when they know a storm's coming.

**Brooke:** The big news this week is the cap on the BP oil pipe. When the oil spill is finally stopped, are you worried that it



Covering her hands and face to look like oil, Diane Wilson interrupted BP CEO Tony Hayward's testimony to protest his company's actions in the Gulf. "With these BP actions I had no idea what I would accomplish but I felt I had to do something. I felt so much anger and rage about what was going on, especially because they were lying about it," she said. Diane may go to jail for two years but the real criminal (Tony Hayward) will be walking around a free man.

will be forgotten – that there will be a feeling that the problem is solved and we can return to business as usual?

**Diane:** I worry a lot about that. I've been involved in environmental struggles on the Gulf Coast for 20 years and I've seen how quickly we can forget. I was involved in the Bhopal struggle, which is basically about the problem of forgetting – after 25 years and 20,000 deaths, it's not solved but it's not in the news, either. And in Alaska, it's been 20 years since the Exxon Valdez and they only ever recovered eight percent of the oil.

I know how fickle media is. I've been trying to get stories out about oil for 20 years. I've talked with agencies, I've talked with politicians and wouldn't get any response. I started to feel like maybe there was something the matter with me, maybe what I was horrified about wasn't so awful, so at times I really questioned myself. Then when we had this awful spill, suddenly almost those very same agencies and people were acting like it horrified them and they were immediately going to take action.

I know how the spotlight will change how people react and I know how easily it goes away. We get bored very easily. I'm afraid that, with even the slightest excuse, we will want to move on – people feel relieved to move away from this unpleasantness and from thinking about the big changes

we need in this country. A lot of people would rather it just go away.

**Brooke:** What actions have you taken since the spill began, to keep the spotlight on?

**Diane:** People have a shield that protects them from bad news. It just kind of slides off, so you have to be very creative to break through. So one of our actions was inspired by women in Nigeria, who protested pollution from oil companies by taking off their clothes. I was amazed how much they accomplished non-violently by pushing the comfort zone. So we went to BP's control center in Houston, nude, and demanded "the naked truth" about oil. A lot of people said, "Oh no, you can't do something like that in Houston. It's the Bible Belt; the media will not come." But they did and the protest got a lot of press. We also had people come dressed as fishermen, as mermaids, as BP workers. A fisherman in Sargent, Texas brought probably 100 pounds of dead fish and a pile of shrimp nets. We poured fake oil over everybody.

Later I decided to go to Washington, D.C., because that's where the hearings were happening. I got some Karo syrup, the syrup they make pecan pies with in Texas, and security let me in with this half a gallon of goo labeled "oil" on the side. I waited for Senator Lisa Murkowski from Alaska to start talking. She should know the cost of an oil spill from the

Exxon Valdez; she should know the value of fishermen and wilderness. Yet she was the senator who was blocking the vote to lift the liability cap for BP. So I just stood up and started yelling. I said that I was from the Gulf and we are sick and tired of being dumped on. I poured oil all over myself. At one point they were going to charge me for assault for getting syrup on the guard. They said it was the messiest protest they had ever had.

Then I heard that [BP CEO] Tony Hayward was going to testify. By this time I had Capitol cops following me everywhere, asking to see what was in my bag. I got to the Capitol at 10 o'clock the night before and waited all night. They only let five people in – they were very, very nervous about anything happening. They wouldn't let in any signs or anything that looked like it might be used in a demonstration but they didn't find the tube of paint I had in my pocket. When no one was looking I smeared it on my hands and face and then I started yelling at Tony – I kept calling him Tony – that he ought to go to jail.

So I was arrested in one week on two different charges of unlawful conduct and resisting arrest. I've had to go to court twice already. At this point I'm probably looking at about two years.

**Brooke:** If you end up going to jail, will it be worth it?

**Diane:** Oh, yes. I've been to jail before. I did an action regarding

Bhopal: I scaled a chemical tower and breached security and trespassed – I got 180 days in jail.

With these BP actions I had no idea what I would accomplish but I felt I had to do something. I felt so much anger and rage about what was going on, especially because they were lying about it. Somehow Tony Hayward represented everything that I felt was being killed out there on the bay. Everybody calls this an accident but it was inevitable – you take that kind of risk and it will eventually come down to this.

**Brooke:** Realistically, what can we change by getting mad? At some time in our lives, we will come across some information that just hits us and what we do with that bit of information will determine the rest of our lives.

**Diane:** We can't just be mad about this one spill. It's part of a bigger problem, so we have to demand that there be bigger changes. That push is going to have to come from the people, from the grassroots.

Because I've been doing this for so long, I know that it sometimes takes very drastic and awful situations to change things. These times are critical windows when we can get things done – the only time when agencies and politicians and people are alarmed enough that we can move things.

Take offshore drilling. If all we have is a temporary ban, companies will be just waiting to

start again when the six months are up. If that happens, what on Earth will we have learned from this monstrous problem?

We also have to make a decision about the type of energy we are using. It's not whether we are going to move away from oil, because we eventually will, but whether we'll do it when we can make a smooth transition or when we're forced to, which will be chaos. We don't have the luxury of time.

And we have to do something about the power of corporations. They make their money using the resources of the whole planet but they don't get punished when they put it at risk. I think that people need to go to jail for this. We have to send a very clear message that you cannot take these kinds of risks without consequences.

We also have to change how we regulate corporations. Right now lots of them only self-report and agencies don't have budgets to check their reports or for enforcement.

**Brooke:** You've also been pushing to eliminate the cap on BP's liability. Why is that so important?

**Diane:** It's flat out crazy, when you are making \$90 million dollars a day, to say that \$75 million is the most you should be made to pay in liability. Lisa Murkowski said we need that low limit because otherwise smaller, mom-and-pop oil companies couldn't drill in the Gulf. What mom-and-pop oil companies? She should be worried about mom-and-pop shrimpers.

If you are not forced to pay big time for your mistakes then you don't value them. It gives the idea that you can take all kinds of chances and all kinds of shortcuts. I guarantee you that this planet cannot afford it. This is a finite planet and we are acting like it's infinite.

**Brooke:** What would you say to people who are upset about the spill but don't know what to do about it?

**Diane:** We are going to have to learn to not be so well behaved. We are going to have to move from our hearts. I have always believed that at some time in our lives, we will come across some information that just hits us and what we do with that bit of information will determine the rest of our lives.

There are no excuses. If you look at the social changes that have been made in this country and all around the world, it is the people who seemed least able to make changes who did. We just forget that we have that kind of potential.

*Brooke Jarvis is YES! Magazine's Web editor.*

## EPA Fired Oil-Degradation Expert Concerned about Deepwater Oil Rigs

### The Iron Horse of Science

By David L. Lewis, Ph.D.  
Watkinsville, Georgia

Alone in a field on Jack Curtis' farm near Highway 15 south of Athens, Georgia stands the Iron Horse, an abstract sculpture by artist Abbott Pattison. It was rescued from the University of Georgia campus by Jack's father, a professor in UGA's School of Agriculture, over 50 years ago.

Unveiled in 1954, the sculpture proudly stood in the Quadrangle of Reed Hall, a men's dormitory, for only one day. Students who gathered hay and set fire to it that night considered it to be grotesque and unconventional.

Twelve years later, I moved into Reed Hall as a freshman student hailing from Thomasville, Georgia. The demise of the Iron Horse was already legendary by that time. Little did I know that I would share a similar fate and end up rusting away on a small plot of farmland just a short distance from my predecessor.

To help cover college expenses in the late 1960s and early '70s, I worked part-time at a U.S. Department of Interior research laboratory near the UGA campus, which later became part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research & Development (ORD). After



Author with the Iron Horse: After struggling through corn field with ladder and photo equipment for a couple of hours, we almost gave up. Corn was so dense and tall that you could be 15 feet away from the horse and not see it. The irrigated field was so hot and humid that we were drenched with sweat and seeing horse mirages by the time we finally found the elusive sculpture. Photo by Walter Montgomery

completing an undergraduate degree in microbiology, I earned a Ph.D. in Ecology at UGA. While continuing to work as a research microbiologist at EPA, I held various temporary appointments at UGA, including on the graduate faculty.

Research by my coworkers and me at EPA and UGA, which was published in leading science and medical journals including

*Nature*, *Lancet* and *Nature Medicine*, focused on biodegradation of pollutants, climate change and hospital infection control. We discovered, for example, that the AIDS virus (HIV) can hide in lubricants used in dental drills and escape disinfection and that climatic changes can increase the risks associated with pesticides and other important environmental contaminants.

Things went downhill, however, when I published research linking EPA's sewage sludge (biosolids) regulation to adverse health effects on humans and animals. EPA officials in Washington cut off my research funding and offered me a temporary assignment to UGA if I would agree to resign my EPA position afterwards. I accepted after UGA promised to seek a tenured faculty position for me in the Department of Marine Sciences.

At the time, I was concerned about the potential for blowouts with offshore oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico. EPA approved my working on land application of biosolids and oil contamination in the Gulf when I transferred to UGA in December of 1998.

As soon as I transferred, however, EPA denied me access to government resources that I needed to do the research. Then officials in EPA's Office of Water (OW) funded UGA to publish fabricated data to discredit my biosolids research in order to cover up cattle deaths in Georgia, which I was investigating. EPA officials then met with corporate executives in the biosolids industry and helped distribute allegations of scientific misconduct against me at UGA.

EPA's Assistant General Counsel and managers at my local EPA laboratory in Athens found the allegations to be totally without merit. But the corporation hired Georgia Senator Kasim Reed,

now mayor of Atlanta, to pressure UGA not to drop the charges against me. According to a Clinton appointee at the White House with whom I met, EPA Administrator Carol Browner wanted to help but could not. She was "over-ruled at the highest level," she said. EPA terminated me in 2003 and UGA reneged on hiring me. Since then, I have been unable to find employment in government, industry or academia.

Today, the UGA campus is littered with abstract sculptures that are far more strange-looking than the Iron Horse. In 1954, UGA faculty and students hated it simply because it was different. Because it was different, it threatened to change their world. UGA had the same reaction in 1961 when Judge William A. Bootle ordered the university to admit its first black students, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes. People feel less safe when change is in the air. It breeds irrational fears.

Depoliticizing science in the federal government needs to be one of President Obama's highest priorities. Progress toward developing viable alternative sources of energy and protecting public health and the environment cannot be achieved without the Iron Horse of Science, which is being driven out of government and academia. We need to stop government, industry and academia from working together to further their own political and financial interests and start serving the

public interest.

Although I did not expect to play any role myself in ushering in such a change, I also did not expect my hopes would be dashed so soon after the 2008 election. President Obama chose Robert Perciasepe as EPA Deputy Administrator, the Agency's second highest office. As head of EPA's Office of Water in the late 1990s, Perciasepe oversaw EPA's efforts to stop my research and cover up the biosolids-related cattle deaths in Georgia. He also tried to stop other scientists from publishing research critical of the federal government's policies on biosolids.

I still believe, however, that President Obama would see that EPA, USDA and other federal research organizations change the way they are handling science if he only knew what to do.

Oil streaming out of the Gulf of Mexico should be ringing some alarm bells in the White House regarding the pitfalls of turning science into a marketing campaign to support government policies and big business. People who care about the environment should make sure that President Obama is listening.

*Read how EPA worked with industry and the University of Georgia to stop Dr. Lewis' research and end his career in science, see "The Gatekeepers" and "Why EPA was Unprepared for the Gulf Oil Disaster" at [www.hallmanwingate.com](http://www.hallmanwingate.com).*

## VICTORY: Ecuador Secures Trust Fund to Save Rainforest from Oil Developers

Submitted by Bill Boteler  
Ecological Internet, July 31, 2010

It is reported that Ecuador will be compensated for leaving oil reserves in Yasuni National Park untouched. This is a major victory for Ecuador, the rainforest movement and Ecological Internet – which was the first to campaign internationally on the issue.

Ecuador's government announced today it has reached a deal with the United Nations Development Program under which donor countries will compensate Quito for leaving oil reserves untouched in a large, primary, rainforest-filled national park. Yasuni National Park – covering some 9,820 square kilometers (6,098 square miles) or about the size of Massachusetts – is thought to be one of Earth's most biodiversity-rich sites and is also home to several nomadic Indian tribes. Yasuni's preservation (total protection, not "sustainable management" or "conservation") would spare Earth some 410 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions that contribute to global warming; while keeping biodiversity, ecosystems and cultures fully intact. The official signing is reported to be held on Tuesday.

Ecological Internet's Earth Action Network was the first to campaign internationally on threats to Yasuni from oil exploration, successfully internationalizing the issue. "This marvelous rainforest and climate victory is very gratifying and exciting," states Dr. Glen Barry, Ecological Internet President. "Ecological Internet began to campaign in the early 2000s to protect Yasuni National Park from oil development, and continuously since. Like so many of our campaigns, it has just taken off. Our efforts were picked up by *The Ecologist* magazine, and since then a large local and global movement has been built – including the Yasuni-ITT Initiative, Scientists Concerned for Yasuni, Save America's Forest and many other participants – who share in this victory."

In 2007 Ecuador's then-President, Rafael Correa, launched the Yasuni-ITT Initiative, which sought compensation for agreeing



Photo from AmazonWatch.org  
*A revolutionary agreement to leave oil in the ground will keep biodiversity, ecosystems and cultures fully intact.*

to forgo exploiting the estimated 846 million barrels of crude in the Yasuni National Park. Negotiations had centered on the amount of compensation Ecuador would receive, with Correa insisting his nation get at least 3.5 billion dollars over ten years — about half the value of the estimated reserves in the protected area.

When international donors were slow to respond, Ecological Internet launched another campaign which successfully "nudged" donor nations to fund this Yasuni-ITT proposal. As of early this year, about half had been pledged, with Germany (910 million) and Spain (241.8 million) leading the group of donors that included France, Sweden and Switzerland.

Much of the remainder of

the Western Amazon – home to some of the most biodiverse and intact primary rainforest ecosystems left on Earth, which are critical for driving regional and global ecosystems and climatic patterns necessary for life, are threatened with decimation by oil rigs and pipelines. Over 180 oil and gas "blocks" – covering some 688,000 square kilometers (170 million acres) of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and western Brazil (nearly the size of Texas) – areas zoned for exploration and development. This energy production is concentrated in the Amazon's largest remaining un-fragmented primary rainforest wildernesses, containing the most species of birds, mammals and amphibians.

"Destruction of primary rainforests for oil production and other industrial developments is a global ecological emergency. Regional governments, international donors and global citizens must decide whether every last bit of the Earth's old forest wildernesses and intact, large ecosystems which make Earth habitable, will be sacrificed to delay having to transition now to renewable energy sources.

In the process, abrupt runaway climate change, mass extinction and social disintegration will be ensured. This deal, if indeed signed as reported on Tuesday, represents a major new model for achieving global ecological sustainability, which must be replicated wherever primary rainforests shroud oil reserves. Further, it sets the precedent that to truly be protected, primary rainforests must be fully preserved in an intact condition and not 'sustainably managed', which is a myth," explains Dr. Barry.

**Note from the Editor:** *Glen Barry, founder of Ecological Internet, sends out wonderful alerts to protect rainforests. He did a recent fundraiser to keep his organization going so if any of our readers would like to contribute to the cause, you may contact him at EcologicalInternet.org or send a check to: Dr. Glen Barry, Ecological Internet, Inc., 2321 South Oneida Street Suite 6 #267, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304.*



Photo by Emily Dabney

Carla Myers, Maria Wherley and Kristin Peterson prepare for a ride in Oak Hall, near Boalsburg.

## 'See Jane Ride' Gets Women on their Bikes, Moving

By Emily Dabney  
Voices of Central Pennsylvania

In the U.S., women make only half the number of bicycle trips that men do, according to a 2009 *Scientific American* article entitled "Shifting Gears."

Three local women hope to change that. They have started a bicycle touring company hoping to get more women out on two wheels in Centre County.

The founders of See Jane Ride, based in Oak Hall, say they want to bring women of all shapes, sizes and athletic experience together to embrace their physical abilities while exploring the hidden beauty of the region's back roads.

"It's not a race and there's no shame," said co-owner Carla Myers as she described the bike tours.

Their private company hosts weekly rides, offering the introductory ride for free to women who'd like to try out the sport but are hesitant about getting started. Their classes run for six to eight weeks and are designed to combine learning the skills of cycling with nurturing an enjoyment of the activity.

The first ride starts with a lesson that includes training to position seats correctly and practicing proper gear shifting – little details that, when done right, can enhance a rider's physical endurance

and capability. See Jane Ride co-owner Maria Wherley explained. The sessions begin with a five-mile ride. By the last session, the entire group is able to complete a ride of about 22 miles, said Myers.

A major attraction of cycling is that it's a "very empowering type of sport," Myers said.

Wherley said the company has revised the typical bicycle tour by promoting a group atmosphere so that everyone enjoys and shares the adventure together. With initial guidance from the staff and encouragement from more experienced riders, beginners get charged up and become eager to continue the sport, Wherley said.

The tours the company organizes are structured to emphasize local attractions and all tours come with full support, including a full-time, ride-along guide.

"Usually when signing up for a tour, you are given a map and there may or may not be an actual guide riding along with the group," she said. "It's less connected – less of a team."

The more advanced weekend bicycle tours often have a theme, such as the wool tour, which begins on Friday evening with wine, cheese and yoga, and a night in a bed and breakfast. The next day, cyclists stop in Coburn, Pennsylvania for a home-cooked meal by chef and fellow cyclist Bobbie

Dash. The ride continues on to Tamarack Farm, an Icelandic sheep farm in Spring Mills. After another stop at Cooke Tavern in Spring Mills, they all eat dinner at Elk Creek Tavern in Millheim and spend Sunday resting and exploring the Penns Valley area.

"You'd be surprised how many beautiful country roads there are in Millheim," added Kristin Peterson, See Jane Ride's third partner.

The three women are currently creating new tours including a fly fishing and cycling combination with a visit to Eric Stroup's Spruce Creek Fly Co.

Peterson said she feels a bonding experience when biking with her mother, so the three are considering reaching out to teenagers with a mother-daughter ride.

"We want them to look from the inside out. We want to show them what they can do with their bodies," said Myers.

In April, the three women co-sponsored a fundraiser for the Centre County Women's Resource Center and the founders said they are eager to continue their business endeavors centered on a philosophy of charitable work. As their company progresses, they foresee more opportunities to help both local and international charities.

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Voices of Central Pennsylvania,  
www.voicesweb.org.

## AT LAST, A HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER

Continued from page 6

backing to sustainably manage their water resources will continue their work – but they hope to find that work strengthened by the new resolution.

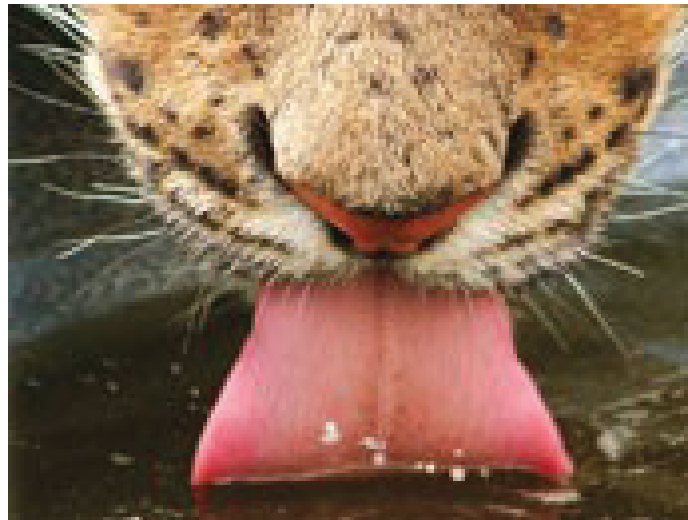
Despite its limitations, Naidoo feels that "this resolution [will] be an important step in a radical rethinking of how our water commons around the globe are managed."

Naidoo reserved his final thanks for Bolivia's ambassador Pablo Solon. Bolivia has played a leadership role in securing the right to water and sanitation since the third World Water Forum in Kyoto. A visionary country working hand-in-hand with a global coalition can make a very big difference indeed.

Currently, Bolivia is building support for a similar UN resolution on the rights of Mother Earth, which would seek, among other goals, to ensure the health of the world's watersheds.

For now, though, the global water-justice movement has achieved an impressive victory and an important tool. Carlos Beas of UCIZONI, an indigenous organization working on food sovereignty in Tehuantepec, Mexico said, "It's approved. And just in time. Now we must put it into practice."

Daniel Moss wrote this article for YES! Magazine, a national, nonprofit media organization that fuses powerful ideas with practical actions. Daniel is co-director of Our Water Commons. He organizes and writes to ensure that our shared abundance is wisely managed.



### ALL LIVING THINGS NEED WATER

It quivers at the end of a leaf in the Amazon.

Rushes thousands of miles to the Gulf of Mexico.

Tumbles from the sky above the Serengeti.

Sits heavy and quiet at the frozen poles.

Water is the blood of the biosphere – the affinity between hydrogen and oxygen that makes the Earth, as we know it, possible.

But like the rest of the planet, it's finite.

And that means it's valuable – and worth celebrating. As we come to terms with advancing deserts and drying aquifers, it's time we fell in love with the simple bundle of atoms that makes the world possible.

## Judge Halts Oil, Gas Development on Chukchi Sea

Continued from page 5

gas leasing in the Chukchi Sea, our ocean and our garden. We hope the Secretary sees where we are coming from and honors his commitment to support tribes and our efforts to carry on the subsistence traditions of our elders. There is too much at stake to take shortcuts," said Caroline Cannon, President of the Native Village of Point Hope.

"The past few months have taught us all a painful lesson about the risks of offshore drilling. An oil spill in the Arctic's broken sea ice would be impossible to respond to. A spill would be the nail in the coffin for Arctic communities and wildlife like polar bears, which are already struggling to survive. And where there is offshore drilling, there are oil spills. This lease sale never should have happened. It was the product of the same broken system that led to poor oversight of BP's drilling operations," said Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune.

"This is a victory for both the Arctic environment and for the communities of Alaska's North Slope. As it has been repeatedly demonstrated, and now reinforced by the BP tragedy in the Gulf, the Department of the Interior and the former Minerals Management Service has failed more often than not at providing the necessary oversight for deci-

sions related to offshore oil and gas development," said Carole Holley, Alaska Program Co-Director at Pacific Environment. "We are hopeful that the federal government will reconsider Chukchi Lease Sale 193, given the irreversible impacts associated with oil and gas activities in one of the most sensitive regions of the world."

"The legal foundation for drilling in the fragile Chukchi Sea has crumbled at Secretary Salazar's feet. With one coast of our country already irrevocably scarred by oil, it is time for the Obama administration to break with the bad decisions of the past and take drilling in the Arctic off the table permanently," said Rebecca Noblin, Alaska director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

"The Arctic Ocean is one of the most productive but least understood biological regions in the world. This decision supports the widely recognized need for sound baseline science before moving forward with risky development in a sensitive region," said Beth Peluso of Audubon Alaska.

"Today's decision proves that the entire program for oil and gas development in the Arctic Ocean is completely flawed and that Lease Sale 193 must be canceled," said Betsy Beardsley, Environmental Justice Program Director for Alaska Wilderness League. "As the people who have

survived off the bounty of those Arctic waters for thousands of years have said from the beginning, the federal government has failed us by allowing risky plans for drilling to proceed. Now that this court and others have agreed, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar must now take the time to gather crucial information about this unique, fragile marine environment and ensure that the Arctic of the future remains a pristine, abundant place."

"This decision halting new drilling in Alaska's Chukchi Sea represents a great opportunity for the Obama Administration to take a new look at the risks of offshore drilling to our oceans, our coasts and marine wildlife," said Jamie Rappaport Clark, Executive Vice President of Defenders of Wildlife. "The Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf has demonstrated clearly just how risky offshore oil drilling can be and the risks in the remote and wild Arctic Ocean are simply too great to take."

"We have had to go to court to force a conversation about the Arctic, the lack of baseline science and response and rescue capabilities," said Michael LeVine, Pacific Senior Counsel for Oceana. "Hopefully, now communities and others will have a seat at the table when these decisions are made about the Chukchi Sea."



# Feed a Red Wiggler: Worm Composting 101

*Continued from page 1*

culturing last Fall by making a scaled-down version of the OSCR worm bin. This small version is made out of three Rubbermaid storage bins and is suitable for home use.

Needing to identify a continuous flow of organic wet food waste, Harder approached Greg Simone, co-owner of the Crouch Merc. Simone says that for some time now, the Merc has chosen to find a home for products that can no longer be placed on the shelf. "In addition to donating regularly to the Garden Valley Food Bank, we take organic produce waste, which would normally be thrown away, and allow Bill to use it for his vermiculture project. Bill is a frequent customer of our store and we're happy that we can assist him with his venture. It's all part of our commitment to the community, from providing donations when possible, to carrying local products, to helping support the Farmers Market."

Not knowing too much about vermiculture or general composting, Harder hooked up with a couple in Garden Valley who have been general composting for years. He introduced the idea of vermiculture to them and they have been very supportive in allowing him to use their composting bins for his excess produce waste and have been instrumental in helping Harder to build the large scale OSCR worm bin.

Bill Harder is on a mission. He would like to start a vermiculture project in Garden Valley and surrounding communities.

This would entail targeting large wet-waste-food generators like the school cafeteria, Project Patch's cafeteria, restaurant kitchens and the senior center. He wants them to take the lead in switching disposal methods from dumping organic waste into the landfill to using the waste for vermiculture.

"The educational benefits of vermiculture are huge," says Harder. "Teaching others that organic wet food waste is a valuable commodity can be a benefit to the entire community of Garden Valley."

Vermiculture is a great educational tool for science, math and business classes, according to Harder. "There is even a Boise preschool class that does worm composting - little kids just love worms. It's also great for a home project or hobby."

Harder suggests it as a great promotional tool for other businesses, such as restaurants, produce stands, organic growers and greenhouses.

Fundraising groups listen up. Harder recommends selling worm castings. "Red wigglers reproduce exponentially, meaning they double in quantity every three months. If you start with two pounds of worms, in three months you'll have four pounds of worms; in another three months, you'll have eight pounds, etc. The worms can be sold as fishing worms, as another fund raising idea. Or they can be given away to promote vermiculture for home use."

Farmers, ranchers and horse



Photo by Dee Polley

Large-scale OSCR worm bin has flap on bottom for retrieving worm castings.

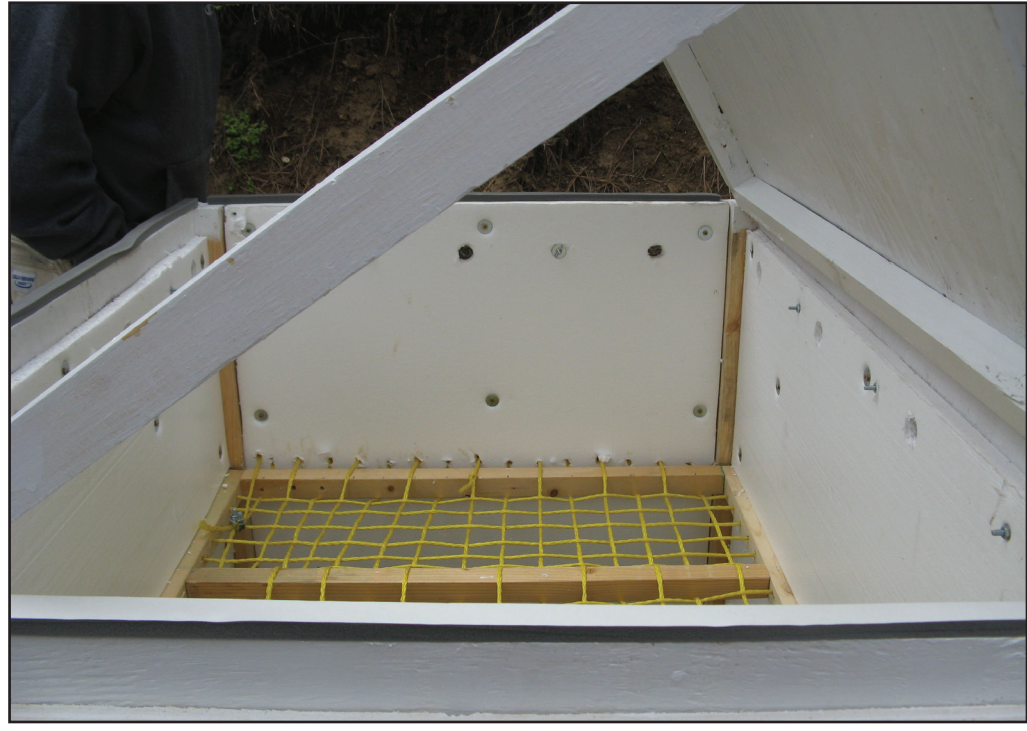


Photo by Dee Polley

Weaving inside bin holds wet food waste products and worms.



Photo by Dee Polley

Worms settled in primary layer of manure and carbon mix.

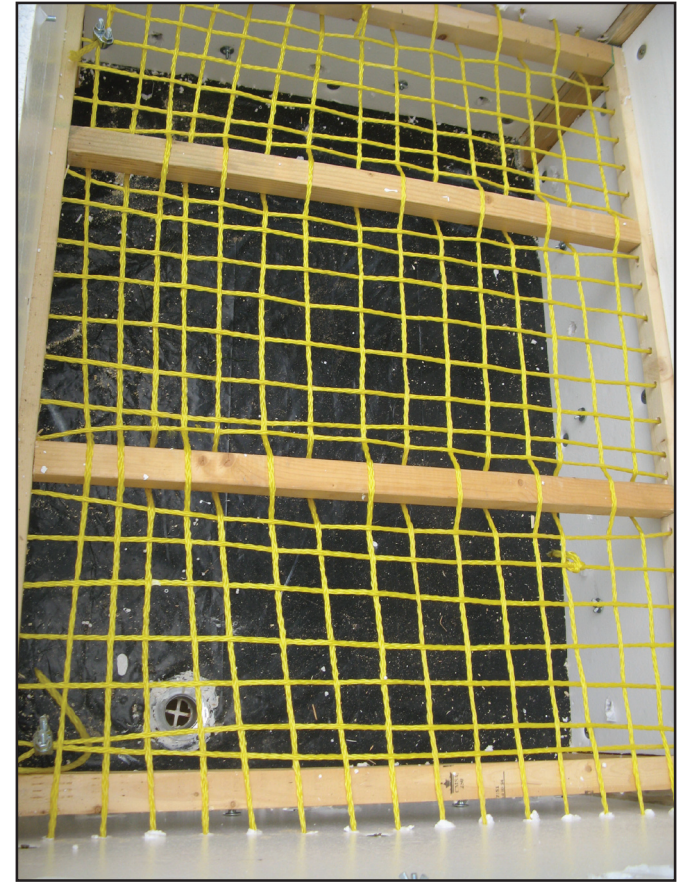


Photo by Dee Polley

Worm bin has airholes and drain on the bottom.

owners can also benefit by turning manure into worm castings for their gardens. "One could say the Red Wigglers are definitely the Cadillac of worms," smiles Harder.

Worm composting is not a new idea. For over 3,000 years, humans have been writing about earthworms. Aristotle called them "the intestines of the earth." In recent years, they have become essential to the United Nations Environment Program's concept of sustainable agriculture.

Vermiculture is reestablishing itself in the "going-green" awakening that is taking place around the country. For example, restaurant owner Dave Krick of Boise, the owner of the Red Feather Lounge and Bittercreek Ale House, does on-site vermiculture in the basement of his restaurant. A Castle Mountain resident has vermicultured for over a year.

Harder currently gets his worms via mail-order but says, "The worms are now happily digesting the primary layer of manure and carbon mix. As they

settle in, layers of organic food waste and certain types of paper products will be added to their diet.

"Once my worms are reproducing and digesting at a lively rate, you won't have to mail order worms for your own vermiculture set-up. I hope to have both live worms and worm castings for sale sometime this summer. Worm-bin building (there are several options) will also be available."

Harder is interested in networking with people and soon will be starting his "Feed a Worm" Facebook page. If anyone is interested in "going green" and would like more information on vermiculture, you can contact "Steamer Bill" Harder at 208-462-3594.

Whether you call their castings Vermigold, Black Gold or Miracle Growth Promoter, Red Wigglers will deliver "safe food" for the environment.

Keep it local and keep it green!

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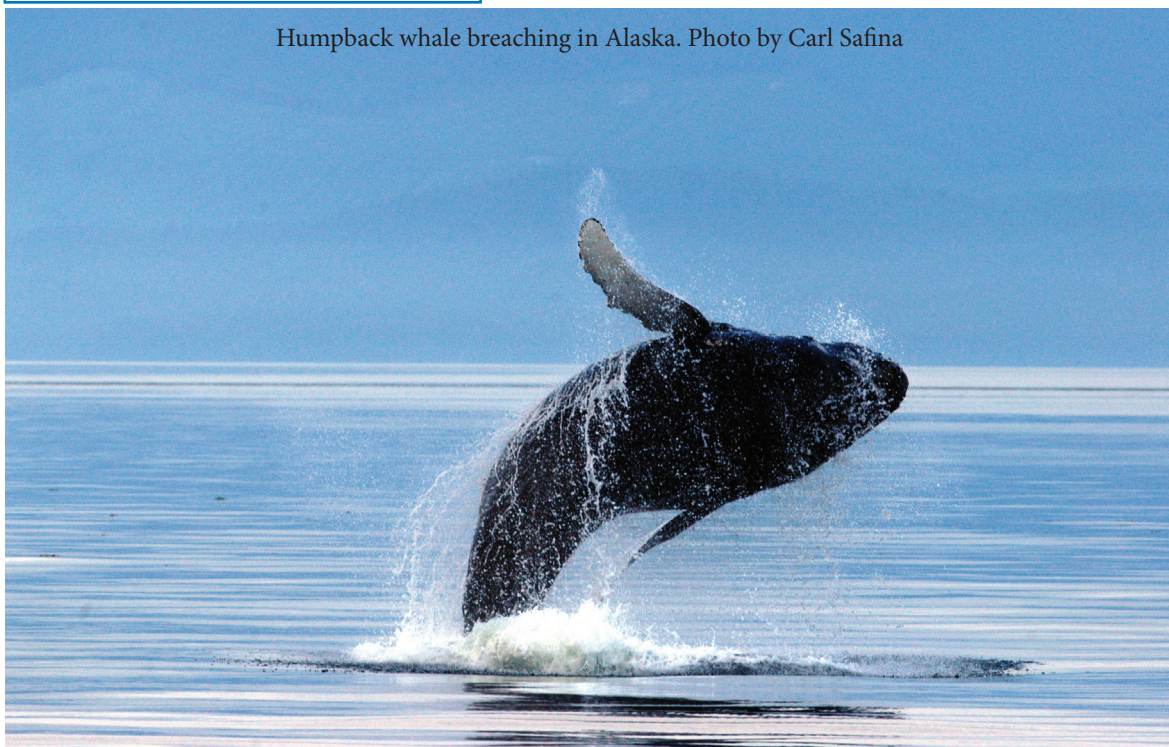
Photo by Anjali Suzanne Angel

E-Z home-made, vermiculture bin like the one Bill is carrying on our front page.

BLUE OCEAN INSTITUTE  
Inspiration, Information, Action

## Carl Safina Receives Award for Outstanding Ocean Advocacy

Humpback whale breaching in Alaska. Photo by Carl Safina



MONTEREY, California, August 3, 2010, WORLDWIRE — BLUE Ocean Film Festival, presented by Monterey Bay Aquarium August 24-29 in Monterey, California, named environmentalist Dr. Carl Safina the recipient of the 2010 Sylvia Earle Award. BLUE Ocean Film Festival is a one-of-a-kind film industry and community event bringing together films, filmmakers and leaders in ocean research and conservation.

Carl Safina's writing explores the scientific, moral and social dimensions of our relationship with nature. His writing has been awarded such distinctions as *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, *Los Angeles Times* "Best Nonfiction," *Library Journal's* "Best Science Book," Lannan Liter-

ary Award, John Burroughs Medal, the National Academies' "Year's Best Book for communicating science." Safina is a recipient of the Pew Scholar's Award in Conservation and the Environment, Chicago's Brookfield Zoo's Rabb Medal and a MacArthur prize, among many other honors. He is an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University and founding president of Blue Ocean Institute ([blueocean.org](http://blueocean.org)).

Honoring her long legacy of groundbreaking achievements as a deep-sea explorer, noted marine scientist, accomplished underwater filmmaker, renowned author and tireless ocean advocate, the award was presented to Dr. Earle in 2009 and carries her name. BLUE and Dr. Earle have joined forc-

es to present this special achievement award for outstanding ocean advocacy.

BLUE's Global Advisory Board was charged with selecting this year's recipient. Award guidelines specified the nominees should be individuals whose work has made important contributions in one or more of the following categories: ocean science, issue awareness, educational outreach, conservation advocacy, effective policy implementation, public engagement in ocean conservation and sustainability, grass roots action and tangible results in preserving ocean health.

For a complete list of films, visit: [www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org](http://www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org). Contact Sarah Marquis at 949-222-2212.

# Mountains



## Coal River Mountain Watch

# Appalachia Rising

## “Voices of the Mountains” Conference September 25-26

*Followed by Mass Demonstration Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>*

### Future Hope Column: “Don’t Let Up, Fight Harder”

By Ted Glick  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Judy Bonds may not be physically present when thousands of people take action September 27<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. to demand an end to mountaintop removal and strip mining, and that would be a real shame. If there is one person who has done more in their life to shake up the coal barons and, in her words, “put them on the ropes,” it’s Judy Bonds, co-director of Coal River Mountain Watch.

Judy may not be there because she learned last month that she has stage three cancer. Treatment will take at least three months. There’s no question, however, that Judy will be there in spirit, and that her spirit is guiding the growing Appalachia Rising coalition (<http://www.appalachiarising.org>). This coalition is organizing a two-day “Voices of the Mountains” conference the weekend of September 25 to 26 followed by a mass demonstration on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>. The action on the 27<sup>th</sup> will demand an end to mountaintop removal and all forms of steep-slope surface mining. In addition to a vibrant, permitted march and rally, dignified non-violent civil disobedience is being organized for those

who wish to express themselves by risking arrest.

Appalachia Rising was initiated by leading individual activists in Appalachia from groups like Coal River Mountain Watch, Mountain Justice, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, On Coal River, Climate Ground Zero, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and many others.

One-hundred organizations have endorsed the action so far and the list continues to grow. Among those with name recognition who have endorsed, some of whom will be taking part, are: Jim Hansen, Bill McKibben, Kathy Mattea, Ashley Judd, Wendell Berry, Gloria Reuben, Woody Harrelson, Darryl Hannah, Kyra Sedgewick, Kevin

Bacon and Ed Begley, Jr.

The cause of ending mountaintop removal is a popular one. According to a poll conducted in 2008 by the Appalachian Center for the Economy and the Environment, two-thirds of all U.S. Americans, including two-thirds of West Virginians where the practice is widespread, oppose mountaintop removal.

Under the Obama Administration, there has been progress toward the objective of ending these assaults on God’s creation. In the last year the Environmental Protection Agency has released new guidelines to curtail mountaintop removal under the Clean Water Act and the Army Corps of Engineers has suspended Nationwide Permit

21, which, under the Bush administration, had streamlined the valley-fill permitting process to the benefit of the coal industry.

Bo Webb, co-coordinator of Appalachia Rising, sees these as steps in the right direction but he points out that, “Blasts still sound at 4:00 p.m. daily above communities across Appalachia, and in late June the EPA permitted a new 760-acre site that would bury three miles of streams in Logan County, West Virginia. We’ve had one-and-a-half years of Obama and met with all kinds of government agencies and still no abolition of mountaintop removal. I think that some people may now be comfortable with continuing a dialogue with

enforcement agencies and congressional members, thinking that we’re getting somewhere, we’re close, let’s keep talking. But what I’m observing is that we are reaching out to them, they are not reaching out to us. If we shut up and go away, case closed, bomb Appalachia.”

As important as this mobilization is to prevent one of this country’s worst environmental crimes, it’s also important as an example to the broader climate and progressive movements.

It’s important because it’s an example of a mobilization being led by those most affected by injustice. This is a key principle for all of us to appreciate and take seriously. Fundamental changes aren’t made unless those on the receiving end of injustice are in the central leadership of efforts to overcome it.

It’s also important as an example of the kind of action needed on a wide range of issues: broadly-based, the demands being popularly-supported, combining a mix of nonviolent tactics including more-edgy-but-essential civil disobedience, and being clear that we can’t accept half-measures and incremental steps.

We need to let government leaders know that we’re not into playing politics, playing nice, playing along with their view of what’s best to set things up for the next election. We’re in this to truly make change for the benefit of people and the planet, and soon.

In an interview posted on Grist.org in 2003, Judy Bonds summarized her vision for Appalachia:

“We’d like for [coal companies] to mine coal responsibly, but we also want to bring in other industries. We want diverse economic development so that we have something when the coal is gone - and that day is not far away. We need to wean ourselves. Our government knows this and the alternatives are there but the political will is missing.”

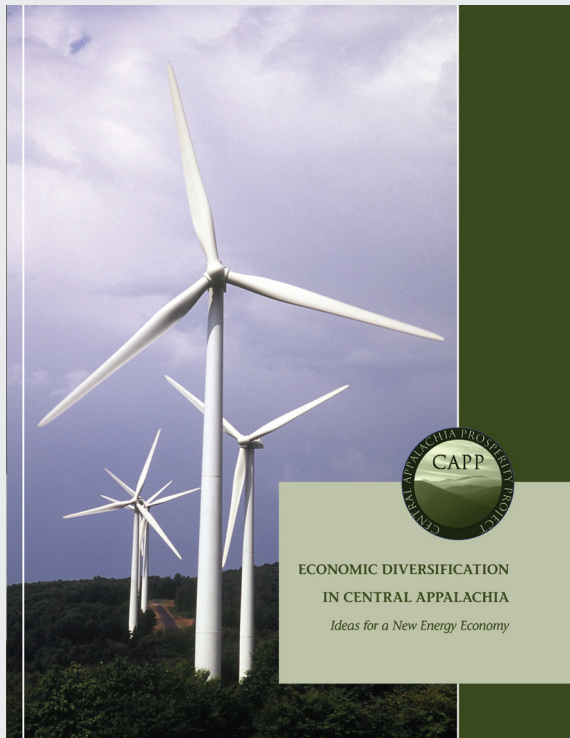
She went on to speak words more true now than ever:

“At the same time, we can no longer blame the industry and politicians. It’s our fault, too. We have to get off our duffs, get our noses out of the TV, and get our children to speak up. We really need to push.”

In Judy’s spirit, let’s keep pushing until September 27<sup>th</sup> and beyond to win a victory for the people of Appalachia, for people and God’s mountains everywhere.

*Ted Glick is the Policy Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network. Past columns and other information can be found at <http://www.tedglick.com>.*

## New Report Offers Ideas for Sustainable Prosperity in Central Appalachia



Central Appalachia must start now to diversify its economy and protect its endowment of natural resources if it wishes to weather a “perfect storm” of developments in the coal industry.

That’s the conclusion of a report issued by the Central Appalachia Prosperity Project (CAPP) at the end of its one-year project to gather ideas on how the four states in the region can make the transition to a clean and sustainable energy economy.

“A perfect storm is brewing for regions in the United States whose economies depend on the production of fossil fuels,” the report concludes. “One of those regions is Appalachia, whose natural resources, including timber and coal, have helped fuel America’s economy for generations.”

CAPP was launched in April 2009 by Dr. David Orr, the noted professor of environmental studies at Oberlin College in Ohio, and Bill Becker, a former official of the U.S. Department of Energy. It was administered by Becker

at the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs. The project was funded with a grant from philanthropist Adam Lewis.

The report contains more than 30 suggestions for new programs and policies to diversify the economies of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Among the recommendations:

- The four states should adopt a strong suite of policies to promote energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

- The Obama Administration should make Central Appalachia the first pilot project in a federal program to designate and assist “Clean Energy Enterprise Zones” in regions that rely heavily on coal, oil and gas extraction.

- The four states should make more strategic use of tax revenues from the coal industry to invest in sustainable economic develop-

ment.

- Restoration of damaged ecological systems and remediation of slurry, ash and other coal wastes are opportunities for creating jobs while rebuilding the region’s natural capital.

- The leading strategy for economic diversification should be funding, training and other efforts to encourage local entrepreneurship and small business development. Business incubators, micro-loans for small local enterprises, and increased help from the Small Business Administration are among the report’s recommendations.

CAPP commissioned nearly two dozen experts, most of them from the region, to offer ideas on economic diversification.

“We found out what many of the people in Appalachia already know: One of the region’s greatest hopes for the future is the rich collection of tal-

ented people who live there and who are dedicated to building sustainable prosperity,” Becker said. “New organizations have been formed and older organizations have been re-energized to help bring about this transition. The creative energy in the region is incredible.”

Among the elements of the coal industry’s “perfect storm,” the report says, are the need for the United States and other nations to reduce carbon emissions, declining coal production in Appalachia, tighter federal regulation of mining’s environmental impacts, a growing movement to reduce national and international subsidies for fossil fuels, the increasing competitiveness of renewable energy, and the trend away from building new coal-fired power plants.

*Copies of the report are available from Becker at [bbecker@natcapsolutions.org](mailto:bbecker@natcapsolutions.org). CAPP also sponsored a special issue of the journal Solutions, dedicated to “The Future of Appalachia.”*

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# Friend of OE Reports on Rainbow Gatherings in "His" Forest

By John Stoneman (a/k/a Stony)  
Bradford, Pennsylvania

**Note from author:** As you may have heard, we recently had a "Rainbow People Gathering" here in the Allegheny National Forest from July 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>. I went and I wrote a story about it. I also made a Web page (<http://www.angelfire.com/pa2/STONEMAN-GUITARS/rainbow.html>) with a couple hundred photos.

## Prior Experiences with the Rainbow People

The last time they were here in Pennsylvania in the Allegheny National Forest (ANF, outside of Ridgeway Pennsylvania) I unexpectedly ran into the aftermath of the Rainbow Gathering. I had no idea that some 20-thousand people gathered in the forest in the ANF! No idea at all. It was a time in my life when I didn't pay attention to the news, especially the local news.

I was out in an area scouting for caves . . . following up on a rumor of a cave location. I was on the road that must have been a main entrance to the gathering. What I saw shocked me! Piles of garbage all over. I got out and hiked around a bit to try to find out what was going on. I ran into a couple of hippies who were cleaning up . . . or attempting to clean up! They seemed surprised that I didn't hear about their gathering.

One area I saw was "tamped down" to bare dirt or mud. It looked like a tornado ripped through a garbage dump. The hippies said they were picking up garbage but really they were on a salvage mission and picking through the stuff for items they could recycle or perhaps trade off.

It was a horrible mess. The damage I witnessed to the field stuck with me all these years.

I hadn't thought much about the Rainbow People again after all these years until a few weeks ago when I learned they were coming back! Back to my forest!

Naturally it brought back memories of the damage they left behind the last time they were here. As it turns out, after I spent the last two weeks on the Internet learning about "all things Rainbow" . . . I learned that in 1999, I had walked into a mess two days after the event that was in the process of being cleaned up. That year they cleaned up for a couple months. And I was there only two days into the start of the clean-up.

When I heard about this gathering, the first thing that came to mind was how big an area a group that big camping for a week impacts.

And, even though I may see eye-to-eye with some of them on political views, I can't give them a "free pass" when it comes to the unavoidable destruction that they do to the forest. Especially when I hear them talk about caring about the land or the Earth and calling themselves "environmentalists."

But I thought about it long and hard and decided to go there to witness it for myself - this time during the event - not two days after the event before the clean-up really got rolling!

Unfortunately, a gathering this size creates a lot's of destruction of the forest, from trails and paths cut through wetlands to temporary shelters built from live trees and plants. And even some streams and creeks were altered a bit. Not to mention camps and tents near animal habitat. I witnessed lots of "no-no's." Some things "environmentalists" shouldn't do.

But on the other side of the coin, just to put their destruction in proper perspective, this group of over ten-thousand people might have done about the same amount of physical damage to the land than just a couple of remotely located oil wells and their associated required infrastructure such as well pads, access roads, water supply, drainage, ponds and tank batteries, etc. I've seen very small oil operations with very few wells that ruined more area than all of these "over ten thousand" people did!

So yes, it's a shame they "tamped down" so many miles of trails and tent sites but I would describe their damage as "soft impact," mostly done by spreading a tarp or blanket over the ground and a lot done by people walking in bare feet. Not nearly



Photos by John Stoneman

(top left) People walking to the Rainbow Gathering in the Allegheny National Forest. "It was a very well-behaved bunch. The excessive number of cops on horse back "tearing up the trails and woods" (top right) were the most annoying thing out there - the mounted police and the helicopter circling overhead . . . I would love to see the police . . . watch the oil producers and loggers as intensely as they did this group!"

(Below) There was a thatched hut that was really cool looking, one of my favorites. BUT it was made mostly from live plants and tree limbs! A real "no-no" for an environmentally friendly camper! It looked cool but we can't all go out and cut live trees and bushes for shelter!



the same kind of impact caused by power equipment the oil and gas producers use on the land.

And maybe we really should give them a "break" considering their idealistic motive - to pray for world peace, rather than the motives of the oil companies, which are recklessly drilling the hell out of our national forest, putting in thousands of "stripper wells" for selfish, obscene profits. The Allegheny National Forest, our only national forest in Pennsylvania, has over TWELVE-THOUSAND WELLS!

So when you step back and look at the big picture, the Rainbow People don't seem that bad after all. Yes, they do damage to the forest but so do other users. And no, two wrongs do not make a right. My concern is anything that destroys the forest and I don't have any biases or prejudices. Oil companies ruin the forest, pipelines ruin the forest, logging operations ruin the forest, road-building ruins the forest and even hippie gatherings ruin the forest. But the commercial use of the forest hurts our forest way more than a large "family" camping for a week every ten or twelve years or so.

This year it was a very respectful, peaceful crowd. It surprised me how pleasant the whole experience was. I had no idea I was that loved by so many hippies!

It was a very well-behaved bunch. The excessive number of cops on horseback "tearing up the trails and woods" were the most annoying thing out there, the mounted police and the helicopter circling overhead. There could have been fewer cops and dogs in my humble opinion.

I would love to see the police, including all the various agencies that came out for this event, and the stewards of the forest, like the Allegheny National Forest personnel, watch the oil producers and loggers as intensely as they did this group!

I'd bet if they scrutinized any single one of the many oil producers this closely, they would end up with more violations than these ten-thousand-plus had!

Sic some of those drug-sniffing dogs on a few of the oil producers working in this same area and see what you come up with! But you might have to retrain the dogs to sniff out cocaine instead of marijuana!

## My Visit to the Rainbow Gathering 2010

As most people who know me know, I sold my car a few years ago. All my transportation or recreational vehicles are human powered! Sort of my way of "swearing off" gasoline or fossil fuels. So I "car-pooled" to the gathering with a small group of friends. Four of us went and "chipped in" for gas.

We got to the site in the mid-morning. Even this early in the day it was starting to get real hot. But we were all "clean cut" and, despite our tie-dyed shirts, we all looked more like off-duty cops than weekend hippies!

We went in through the main gate off of FR (forest road) 119 through what they call "A" camp. "A" camp is supposed to be for those who choose to consume alcohol. This is the "Welcome Home" greeting camp. These are not your standard Wal-mart greeters! Instead picture a scene out of a Mad Max movie! Maybe like a camp set up outside the gates of Thunderdome!

As our neat, clean, well-groomed group approached the gate, all the occupants who were welcoming the others before us started all jumping around shouting "six up, six up, six up" over and over again, obviously a warning of our presence. I assumed they thought we were cops or maybe undercover forestry workers (which we weren't) so it was pretty funny! They jumped around, scurrying about, like scared mon-

keys in the jungle when a predator was in their midst!

After passing through "A" camp, it was a very long trek, mostly downhill, toward the "main meadow." It started out through a fairly shady, big tall open woods but then turned and followed "Queen Creek" downstream through a brushy, wet, swampy area that used parts of an old abandoned railroad grade at times.

Soon we noticed more and more tents and camps set up to either side in the shady woods that were mostly Hemlock and Pine. Not too long after we came to some bigger camps built around kitchens.

After passing through a few bigger camps, or kitchens, we entered the "main meadow" near the information tent and the map of the area.

We decided to cross Queen Creek to the west near the biggest swimming hole and head toward the "trading circle," something we all wanted to see.

In the main meadow, we saw a group of mounted state police on horses and just by chance they happened to be going the same way we were so we followed the police over the creek and toward the "green path" that went from the Trading Circle to the area called "Granola Funk."

Hiking along the green path, I noticed that eight or 10 mounted police do more damage to the woods than, say, ten-thousand barefoot hippies do! The horse hooves chipped and chewed up the exposed tree roots and, in soft places, sank deep pockets into the trail. The horses actually do more physical damage than, say, even the illegal dirt bikes and ATV's! The environment might have fared better had the cops been on four-wheelers with big soft "donut" tires (pun intended)!

After our visit to the Trading Circle, we headed over to "Granola Funk." To enter the stage area, we went up a really cool set of stairs and through a gateway that looked like a piece off a "Survivor"

set (the popular TV show).

And the stage itself was a masterpiece that looked like it could have been a movie-set piece. Very well done. Just to the left of the entrance to Granola Funk, there was a thatched hut that was really cool looking, one of my favorite sites, BUT it was made mostly from live plants and tree limbs! A real "no-no" for an environmentally friendly camper! It looked cool but we can't all go out and cut live trees and bushes for shelter!

After visiting the "Funk" we crossed some well-made bridges and wandered through an open woods, past more big camps and kitchens, back toward the open fields and the main meadow.

By now it's mid-afternoon and really hot in the blazing sun! It topped out at about 96! It was hot, with no clouds in the sky and no wind!

We decided to head back to the car and we tried to go back a slightly different route to stay in the shady woods as long as we could. We did see a few nudists walking around but not really that many. And, truth be told, I didn't see one person openly smoking dope! Nor did I smell it! Don't get me started on the smells! But just imagine ten-thousand hippies baking in the hot sun for a week and the only water holes were muddy, stagnant, bacteria-filled "swimming holes" in Queen Creek.

About half way back to the car, there was a garbage pile along the trail and I picked up an armload to carry out to help with the clean-up effort. I always try to carry out more than I hike in with. And I will probably go back this weekend just to help carry garbage out of the area again.

After touring the gathering area, on our way home, I did talk to the woman who owns the big gas station/deli/sub-shop in Sheffield (the Citgo station) and she had nothing but praise for the Rainbows! She said this past week has been her most profitable week ever and that she didn't observe or experience ANY shoplifting at all.

I would highly recommend that anybody who might be remotely interested in checking it out, attend one of these gatherings! There is nothing to be afraid of. Overall, the group is very friendly and respectful!

Peace and love!  
Stony (pictured below)

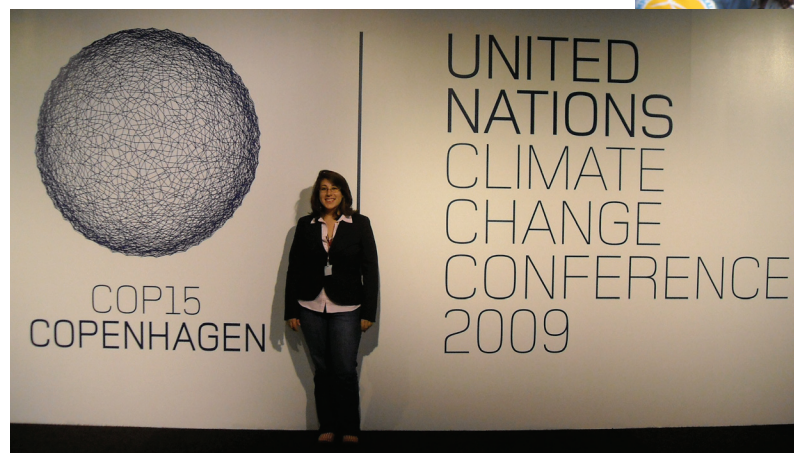


Stony

# Angie in Action



Angie De Soto takes her global heating activism to the streets and to the international conference in Copenhagen last year.



## FROM DRUNKEN PARTY GIRL TO CLIMATE-CHANGE ACTIVIST

By Paul Rogat Loeb  
*Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Times*

When we try to engage people politically we never know who will respond or when someone will shift from reveling in their apathy to taking powerful public stands. Here's a striking example of one such transformation.

Virginia Tech freshman Angie De Soto didn't vote in the 2004 election. The president, she thought, had nothing to do with her life. She didn't care who won. Instead, she and friends played a drinking game in one of their dorm rooms. Nobody cared who won the election so they divided into random "red" and "blue" teams and chugged a beer each time new results on TV favored their team. Angie woke up the next morning hung over and with no idea of the election outcome but it hardly seemed to matter.

When Angie started college, she focused mostly on her social life and picked her classes almost at random. But midway through a Resources Geology lecture course, her professor told the students, "I'm going to talk about an issue that's going to change your whole future." For two days, he discussed global climate change and Angie, who'd never heard of it, was stunned. She called her mother, who worked as a teacher, and said "Mom, I just learned about global warming. What is this? Have you heard about it?" Her mother had no idea what Angie was talking about even after she tried to explain it. "Neither did any of the girls on my hall," Angie said. "I just kept asking myself why I hadn't heard about something this important and why more people weren't doing anything about it. Didn't they know? Didn't they care? Did they just not know what to do?"

Virginia Tech had a nascent student group called the Environmental Coalition (EC) but Angie had never encountered them. The group's presence was negligible on the school's largely politically-disengaged campus of 28,000. Angie was too shy to approach her professor and she didn't know what to do beyond trying to learn more through searching out related Web sites and taking an environmental policy class. Then, while Angie was walking across campus one day, a young woman from the Environmental Coalition approached her to sign a petition for a green fee by which "students would pay a bit extra to support the campus recycling program and small (energy) efficiency projects." Angie started going to EC meetings. Although she liked the people and the effort they were making, she felt they weren't making the impact that they could; they did little to bring in new members and administrators wouldn't return their phone calls or emails.

That changed when Angie received a scholarship to attend a student climate conference. "They taught us everything about how to organize: how to recruit people, plan events, run effective meetings, develop leadership, raise money and lead large-scale campaigns. I came back incredibly charged up, eager to teach as many other students as I could

what I'd learned. For the first time, I began to feel like this was my calling. That one class changed my life with a sense of what we're facing. I felt I finally had the skills to do something about it."

Through her involvement, Angie learned about the Public Interest Research Groups, the PIRGs, which combine campus organizing with neighborhood canvassing and legislative campaigns. After finding a Sacramento, California PIRG office that was working for a state cap on climate emissions, she accepted an aunt's invitation to stay with her there. Angie worked 13 hours a day as a field manager, knocking on doors to talk with people about the issues. Angie had been working since her first year of high school, including fifteen hours a week in the Virginia Tech dining halls and, "This was more hours for less money than any job I'd had. But I loved it. It was one of the best experiences of my life," she said.

The PIRGs helped pass the California state climate-change bill and Angie returned to Virginia "on top of the world. Before, I was too intimidated to approach people because we just didn't talk about environmental issues on our campus. Now I'd go up to everyone." She kicked the EC into high gear, setting up a major concert with local bands and training members to approach local media, gather names for the email list and table at the student center. "We'd approach people as they walked by and ask if they wanted to stop global warming. Then we'd talk about the issues and try to get them involved. I had grown a thick skin from getting the door slammed all those times when I was canvassing so if they didn't respond I just asked the next person."

As Angie's involvement deepened, she found more ways to act on her newfound convictions. She brought over 100 Virginia Tech students to Power Shift, a national student climate change conference held at the University of Maryland. Angie also helped plan the entertainment and as she looked out from the stage at 6,000 students, "felt for the first time like we really have a movement."

Working with 18 other student groups, the EC also built a Coalition for Campus Sustainability that even included the college Republicans, which delighted Angie because, as she stressed, "This was an issue that should transcend political parties."

Meanwhile, the campus recycling department hired her to coordinate and train a team of 30 student volunteers who educated dorm residents on environmental issues and ways to reduce their individual impact.

In the process, the EC became one of the school's largest student groups with a 1,600-name listserv. And they finally got a meeting with college president Charles Steger. "We went in very organized," Angie said. "We dressed professionally, were professional in our tone and word choice and brought thoroughly-researched proposals." The group members asked Steger to join 600 of his peers who had signed the national Presidents' Climate Commitment.

Steger balked at just signing a statement and instead offered to create a comprehensive campus plan, which he said would mean far more. He commissioned a committee of administrators, faculty and students to draft a plan by Fall. The committee hired Angie and she spent the summer pulling together ideas and highly-specific implementation plans from the EC group

and from other schools.

"This issue can be so overpowering," she said, "but if we bring it down to what we can do as individuals and as a campus, people feel they can make a difference." Although administrators initially said "No" to some suggestions, "We didn't freak out. You have to keep approaching them, coming up with new ideas, offering reasonable and feasible solutions."

After the group completed the plan, Angie was hired to carry it out as university policy. Among many changes, the school enacted comprehensive recycling procedures, switched to high-efficiency light bulbs, installed energy-saving occupancy sensors in the classrooms and took steps to ensure that new buildings would meet strong environmental standards. The campus saved \$200,000 in just one month by lowering winter thermostats to a still-comfortable 68 degrees — and would save more by slightly raising the summer settings. The dining halls decreased food waste by 38 percent by eliminating trays and developed a plan for composting the rest.

The university also pledged to explore alternative fuels, make environmentally-responsible purchasing a priority and look into additional efficiency gains, including phasing out their aging coal-fired boilers.

"I started out just an apathetic drunken party girl with no clear path in my life," Angie said. "Now I'm implementing our campus sustainability plan. People change and even massive institutions can change."

Adapted from *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Times* by Paul Rogat Loeb (\$16.99 paperback). See [www.paulloeb.org](http://www.paulloeb.org).

## INVITATION TO WONDER *The Gathering*

By Elizabeth Ayres  
California, Maryland

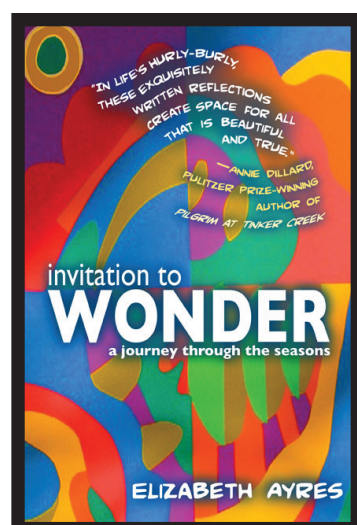
Plucking apples one by one, to make cider in the wooden press. Above a leafy green fretwork, the ripening moon hangs in a late afternoon sky. A mockingbird scolds from its rooftop perch and, in the garden, fat bees trundle from one blossom to the next collecting nectar to make honey in their secret, mysterious press.

If I had wings, I, too, could drone contentedly about my task but these two arms will have to do, so I hum softly to myself. It feels good to be nestled within Earth's two great wings of morning and evening, a day much like all the others yet unique unto itself, simultaneously unremarkable and unrepeatable.

With Christina and Frank away, the Allen homestead is my responsibility these next few hours. In the barn, I trade a five-gallon bucket filled with apples for a stack of empty, half-pint berry boxes and stop to watch the swallows flit from beam to beam in endless pursuit of their insect meal. My trek back to the garden is enlivened by the darting shimmer of dragonflies, also hunting insect prey, and I remember a story I read once, long ago, about dragonflies, those harbingers of change. Born of water, maturing into air, living their short, magical lives with an exuberant joy we might all do well to imitate in our own ephemeral existence.

The blackberries are heavy with sunshine. They smell purple, they taste purple, they stain my fingers purple and tomorrow someone will buy them at the store and take this sweet purple sunshine home to eat. I pray that their meal will somehow include the lacy filigree of blackberry leaves, gold-stippled in this early evening light. And the eager squash vines hauling themselves upwards on the fruit-laden arc of blackberry branches bending to touch the earth. And the elegiac cooing of the doves. And the cloud-scarves draped so elegantly across sky's azure shoulders, gauzy wisps of white, of pink, of lavender, of gray.

Yes, evening is coming on now. The sheep are bleating in the field, crowded together by



the gate which I'll unlatch so they can rush into the warm arms of the waiting barn. I'll round up the chickens and herd the turkeys into their roosts. Soft clucks and muted gobbles will form the words of this night's lullaby, set to the pleated pulsing of crickets and frogs, punctuated by the haphazard strobe of fireflies, as darkness settles on the homestead like a broody hen's extended wing.

Christina will rise before dawn tomorrow, to lead the sheep out, to let the chickens and turkeys run free, and I shall, no doubt, be dreaming still as I dart about on wings that blossom from azure shoulders, feathers all pink and white and lavender and gray, gathering a sweet and secret nectar from each and every task.

And who's to say it isn't real food, real drink? Who would dare to call it merely magical, this meal? This joyful, this ephemeral, this sacred, this unrepeatable, unrepeatable day.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of *Know the Way and Writing the Wave*, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing ([CreativeWritingCenter.com](http://CreativeWritingCenter.com)). A book-length collection of her reflections will be available in September. The late Thomas Berry praised Elizabeth's work, saying, "Lovely. Shows amazing breadth of thought." Annie Dillard says, "In life's hurly-burly, these exquisitely written reflections create space for all that is beautiful and true." You can order *Invitation to Wonder: A Journey Through the Seasons* at [www.InvitationToWonder.com](http://www.InvitationToWonder.com).

### On the Survival of Arctic Poppies: They don't like heat or oil.

By Sandy Chilcote  
Newfoundland, Canada

Submitted with this note: Arctic poppies will not grow here on the Island because it is too warm. They grow well in Labrador.



Photo from [news scientist.com](http://news scientist.com)  
Arctic Poppies are just one of millions of species adapting to global heating.

old thoughts  
old friends – old thunderstorms in spring  
everything is old  
dust and ice  
and before dust – whatever is before dust  
and before ice – whatever is before ice  
whatever always is and was before dust and ice  
and is and was before my old thoughts  
my old friends and me  
it was probably a burst of color like an arctic poppy

### *Earth Psalms: Song 73*

By Angela Magara ©  
[www.angelamagara.com](http://www.angelamagara.com)

*It's not that I don't see the beauty. No  
I see it, yet  
I am so held by longing.  
DVD, magazine, seeds, yarn, books, a bed, a blanket, a windmill,  
All the time my mind is fixed on objects,  
fixed on earning,  
fixed on saving,  
fixed on surviving,  
that I can't remember the sublime.*

*Love is opening like a pomegranate  
spilling juice and color without care.  
Until I am satisfied.  
And fear finds its way home.*

*It's not that our country doesn't know justice. No  
We know it, yet  
We are held by longing . . .*

*Love is opening,  
I am opening,  
opening we,  
until all longing is quieted.*

*Earth Psalms* is full of familiar words spoken in a new voice based on the Biblical Psalms but with the heart of Earth-based spirituality. Printed with the author's permission.

## Food and Health

### Mark's Green Party

#### Saving the Co-Op: Part VIII

### The Fountain of Vitamin A

By Mark Lautman  
Rockville, Maryland



bud off the flower and rubbed it on a hangnail. Within seconds the hangnail was gone. The rumors about the Broccoli Crown were true — it was the Fountain of Youth!

"Make sure you keep it in a cool place," said the seller as he got back into his truck. "I can also get you twenty ounces of Princess Barbara's Gooseberry Preserve. It has so much sugar it will cryogenically freeze your liver right inside your body. Let me know." The seller drove off.

The buyer held the Broccoli Crown in his hands, marveling at his acquisition. He would have loved to eat the entire vegetable on the spot but knew that he was just a link in a chain of buyers and sellers, merchants of a contraband that flowered with the gaining popularity of sustainable living.

Suddenly floodlights turned on all around him.

"This is the police. Stop where you are, drop everything and put your hands in the air."

The buyer panicked and tossed the Broccoli Crown through one of the co-op's basement windows. He held his hands up. An officer approached and asked him what he was doing in the parking lot at this time of night.

"Picking chocolate truffles," he replied. The officer demanded that the buyer take a breathalyzer test. The buyer acceded and sure enough he tested positive for a 185 blood-sugar level, far above the legal limit for loitering. He was taken into custody where he could spend the night with his favorite herbal tea.

Two weeks later a woman who looked like a supermodel walked elegantly into the co-op. She approached Palette Jack, who was spending the day separating yams from sweet potatoes.

"Listen here, young man," she said caustically. "Where do you keep the prunes? I have a serious case of constipation."

"Excuse me, miss?" said Palette Jack. He was so flustered by the woman's beauty that he put all the yams back into the sweet potato bin.

"Don't call me miss, you numbskull," retorted the woman. "I'm your Aunt Chloe, can't you recognize me?"

"Aunt Chloe?" gasped an unbelieving Palette Jack. "What, uh, happened to you?"

"What happened to me? Well, I picked up that Broccoli Crown you carelessly left in the basement two weeks ago. It was all dusty, so I figured I'd just take it home for myself, after paying for it, of course. I'm not one of those free-loaders like your Uncle Norwood. Anyway, I made my favorite recipe, Broccoli with Garlic and Soy Sauce, and the next thing I knew I look liked this!"

Mark Lautman writes humorous articles on technology and the holistic lifestyle.

The seller looked at the Broccoli Crown and was breathless at the find. If this was the real thing, \$23.50 was worth the price. However, he wasn't sure of the seller's honesty. "How do I know this isn't a forgery?"

"Try it for yourself," said the seller. "Take a bud off the crown and rub it on a part of your body that hurts you."

The buyer carefully picked a



Photo by Iona

Al Fry demonstrating the vortex-producing gadget on his water system, used to restore the life-force of the water.

### Secret Ways of Water

#### Part II

By Al Fry

Garden Valley, Idaho (Part I was in our September 2009 issue)

In Part I it was easy to understand how water is upgraded by meandering along streams and in little vortexes past stones. Nature doesn't use right angles or straight lines to charge up life forms like water.

We humans live in a world that has been deliberately placed in a "reflective" reality that has blocked off God's laws and principles. Our "elite" rulers keep their king-of-the-hill games going by blocking out truth and comprehension. In some of the older civilizations we see a greater understanding of water. They realized water possessed a life force we needed and refrained from killing water as we now tend to do. As with other carbon-based life forms, water needs oxygen to remain healthy. Water deep in the Earth gets automatically pulled up to the surface to get oxygenated. Springs near the mountain tops will typically be lacking in oxygen. After swirling along in the cool, little mountain streams, water will get vitalized.

Today, we typically store water in square, plastic or metal containers and this vital energy or "prana" gets slowly drained off. Some of the ancient cultures knew better and would store their water in egg-shaped, clay containers that allowed the water to circulate and "breathe." Even today some liquids like fine wine must be aged in wood casks . . . or get bottled with wooden corks to keep their best flavor. A few researchers who have read the works of Victor Schauburger have tried to get these points across.

Schauburger was a German forester who kept telling his countrymen they were destroying their healthy environment by cutting down the forests and straightening out the river beds. The forests keep the ground cover cooler and this helps retain the minerals and fertility . . . and the water flowing to the whole area around them. Where the indoctrinated engineers and "experts" straightened the rivers and thinned out the forests, the health of all the life in the area suffered. Now and then there are various designs that Schauburger pioneered that get put out on a small scale.

The free pump and energy designs that would slow any corporate profits are still ignored. One little water treatment system that came out a few years ago for farmers is typical of the amazing potential of a vortex action on water. The most foul manure runoff can be cleaned up with amazing speed by going through the conical hydro-cyclone of this unit. The motorized impeller swirls the water around clockwise and water falls out of the bottom of the cone with the solid waste and then the oxygenated water goes up counter-clockwise, gets aerated and the increased oxygen kills the pathogens. The waste is used to make compost tea (for plants, not humans). Phone 254-485-3560 (Texas).

Other smaller units have come out over the years but seldom seem to stay available long. They can be recognized by the cylindrical or egg-shaped containers that have an impeller swirling the water around inside.

I have one unit that was made to attach to a pipeline (see photo above). It is simply a series of small football-shaped baffles made of an alloy of various metals. This duplicates the action of water as it swirls around the metal and mineral-laden rocks in a stream. Should you get ambitious enough to make up a similar unit using small pebbles, remember to ground out the metal case to a water pipe or ground rod.

Engineers with common sense and freedom from the giant corporate empires could easily solve most of the water-pollution problems of our planet by revamping Schauburgers' various designs. Until we get more freedom and awareness, we will keep getting poisoned by fluoride, chlorine and dozens of the solvent-contaminants.

Reading Hulda Clark's [The Cure for All Diseases](#) should be a mind-boggler in addressing such dangers. Going down and buying a jug of distilled water is simply a short-sighted approach to solving the problem. Such juvenile or "hungry" water will simply pull the minerals your body needs from your system.

Since chlorine will slowly dissipate from a pot of water sitting overnight, this is one defensive action for city dwellers. Water exposed to sunlight tends to balance the human chakras and some of the native tribes set out a bowl of water just before the sun came up for this purpose. Glass will block some of the spectrum so plastic or wood are preferred as containers.

Perhaps we can continue along these lines in Part III . . .

## The Benefits of Juicing

From [www.living-foods.com](#).  
Submitted by Len Frenkel,  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
with this note:

Here's a great article about juicing, a wonderful way to get your fruits and greens. I should mention that it is NOT necessary to have a fancy, expensive processor. We do the juicing in a simple, inexpensive blender, using some liquid in the bottom first, then adding greens, fruit and other veggies. Sometimes I'll add some frozen grains at the end. Makes a great breakfast or lunch. Just about anything can go into it that doesn't have to be cooked . . . enjoy.

In Seattle, Washington or in trendy Southern California, on any given evening, you can find men and women still dressed in their business attire, sitting at a bar, unwinding after a long day's work. They place their orders with choices ranging from straight carrot juice to combinations of all sorts of fruits and vegetables: wheat grass, kale, dandelion, cucumber, cabbage, celery, beet, lettuce, parsley, mango, papaya, pineapple, watermelon, cranberry, grapefruit and apple. Juicing, meet the baby boomers. Welcome to yuppie-dome. Say hello to the mainstream. "Can I get you a papaya, mango cooler?"

Once confined to the fringes, to earthy-smelling health food stores, to wooden-floored co-ops, to the infrequent vegetarian restaurant, juicing and fresh juice have finally stepped out into the open. Rather than having to search for freshly-juiced fruit and vegetables in specialty stores, today in San Diego, California you can have fresh carrot juice delivered to your door every morning. And in many grocery stores across the country, you can now buy pints, quarts and half gallons of fresh-squeezed orange juice or recently-pulped carrot juice.

Thousands of other people are juicing fruits and vegetables themselves. With an investment of a few hundred dollars, anyone can set up their own in-home juice bar. Then, with a little patience, time and perseverance, it's possible to make fresh juice a regular part of your daily diet.

The trend couldn't come at a better time. Recently, The National Cancer Institute began a campaign to get people to do one simple thing – EAT MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. Specifically, the recommendation was to eat five servings of fruit and three servings of vegetables a day and their reasoning was simple: a diet high in fruits and vegetables will prevent or cure a wide range of ailments.

Breast cancer, cancers of the colon, esophagus, stomach, lungs, ovaries and rectum – pick an ailment these days, it seems, and researchers somewhere are searching for chemicals in plants that will prevent them, or offer a cure. These plant chemicals, known as phytochemicals, are the cutting edge of nutritional research because they hold the keys to preventing some of our most deadly diseases such as cancer and heart disease, as well as some of our most common, like asthma, arthritis and allergies.

In some ways, this isn't news. For years, epidemiological studies that compared disease states and diet in large populations of people have already been bearing out the value of a diet high in fruits and vegetables. Such studies, which have been done in Africa, China, the Mediterranean, Russia and elsewhere have shown that in cultures where the diet consists of fruits and vegetables, making it high in both carbohydrates and fiber, a number of diseases that afflict North Americans simply don't exist.

For example, during more than 30 years of study, British researchers working in Africa didn't find a single case of such common ailments as diverticulitis, hernia, cancer of the colon or cancer of the prostate. The only reason that they could attribute to the lack of these diseases: differences in diet.

But these studies (more than

150 have been done in the last decade) don't really prove that it is diet that makes the health difference. There are simply too many other factors that may influence health to make the studies conclusive. Is, for example, the lack of disease because of the subjects' diet or, instead, is it because they live in a relatively unpolluted environment? If it is diet, which part of their diet, specifically, is making the difference?

These are the questions that led researchers at the National Cancer Institute, at the Department of Agriculture and elsewhere to begin looking for specific substances in foods that could be providing protection against disease. In the process, they have found quite a few.

A tomato, along with vitamin C, vitamin A and several minerals, also has 10,000 other chemicals in it, most of which researchers are trying to isolate, identify and study.

The phytochemicals that researchers have uncovered are changing the way we think about food, especially fruits and vegetables; for example, broccoli contains a substance that may prevent – even cure – breast cancer. Citrus fruits have substances that make it easier for your body to remove carcinogens, thus decreasing the chance of contracting cancer. Grapes contain a phytochemical that appears to protect each cell's DNA from damage. Similarly, a number of green vegetables contain phytochemicals that appear to offer protection against cancer-causing substances. The list goes on and on: bok choy, broccoli, Brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, collards, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, rutabaga, turnip greens, red beets, peppers, garlic, onions, leeks and chives are but a few of the vegetables that appear to have cancer-preventing phytochemicals.

The problem, though, is that most of us don't eat enough fruits and vegetables to reap the benefits they offer. For example, although the National Cancer Institute recommends five servings of vegetables and three of fruits each day, the truth is this: The average American eats only one-and-a-half servings of vegetables and, on average, no fruit on any given day.

Maybe the businessmen and women who frequent trendy juice bars, the company that delivers carrot juice and the grocery stores that are beginning to carry fresh fruits and vegetable juices are on to something. Possibly, juicing could provide the answer to fixing our fruit- and vegetable-deficient diets.

Really, it isn't a new idea. If you study the traditions of most juicing programs, you discover that the vegetables being studied at various facilities around the country are often the same vegetables that have been juiced for years. Collard greens, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, rutabaga, peppers, carrots and cabbage are not only vegetables being studied for their phytochemical content, they are also the vegetables that are most commonly juiced. Not only are researchers looking into the cancer-prevention capabilities of citrus fruits, grapes and apples, these are also the fruits that we most often associate with fruit juicing.

All of this raises the question, "What else is there in the wisdom of juice therapy that, up until now, have traditional nutritional researchers overlooked or ignored?"

For example, juice programs often tout the value of adding chlorophyll to your daily diet. Chlorophyll, a substance found exclusively in plants, has a structure similar to hemoglobin, the substance in blood that is responsible for transporting oxygen. During the 1940s, researchers found that consuming chlorophyll enhances the body's ability to produce hemoglobin, thus improving the efficiency of oxygen transport. Since the 1940s, however, there has been little research into the value of chlorophyll.

Or, for another example, con-

Continued on page 15

## Farmer Mike Tabor Teaches About Danger of Pesticides to Children

By Annie Birdsong

Takoma Park/SilverSpring Co-Op

At a farmer's market, a woman asked farmer Mike Tabor why there were bug bites on his mustard greens.

"It's because they have not been sprayed with pesticides," he said.

"What happens if pesticides area sprayed on plants?" she asked.

"The bugs die," he answered. "It also kills fish when the pesticides get in the water."

"What happens to ME when I eat the pesticides?" she asked.

Tabor told her about a recent article in the *Washington Post*

citing research that suggests that even low levels of pesticides are associated with an increased risk of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in children.

"These are systemic pesticides," Tabor explained. "It means they are taken up inside the plant. You can't wash them off."

Tabor, a Takoma Park resident with a farm in Needmore, Pennsylvania, prefers to control insects with substances such as Neem and Rosemary oils rather than synthetic pesticides.

His produce is certified naturally grown.

Tabor also uses row covers to help control insects, these white cloths cover the plants as much

as possible, allowing the sun to penetrate through them providing a greenhouse effect.

Sometimes the unwanted insects are picked off the plants by hand and, to further help control disease, the vegetables are sprayed with compost tea.

Tabor is a tireless advocate for health and good care of the land; in articles published in the *Takoma Park Voice*, he encourages people to meet with school board members and nutritionists at the public schools. Get "sustainably-grown produce into the school cafeteria menus," he says.

At church meetings and other types of get-togethers, discuss "the nutritional content of the

school lunch menu," Tabor said. Discuss how we can "get rid of vending machines in schools and at sports events."

Tabor also encourages people to converse with ministers in churches and other organizations about how they can promote health. "These leaders could encourage walking and jogging after services or during lunch breaks," he said. "It's being done all around the country."

Talk to them about "reducing or eliminating sodas, high fat, cholesterol-laden foods, etc. at community events," he said. And discuss ways to "boost the sale of locally- and regionally-grown

Continued on page 16

## Grassroots Power

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philosophy of Earth-care)*

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\$360 six months

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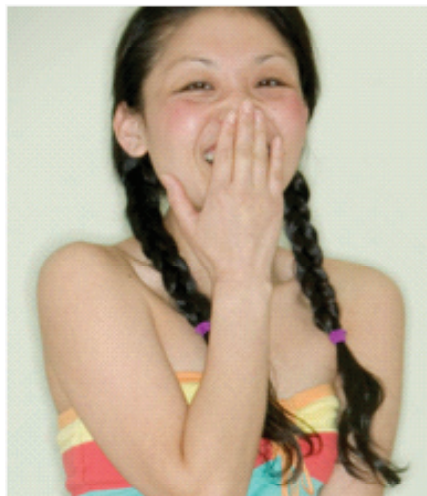
\$40 one month

\$108 three months

\$192 six months



# Laughs from Joanie's emails



## Life Observations

Submitted by  
Joan Norris Daurio  
New Providence  
New Jersey

1. I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font.
5. How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary?
7. Map Quest really needs to start their directions on #5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection . . . again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page research paper that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. "Do not machine wash or tumble dry" means I will never wash this - ever.
15. I hate when I just miss a call by the last ring (Hello? Hello?) but when I immediately call back, it rings nine times and goes to voice mail. What did you do after I didn't answer? Drop the phone and run away?
16. I hate leaving my house confident and looking good and then not seeing anyone of importance the entire day. What a waste.
17. I keep some people's

phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.

18. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.

19. I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Lite than Kay.

20. I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.

21. Sometimes, I'll watch a movie that I watched when I was younger and suddenly realize I had no idea what the heck was going on when I first saw it.

22. I would rather try to carry 10 plastic grocery bags in each hand than make two trips to bring my groceries in.

23. The only time I look forward to a red light is when I'm trying to finish a text.

24. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.

25. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

26. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars teams up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!

27. Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty and you can wear them forever.

28. Is it just me or do high school kids get dumber and dumber every year?

29. There's no worse feeling than that millisecond you're sure you are going to die after leaning your chair back a little too far.

30. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch three consecutive times and still not know what time it is.

31. Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from three feet away in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time!



Photo from [www.costplusjuicers.com](http://www.costplusjuicers.com)  
Very expensive juicer (over \$2,000) but nice photo. Geez, this cost more than my car! (Iona)

Continued from page 13  
sider fresh juice's ability to deliver another important group of nutrients, know as enzymes.

Enzymes are your body's work force. Acting as catalysts in hundreds of thousands of chemical reactions that take place throughout the body, enzymes are essential for digestion and absorption of food, for conversion of food stuffs into body tissue and for the production of energy at the cellular level. In fact, enzymes are critical for most of the metabolic activities taking place in your body every second of every day.

Fresh juices are a tremendous source of enzymes. In fact, the "freshness" of juice is one of their key features, because enzymes are destroyed by heat. When you eat cooked foods, whether its meal, grains, fruits or vegetables, if the food is cooked at temperatures above 114 degrees, the enzymes have been destroyed by the heat. Since fruits and vegetables are juiced raw, the enzymes are still viable when you drink the juice.

Coincidentally, many of the phytochemicals that nutritional researchers are focusing their attention on are either enzymes or, more often, they are substances that help build or activate enzymes that play essential roles in protecting cells from damage.

In addition, fruit and vegetable juices are good sources of the traditional nutrients. Citrus fruits (grapefruit, oranges, etc.) provide healthy portions of vitamin C. Carrot juice contains large quantities of vitamin A, in the form of beta carotene. A number of green juices are a good source of vitamin E. Fruit juices are a good source of essential minerals like iron, copper, potassium, sodium, iodine and magnesium, which are bound by the plant in a form that is most easily assimilated during digestion.

Plus, since juicing (in a regu-

lar juicer, not a blender) removes the indigestible fiber, these nutrients are available to the body in much larger quantities than if the piece of fruit or vegetable was eaten whole. For example, because many of the nutrients are trapped in the fiber, when you eat a raw carrot, you are only able to assimilate about 1% of the available beta carotene. When a carrot is juiced, removing the fiber, nearly 100% of the beta carotene can be assimilated.

Finally, fruits and vegetables provide one more substance that is absolutely essential for good health - water. More than 65% of most of the cells in the human body are made of water and, in some tissues (for example the brain), the cells can be made up of as much as 80% water. Water is absolutely essential for good health, yet most people don't consume enough water each day. Plus, many of the fluids we do drink (coffee, tea, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages and artificially-flavored drinks) each contain substances that require extra water for your body to eliminate. Fruit and vegetable juices are free of these unneeded substances and are full of pure, clean water.

The remaining question is how far will the trend go? So far, the National Cancer Institute's attempts to promote the health benefits for fruits and vegetables have only affected a relatively small segment of society. But, as more and more is written about the long-term health benefits of fruits and vegetables, as increasing numbers of people learn about the possibility of preventing and curing cancer, heart disease, arthritis and a host of other diseases by making dietary changes, the fruit and vegetables trend and the popularity of juicing will continue to grow.

Who knows, maybe someday it will be hard to find a seat during happy hour at your local juice bar.

## The Awakening

Dear Iona,

I very much enjoy reading your publication which I discovered in a place that had no explanation about how it got there and what it was all about.

About 10 or 12 years ago I didn't know a whole lot about spiritual living so I earnestly prayed for spiritual wisdom and guidance. Presently I feel secure in believing my prayers were answered three- or four-fold. I certainly have more Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Fairfulness, Gentleness and Self-control in my life today than I ever imagined.

During the winter of 2008 I wrote "Observations for Living" for family and a few friends. I was referred to by some as Deacon Dave and a few shrugs by the educated elite (self-proclaimed).

I handle this by thinking Most High God is for me. Wake up and see the Purpose and Plan in the Scheme of Life.

Dave  
Pennsylvania

Dear Iona,

I just received your nice seashell card yesterday evening. I did receive 11 newspapers called "The Awakening" from August 2009 through July 2010. So far I'm very inspired by them.

Timothy  
Maine

## Comments on Contents

Dear Iona,

Thank you for the beautiful display of the poem ("Blue Wick-er" on front page of August issue) and "Happy August!"

The newspaper was excellent. The Ashley Judd piece was inspiring. I know how awful that is - running the streams yellow and black.

Very best,  
Sandy Chilcote  
Newfoundland, Canada

## Response to Green House Makeover Offer

Definitely not.

Makeover scamming has become a big and a very counter-environmental moneymaker for Ty Pennington and his scam-artist producers.

Instead of constructively deconstructing existing residences and seeking to recycle reusable building materials or even donate them to ReStore or Community Forklift, Pennington takes a Grinch-like glee in destroying as much as possible to consume as much additional landfill acreage as possible.

In a recent pictorial, Pennington gleefully dynamited the entire building, destroying the reusable materials as well as boosting the environmentally degrading toxic gas loads in the local micro-climate.

Pennington produces homes artfully contrived to appear focused on fulfilling client needs but the self-serving Pennington is only pimping sponsors like Sears and others to display as much of their foolish product line as possible.

Pennington doesn't focus on

solving problems. He is too busy creating problems. Typically, he moves a family into a huge home that will be reassessed for over \$500,000 with annual taxes of over \$500 per month, well outside of and beyond the affordability level for the client families.

Other families have quickly followed up their windfall home gain with a quick visit to the Money Store to place a new home equity line of credit, no matter how ridiculous the interest rates were, to start milking the windfall equity that they perceived as Manna from heaven. After all, each of their irresponsible teenagers needs their own SUV, don't they? Aren't they just as entitled to live a life of freebie handouts as their parents, who never thought they would have to repay the loans? Maybe they were hoping to get Oprah to bail them out the next time.

More than a few of his victimized families have been foreclosed by their due-course predatory lenders or become victims of tax sales of their 'new' homes, thereby losing both the home and the land they started with and returning to the taxpayers' support programs where they began.

Tom Lofft  
Liberty Village, Maryland

## Marcellus "Play" Poorly Named

## From the Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

*New game demands new rules; this one sentence that can make a difference.*

They call it the Marcellus "Play" but drilling rigs, diesel trucks and toxic chemicals are a far cry from baseballs and bicycles. The present federal and state laws are also a far cry from what is needed to best protect our air, water, land and way-of-life. In the gas game, the drillers are way out ahead of the legislators.

In December 2009, RDA members were encouraged to attend a DEP hearing on the enactment of new water quality standards that would prevent the gas industry from dumping salty wastewater into Pennsylvania's rivers and streams.

Over 125 people packed the hearing and over 4,000 concerned citizens wrote to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) encouraging Commission members to adopt stricter standards to protect Pennsylvania's rivers and streams. The IRRC ruled in favor of the rivers and the new regulations will be enacted on January 1, 2011. RDA applauds the IRRC decision.

Once again, the IRRC is seeking to tighten existing regulations to address the new technology and risks. This time, concerns are many and varied, including: the strength of cement well casings, prevention of well blowouts and response time when drinking water is contaminated.

These and other Chapter 78 (Pennsylvania's Oil and Gas Well-Construction) regulations were first enacted when well depths and pressures did not even begin to match those in practice today.

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## Personal Plug for Health by Choice Fair by Iona (ad on left)

Ella McElwee, founder of this magnificent health center with a wonderful health-food store, has become a good friend of OE. I urge you to attend this event and assure you that you will not be disappointed.

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# Workshops in Belize Given by Friend of OE

Family workshops in Paradise, the Ark of Albion Education Center, Belize, Central America



By Rod Rylander

These workshops are fun and educational. Workshop fees do not include transportation to or from San Antonio Rio Hondo. A flight to Cancun, Mexico and then travel by bus is much cheaper than flights to Belize. I travel by bus from Austin, Texas sleeping two nights on the bus.

Workshop fees include lodging, meals, activities, use of canoes and bicycles, etc. Prices are based on double occupancy but may be lower depending on accommodations. All prices are subject to federal taxes of 12.5%. Extra nights including meals are \$60 U.S./person/day (\$90/couple) or lower depending on accommodations. A non-refundable deposit of \$200 is required. Fees will increase by 10% November 1, 2010. Checks can be sent to: Rodney Rylander, 512 West Austin, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624. The balance is due in cash upon arrival. There are ATMs in Orange Walk Town. U.S. Dollars can be used in most areas of Belize. No vaccinations are required upon entry. English is the official language of Belize although Spanish is widely spoken. An automatic 30-day visa is given upon entry into Belize.

For further information about Rod and the village, see [www.rrylander.com](http://www.rrylander.com) or email: [rorylander@yahoo.com](mailto:rorylander@yahoo.com).

## Creating More Happiness November 5-13

This slow-paced workshop is full of experiential learning of changing attitudes, controlling expectations, calming the nerves, simple living, realizing the impact of brainwashing, impacts of health, understanding the influence of food and exercise, and finding a need and rewarding experience. We will spend time on the Ark of Albion floating on the river, interacting with villagers, nature walks, meditating and doing activities that are designed to help create a happier person. Smoking, consumption of alcohol or use of drugs are not



Photo by Rod Rylander

Party on the Ark of Albion educational boat.

permitted. The workshop includes a trip to Lamanai Mayan ruins. The workshop will be facilitated by Rod Rylander. There are no counselors and this is not designed for therapy. The fee for this eight-day, seven-night fun and educational experience is \$800 U.S. per person (\$1400/couple) and includes lodging, food, snacks, interactions, programs and activities.

## Tropical Ornithology January 27-30 March 17-21, June 16-20



Ringed Kingfisher

Rod Rylander, an ornithologist for over 60 years will present a course on tropical birds and then take the group of no more than 12 participants to search out the birds by boat, canoe, bicycle and foot along the Rio Hondo. This is an appreciation and educational birding trek, not a trek to see how many birds you can add to your list. This five-day, four-night workshop can be extended. The fee of \$500/person (\$900/couple) includes a trip to the Lamanai Mayan ruins.

## Alternative and Appropriate Design and Construction Techniques February 12-18



Photo by Rod Rylander

Hobbit House made of Earth-friendly materials.

Rod Rylander, the designer and builder of the well-known Hobbit House in Earthaven Ecovillage in North Carolina and who has experience in building most alternative structures, will present this workshop along with villagers who are experts in tropical construction. Participants will gain experience in adobe, cordwood, tire, rammed earth, stick walls, thatch roofs and natural plasters and floors. This seven-day workshop fee is \$900/person (\$1700/couple) and includes hands-on experience in designing and constructing alternative buildings.

## Tropical Traditional Ways April 9-12

This workshop will be taught mainly by older villagers who practice traditional ways like making natural dyes, collecting and processing sap from the Sapodillo tree to make chewing gum, traditional fishing methods, how to get cooking oil from coconuts, preparing and eating traditional foods and how to use a machete.

The fee for this four-day, three-night workshop is \$450 (\$800/couple) and includes a trip to Lamanai Mayan Ruins. Included are traditional dancing and the history of the area and Mayan culture. We will tap into the wisdom of the village medicine man if he is still able to help us.

## Family Tropical Educational Experience December 27-30

Families will experience participating in activities from cooking to sports with villagers. They will learn how to take better pictures, how to canoe, how to fish like the natives, have nature tours on the riverboat, bicycle tours, archeology, cultural dancing, hiking and more. A trip to the Lamanai Ruins will be

included. This four-day, three-night fun experience is \$450 per adult (\$800/couple) and \$350 per child staying in the same room as the adult.

Child caring can be arranged directly with a villager.

## Accommodations

**Cabana:** Two rooms, elevated eight feet above the flood plain and overlooking the river, take advantage of the breezes off the river. Each room has a private bathroom with flush toilet and shower. Windows and doors have screening. Fans are provided. The cabana is constructed with native materials including a thatched roof but the interior is plastered and really nice. The family next door will provide services to occupants.

A private room in a cabin on a Menonite farm provides experiences like milking a cow, feeding chickens, taking care of livestock or picking tropical fruit such as mangos and avocados.

A private room with a shared bathroom in a house of a village family will provide a cultural experience. Most family members are bilingual in English and Spanish but Spanish is the language most spoken in the home.

## About Rod Rylander

As a teenager, Rod became known as a Texas ornithologist. As a biology student, he compiled *The Checklist of Birds of Denton County, Texas* that went through five printings by the University of North Texas. He has led commercial birding tours to Mexico and Costa Rica. He owned and managed the Hummingbird Lodge and Educational Center in Rockport, Texas and led regular tours to the coastal islands and ranches. He has written weekly and monthly articles on birding for a newspaper and a magazine, respectively.

Rod created the Vertical Crawl Space concept of building earth-sheltered homes in the late 1970s and presented papers at several international architectural conferences on earth-sheltered construction. In 2004 he designed and built his well-known Hobbit House. The Hobbit House incorporates adobe, tires, earthsacks, cordwood, cob, thatch, living roof, vertical crawl space and other alternative construction and material techniques. His works have been showcased in national and international books, journals, magazines and newspapers.

Rod has lived over 11 years in eight foreign countries and is now a resident of Belize. He has seen the world from many perspectives and earned an MA from Goddard College in Social Ecology having conducted research in Nepal. He has studied the cultures and traditional ways of living of all of the countries he has visited. He is co-author of *Poker-nomics*, a book about the games nations play. He lectured about the need for simple living and the current state of our society at Texas Woman's University and to the public in Fredericksburg and Austin, Texas.

He initiated and taught facilitators in the State of Tamaulipas, Mexico to create the first environmental education program for Mexico. As a park ranger in Texas, he created a teacher-training program in environmental education. He was an environmental education park ranger for Grand Canyon National Park. He has taught children and families most of his life in nature centers, schools, universities and for the general public.

Rod has been in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Philippines (1988-1990), Belize (2000-2002) and the Peace Corps Emergency Response Team in 2005 to aid displaced people due to Hurricane Katrina.

He is now back in Belize helping the villagers of San Antonio Rio Hondo create very-much-needed income through the development of an end destination for people who are interested in a slow-paced learning experience in the local culture, Mayan history, Spanish language and the natural tropical world. He hired village cabinet makers to build the Ark of Albion Education Center boat to be used for entertaining and educational trips up the river.

## About San Antonio

San Antonio Rio Hondo is a unique village of about 90 families where 90% of the people are related. It is situated on the East side of Albion Island next to the calm bypass of the Rio Hondo. The main river separates Mexico and Belize. Some computer maps show Albion Island as part of Mexico. It is about 30 minutes by regular Alamilla bus service from Orange Walk Town, the Orange Walk District capital that is situated on the Northern Highway. Most families receive income from their sugar cane and seek work outside the community to supplement their income. Supplemental food is gained through subsistence fishing and hunting.

Within bicycle distance are cenotas (very deep, roundish ponds created by the collapse of roofs of caverns), Mayan ruins, a jungle, a quarry where the compaction line revealed the huge meteorite that hit Mexico and probably caused the extinction of dinosaurs, Mexico, a Menonite compound, sugarcane production and village life. The river has many varieties of fish, many big fish coming from the sea. There are alligators and manatees. An island in the river has many interesting stories. There is a traditional dance group located in Yo Creek village.

# Farmer Teaches About Danger of Pesticides to Children

products." When he hosts a potluck on his farm, he asks that people serve healthy food rather than soft drinks and potato chips, and that they serve food in reusable dishes rather than disposable packaging that fills up our landfills.

Years ago, Tabor was an animal farmer; later he decided to grow produce instead. In addition to vegetables, he grows peaches, apples, pears,

cherries and Christmas trees.

Tabor welcomes temporary workers on the farm who want to come for a week, a day or a month. They can stay in one of the two cabins, in the farmhouse, or pitch a tent.

**Note from the Editor:** Look for our front-page story next month by and about two young organic farmers who are working with Mike this season.

LocalHarvest.org.

The best organic food is what's grown closest to you. Use our Web site to find farmers' markets, family farms and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area, where you can buy produce, grass-fed meats, and many other goodies. Want to support this great web site? Shop in our catalog for things you can't find locally!



Is there anybody out there who doesn't love juicy, fresh cherry tomatoes? These beauties were grown at Mike Tabor's Licking Creek Farm in Pennsylvania. Photo by dj-f@earth@gmail.com.