

# Earth News

## August/September 2011

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Photo by Andrea Peacock

Chief Mountain is sacred to the Blackfeet and the tribal council has banned development – including oil and gas – within five miles of the place.

## How a Gas- and Oil-Rich Area of Montana Wilderness Was Saved From Drilling

By Andrea Peacock  
AlterNet: May 5, 2011

BROWNING, Montana — Nowhere in the West does the rolling sea of the high plains meet the mountains with such dramatic effect as in northwestern Montana. State Highway 2 stretches through the northern Hi-Line for miles of coulees and intermittent creeks, antelope, buffalo and Plains Indian country, crossing the seemingly endless, expansive prairie that gives the Big Sky Country its name, before crashing abruptly into the Rocky Mountain Front. A patchwork of national park and national forest, reservation and rangeland, the sparsely-populated Front provides one of the last best refuges in the lower 48 states for grizzly bears and shelters the nation's largest bighorn sheep herd. A great span of wilderness totaling five million acres that extends from the state's capital in Helena to the Canadian border, the Front hosts every single species of animal that lived here when Meriwether Lewis and William Clark arrived 200 years ago, with the exception of free-ranging bison.

Oil and gas companies have coveted the Rocky Mountain Front – known to geologists as the Montana Thrust Belt – for decades. The kind of violent tectonics responsible for this dramatic scenery tends to open channels for mineralization and leave pockets for oil and gas reservoirs. The

U.S. Geological Survey estimated in 2002 that the Belt might harbor some 8.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 109 million barrels of oil and 240 million barrels of natural gas liquids (heavier hydrocarbons like propane, butane and ethane). Environmentalists argue these amounts are miniscule compared to our national needs; industry folks counter that every bit helps. But no one really knows what lies underground because in 2006 Congress banned leasing along the Front.

The ban capped off a 30-year campaign to Save the Front (the rallying cry of the coalition of ranchers, outfitters and environmentalists who oppose drilling there) but probably had less to do with their political power and nearly everything to do with the Blackfeet Nation.

The Blackfeet reservation sits at the north end of the Front, straddling the foothills abutting Glacier National Park to the west. The Blackfeet are large people – imposing in stature and big-hearted, a physical and spiritual match to the landscape. One of only six tribes in the United States whose reservation occupies their ancestral homeland, their 19<sup>th</sup>-century reputation as fierce and fearsome warriors survives to this day. The Blackfoot Confederacy includes three groups in Canada, with the Blackfeet (or South Piegan, or Pikuni) the sole tribe settling south of the border. The

See **Montana** page 6

## BlueGreen Alliance and Apollo Alliance Merge, Strengthen Green Economy

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 26, 2011 (ENS) — Two coalitions focused on creating good green jobs – each having labor unions and environmental organizations as members – today joined forces “to build a stronger movement to create good jobs and produce clean energy in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy,” the two groups said in a joint statement.

While the formal merger was to take place on July 1, the BlueGreen Alliance and the Apollo Alliance said, “Starting right now, we speak with one voice. We will merge to become the BlueGreen Alliance, which will be home to the Apollo Alliance project.”

“Together, the BlueGreen Alliance and the Apollo Alliance project will engage with labor, environmental, business and community leaders across the country to advance a bold vision of how to transform our energy future and, at the same time, create good jobs and rebuild our economy,” the organizations proclaimed.



Photo courtesy Abound Solar

Production of cadmium-telluride solar cells at the Abound Solar manufacturing facility in Longmont, Colorado, June 2010.

The BlueGreen Alliance is a national partnership of labor unions and environmental organizations working to expand the number and quality of jobs in the green economy.

Launched in 2006 by the United Steelworkers and the Sierra Club, the Blue-

Green Alliance now unites 10 U.S. labor unions and four of the largest U.S. environmental organizations – and their 14 million members and supporters – in pursuit of good jobs, a clean environment and a 21<sup>st</sup>-century economy.

The four environmental

organizations in the BlueGreen Alliance are: the Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

The Apollo Alliance, a

See **BlueGreen** page 13

## NJ First State to Ban Fracking

By Matthew McDermott

Treehugger via AlterNet: June 30, 2011

We knew this might be coming for the last three months: New Jersey has become the first state in the U.S. to enact a statewide ban on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas, popularly known as fracking. The vote in the

state senate was 31-1 and in the assembly, 56-11. All that is required for the bill to become law is the signature of governor Chris Christie.

State senator Bob Gordon (D-Bergen) said New Jersey has now “sent a strong message to surrounding states and to the nation that a ban on fracking is necessary to protect public

health.” Gordon added: “Any benefits of gas production simply do not justify the many potential dangers associated with fracking such as pollution to our lakes, streams and drinking water supplies and the release of airborne pollutants. We should not wait until our natural resources are destroyed to act.” (Food & Water Watch)

## JOIN A PENNSYLVANIA GAS-DRILLING ACTIVIST NETWORK

Iona Conner met with Melinda Hughes-Wert of Nature Abounds on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Melinda will work on getting funding for developing a statewide network of Pennsylvanians who want to see changes made in the way drilling is done here. She will also arrange conference calls and start planning an event like the New York EPIC event below while creating a centralized clearinghouse with Web pages to help everyone work together. Melinda is creating a database of interested organizations while Iona will continue creating a database of groups or individuals who want to see total bans on fracking and drilling. Contact Melinda at Melinda@NatureAbounds.org and Iona at IonaConner@pa.net if you want to work with them.

## A Truly EPIC No-Frack Event

By Sue Smith-Heavenrich  
Candor, New York

On June 25<sup>th</sup> a couple thousand people headed to Ithaca College for the EPIC No Frack Event – a day-long “teach in” that featured 45 speakers, 10 musical groups and six movies. Scientists, activists, lawyers, farmers, economists and frack-activists shared their news and views about everything from community organizing to how the EPA models risk management.

The event was the brainchild of Jeff and Jodi Andrysick who premiered their new film, ‘Water isn’t Water Anymore.’ The Pulteney farmers never intended to be environmental activist filmmakers. But when Chesapeake Energy applied for a permit to dispose of drilling waste in an old gas well near their farm, they realized they had to do something to protect their future. Over the past year the couple has managed to squeeze filming between farm chores, barely completing final edits in time for their EPIC No-Frack premier.

Simona Perry, who studies community sociology, talked



Photo by Sue Heavenrich

The June 25<sup>th</sup> EPIC No Frack event brought together speakers, filmmakers and musicians from across the nation to speak out against hydro-fracking in New York.

about how shale gas drilling is fracturing communities along the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania. The first people who suffer the impacts of drilling are those who live in rural commu-

nities, she said. That’s because they live right where the gas is being extracted.

In the past four years, Pennsylvania has experienced an exponential rise in the number

of shale gas permits – from 99 drilling permits in 2007 to 3,445 permits in 2010. In Bradford County, about a half-hour’s drive from Ithaca, the increasing number of well pads has removed

land that was used to grow crops and timber or provided habitat for wildlife. In addition to the nearly 16,000 acres converted to well pads another 7,500 acres has been cleared for pipelines, access roads and pipe yards, with close to 200 acres converted to gravel quarries.

“By the end of 2011 some 37,000 acres will have been converted to gas use from other land use,” Perry said. Manufacturers, especially those dependent on timber products, are having a hard time finding local lumber. That’s because trees are being ground to sawdust for use in disposal of drilling wastes and because often trees cut for well pads and right of ways are pushed into unsorted piles or mixed with stones and other debris, making them unusable.

Gas developments have brought many changes to the rural towns in Bradford County, forcing long-time residents to reevaluate what they knew about their local government and their neighbors. “When you can’t drink water from your faucet, it affects your sense of security and trust,” Perry said.

Over the past two years Perry asked dairy and small farmers to document how their lives are changing, through photography and writing. Many people wrote about the quality of life that brought them there: clean water, fresh air, fertile soil and the desire to pass their farms and land on to their children.

Winona Hauter, executive director of Food and Water Watch, echoed similar sentiments when she declared, “We can’t afford to have America be fracked!” She debunked a number of industry arguments supporting shale gas extraction and the use of hydraulic fracturing to release the methane. “We need government to stop being silent on the fracking issue,” she said.

As a result of all the drilling in rural Wyoming, the air no longer meets the clean air standards, Hauter said. Then there’s the water ... “It’s time to talk about the real damage of fracking,” she said. “We can’t afford to use millions of gallons of fresh water to frack with.”

Dr. Stephen Penningroth explained that EPA measures risk

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# Susquehanna River Most Endangered Due to Fracking

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 17, 2011 (ENS) — The most endangered river in the United States is at risk from natural gas development and the hazards associated with hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, for the second year running, according to the American Rivers annual list of the country's 10 most endangered rivers, released today.

The clean rivers advocacy group placed the Susquehanna River at the top of this year's list, citing the rush to develop natural gas reserves in the region without considering the risk to clean water and public health. Last year's most endangered river was the Upper Delaware, also threatened by natural gas extraction.

Andrew Fahlund, senior vice president of conservation at American Rivers, said, "This year's list of America's Most Endangered Rivers is a clear reminder that, if we don't protect and restore our rivers, public safety, the economy and the environment will suffer grave consequences."

On the Susquehanna River, which runs through New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland, the fracking process requires taking large amounts of water from rivers and streams, which is then mixed with sand and toxic chemicals and pumped underground to extract the natural gas.

The Susquehanna provides drinking water for more than six million people. Current facilities cannot adequately treat the highly toxic wastewater that is generated and there are insufficient government regulations to ensure the wastewater doesn't contaminate drinking water supplies.

"Fracking poses one of the greatest risks our nation's rivers have faced in decades," said Fahlund. "We are taking a major gamble on the clean drinking water for millions of Americans."

American Rivers today called on the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and the states of New York and Pennsylvania to issue a moratorium on natural



Susquehanna River at Berwick, Pennsylvania.

Photo by Robin Bagot

gas drilling-related permits until companies can prove they can operate without damage to the river and clean water supplies.

American Rivers also called on Congress to remove the loopholes that have allowed the natural gas industry to avoid basic standards for public and environmental health.

This year American Rivers added a "special mention" on the 2011 list for the Mississippi River, given the current record flooding.

The group pointed to "outdated flood management strategies and over-reliance on levees that have contributed to the record flood damage."

"We need to give the river more room to move," said Fahlund. "Unless we restore our natural defenses, we will burden future generations with increasingly disastrous floods."

"While levees and floodwalls will continue to make sense in some heavily-populated areas, their overuse actually causes flood levels to rise as the river channel is narrowed and water has nowhere to go but up — making flooding worse for communities downstream. Levees should be our last line of defense, not our only line of defense," he said.

American Rivers recommends instead a strategy that combines structural flood protection solutions like levees with "natural defenses" like healthy wetlands and floodplains that absorb floodwaters.

"Healthy rivers are great assets and give communities so many benefits, including clean water and natural flood protection," said Fahlund.

The daily discharge of 1.2 billion gallons of undisinfecting

sewage effluent into the Chicago River system threatens public health and has earned the river fourth place on the annual list of America's Most Endangered Rivers.

The sewage effluent, released by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), threatens public health and the city's environmental reputation. The effluent makes up 70 percent of the water in the Chicago River system.

Supporting over six million residents regionally, the Chicago River flows through the nation's third largest city. Tens of millions of dollars have been invested in river access and improvement including \$100 million by Chicago and the Chicago Park District in the last 10 years.

American Rivers called on the Illinois Pollution Control Board to approve the proposed water

quality standards for the Chicago River that have not been reviewed in more than two decades. These standards would require the MWRD to disinfect sewage effluent.

"It's unacceptable that the people of Chicago are being denied basic, modern disinfection techniques used by nearly every other city in the country," said Gary Belan of American Rivers. "This as an opportunity not only to protect public health but to make a clean and healthy Chicago River the centerpiece of a revitalized waterfront and world-class city."

"Frankly, there isn't really a choice," said Ann Alexander, senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. "A century ago it might have been OK to dump in the Chicago River but the Clean Water Act simply doesn't allow the water-

way to be used as a sewer or toilet. It's time for the regulators tasked with keeping the river clean to live up to the task."

## America's Most Endangered Rivers 2011

**SPECIAL MENTION:** Mississippi River. Threat: Outdated flood-management

- 1 Susquehanna River (NY, PA, MD) Threat: Natural gas extraction
- 2 Bristol Bay (AK) Threat: Massive copper and gold mine
- 3 Roanoke River (VA, NC) Threat: Uranium mining
- 4 Chicago River (IL) Threat: Sewage pollution
- 5 Yuba River (CA) Threat: Hydropower dams
- 6 Green River (WA) Threat: Exploratory drilling and mine development
- 7 Hoback River (WY) Threat: Natural gas extraction
- 8 Black Warrior River (AL) Threat: Coal mining
- 9 St. Croix River (MN, WI) Threat: Rollback of long-standing protections
- 10 Ozark National Scenic Riverways (MO) Threat: Overuse and poor management

For 26 years, American Rivers has "sounded the alarm" on 360 rivers through their America's Most Endangered Rivers report. The report is not a list of the worst or most polluted rivers but is a call to action for rivers at a crossroads.

American Rivers' staff and scientific advisors review nominations for a major decision that the public can help influence in the coming year, the significance of the river to people and wildlife and the magnitude of the threat, especially in view of climate change.

American Rivers takes credit for successes such as removal of outdated dams, protection of rivers with Wild and Scenic designations and prevention of harmful development and pollution.

# 'All Fracked Up' Filmmakers React to News About Susquehanna River

By Jeff (and Jodi) Andrysiak  
Hammondsport, New York

(#1) Jodi and I have devoted the last one-and-a-half years to fighting frack everyday, day-in-day-out, with long hours. We have taken the funds we would have put into finishing our multi-vendor organic farm market and sunk them into our first movie ('All Fracked Up') as well as taking out credit card debt. By the time we open the doors at EPIC (see page 1) we'll be \$15,000 in credit card debt.

EPIC is looking to be one of the largest anti-frack gatherings thus far in the USA. So we're sure we'll get our money back, of course not including lost wages. Please do not take it that I'm making a pitch for money, just hoping you'll spread the word about EPIC. Thank you! We are also introducing at EPIC our latest

movie, 'Water Isn't Water Anymore' along with 'Twilight Frack,' a spin-off of The Twilight Zone. We are trying our absolute hardest to have New York be the first liberated state against fracking. If we succeed it will roll into Pennsylvania.

Thanks for your great idea for a newspaper and for fighting frack. Yes please put us on email lists 1 and 3. Our Web site is getting a face lift, so hopefully by the end of next week we'll have a poster of EPIC. Thank you!

(#2) Dear Iona,

That's really sad, I used to inner tube down the Susquehanna. In our latest movie, 'Water Isn't Water Anymore,' we show footage of a canoe trip I took with my Dad when my brother and I came of age. We canoed down the Susquehanna. It breaks our heart! Thank you for telling

us so we can put a sub-caption in the movie about it being the most endangered.

Yes we agree we want to work harder! The frackers must be stopped!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Till a COMPLETE BAN!

(#3) Back in the day when I had a full head of hair and a ultra slim waistline, my Dad said, "Boys, when you're strong enough to paddle canoes from Elmira, New York to Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania, we'll shoot the rapids and GO FOR IT!"

Well, I turned 14 and my brother 15 and Dad took us to Unclaimed Freight. He bought two cheap fiberglass canoes with holes in them and we took them home and patched them up that day.

Dad said, "Let's go back into town and get provisions for the trip."

I said, "Pop, when are we going?"

Dad said, "Well, of course tomorrow!"

Well, we didn't know the front from the back of the canoes and ran through 180 miles of two absolutely stunningly beautiful rivers, at first running the Chemung River then the Susquehanna River.

I broke my heart to have to tell my Dad yesterday that the Susquehanna River is now classified as THE MOST ENDANGERED RIVER in the USA by American Rivers. I explained that, "Gas corporations in Pennsylvania claim to be treating the flowback fluids which the Earth spits back up when fracking a well. Dad, the bums are running millions and millions of gallons of this highly toxic, radioactive, salty flowback through municipal sewage treatment plants

designed to just treat sewage. These plants don't have the equipment to treat the cancer-causing chemicals, toxic heavy metals, radioactive minerals and the salty brine.

"So, Dad, what happens next is the whole toxic lethal brew is then discharged into the river! If that isn't nuts enough, the sewage treatment plant's raw sewage isn't properly treated since all the toxic crap kills the bacteria designed to treat the raw sewage. Partially treated RAW SEWAGE ENDS UP DUMPED ALONG WITH A VERY LETHAL TOXIC BREW RIGHT INTO THE RIVER!"

Dad barks out, "They call that safe, responsible gas! It's a total scam, a hoax!!!"

I piped back, "Pop, almost all of the flowback generated last year from Pennsylvania fracking ended up being dumped in Penn-

sylvanians rivers!"  
Dad fired back, "How many people get their drinking water from these rivers?"

I sadly said, "The Susquehanna River serves OVER 6 MILLION CITIZENS!"

Dad thoughtfully added, "They told me Saddam Hussein was evil and poisoned his own people. Now our own government is allowing gas corporations to poison Americans and NO ONE IS STOPPING THEM!! When is America going to wake up and smell the coffee?! The DEP is a farce!! We need to take this country back!!!"

Jodi and I are farmers turned filmmakers and produced 'All Fracked Up,' 'Water Isn't Water Anymore' and 'Twilight Frack.'

Iona, have a great day.  
Let's keep FIGHTING THE FRACK!

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**IMPORTANT NOTE TO READERS ON MAY 22:**  
THIS PAPER IS NOT FINANCIALLY SELF-SUSTAINING YET SO I WORK AT THE LOCAL SEWING FACTORY TO HELP PAY FOR IT. I AM CURRENTLY LAID OFF. I WROTE TWO GRANT PROPOSALS AND WAS REJECTED SO I SIT AND WORK FULL-SPEED AHEAD ON THIS AUGUST ISSUE EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY MAY. MY APOLOGIES THAT SOME OF THESE ARTICLES ARE NOT EXACTLY "NEWS." I ALSO HAD TO SWITCH TO BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION SO IF YOU WANT A PARTIAL REFUND OR SUBSCRIPTION EXTENSION, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

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

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## Earth News

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

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

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

**Masthead:** The masthead photo is the ocean at Bay Head, New Jersey on Mother's Day.

## Most High's Council of Elders

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

UPCOMING DEADLINES: SEPTEMBER 10,  
NOVEMBER 10, JANUARY 10

# Report from the Field: Torbert Marcellus Shale Task Force Multiple Negative Impacts of Marcellus Shale Gas Industry

By David Ira Kagan  
NorthCentralPA.com: May 20, 2011

As a resident of Pine Creek Valley in western Lycoming County, I have witnessed daily the negative effects of the Marcellus Shale gas industry "boom" that has blighted my home environment for about a year-and-a-half now.

What I have seen has been an ever-growing list of insults to the land, the creek and a lifestyle that had been nearly idyllic before the invasion, before the worship of Mammon that has gathered into its fold gas industry employees, politicians, area businessmen and, yes, sadly, many of my fellow residents of north central Pennsylvania.

I think that it is very important to make sure that as many people as possible are made aware of the shocking number of varied and specific negative impacts that have occurred. These blights range from minor ones affecting only a few to major ones affecting many.

Perhaps the major lifestyle change, one that has plagued valley residents constantly since the gas incursion began (24 hours a day, seven days a week, for all but a few, brief "interludes") has been the overwhelming gas industry-related truck traffic up and down Route 44 through the valley. At times (including as I write this piece on May 19, 2011), the volume has been up to about 1,000 vehicles in a 24-hour period. This army of tri-axes, 18-wheelers and pickup trucks assaults the environment, residents and tourists with the noise, the diesel and gasoline pollution, and the traffic congestion and danger.

What are the other negative impacts? The list goes on and on and on – an increase of dead animals on and alongside the road; the destruction of road surface and bridge decks; an increase in litter alongside the road (including high-energy, high-caffeine drink bottles – most empty but some filled with



The pile of logs and mountain of wood chips left from Anadarko gas company's clear-cutting along Bull Run Road.

Photos by Dave Kagan

urine, as told to me by a resident who has about 100 yards of frontage along Route 44 below Waterville).

Throughout the woods, along the roadsides and even right along the Pine Creek Rail Trail – thousands and thousands of pink and red ribbons tied to trees and shrubbery, related to seismic testing; thousands and thousands of feet of electronic cable related to seismic testing; thousands and thousands of seismic meters; laying of underground water pipe (note that the gas-industry-hired contractor did not clean up the dirt and stones off the rail trail afterwards).

In the air now for over two months during daylight hours, the annoying noise coming from helicopter rotor blades, as choppers check on seismic testing, hovering for extended periods of time over sites that are often near residential areas, such as my own Torbert Village, and pick up and drop off equipment and supplies to sites all over.

In Pine Creek itself, near Tombs Run about six miles above Jersey Shore, a coffer dam has been constructed by Pennsylv-

nia General Energy (PGE) in that company's effort to effect a water extraction site. And across the rail trail, the cornfield and Pine Creek just above Torbert Village, the addition of more electric poles and lines needed by the gas industry for another planned water-extraction site.

In the mountains just to the west of Pine Creek between Jersey Shore and Waterville, Anadarko has been erecting gas well pads, laying gas and water pipes and razing timberland throughout what used to be the remote, completely wooded and beautiful Bull Run Vista mountaintop area.

It is for certain, I'm afraid, that the list of negative impacts of the Marcellus Shale gas industry on north central Pennsylvania will continue to grow. And I'll be here to sorrow and despair over them. And to write about them and share the terrible knowledge with as many others as I can, in the hope that enough people will come to their senses, realize that money is not the most important thing in life, and do what we all can to limit, if not halt, this madness.



Anadarko's gas and water lines being laid on top of the mountain with the original dirt road being widened to accommodate them.



## Gas Company Wants To Buy Route 44 Site: Citizens Swing into Action

By David Ira Kagan  
NorthCentralpa.com  
April 13, 2011

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Watson Township Zoning Board Hearing, a standing-room-only crowd witnessed a presentation by Attorney William Carlucci promoting Pennsylvania General Energy Company's (PGE) request for special zoning exceptions or variances. If approved, this would allow PGE to purchase and use (for Marcellus Shale gas development) what had been for years the Trading Post at the intersection of Routes 44 and 973 in Lycoming County, up Pine Creek Valley about six miles north of Jersey Shore.

More specifically, PGE wants to use the property as a site to off-load water from tanker trucks into the three 6,000-gallon tanks previously used for what had been the store's gasoline supplies. Two pumps would then be installed to send the water through pipes to a transfer station up in the adjacent mountain.

The mostly hostile, yet civil, audience at the meeting peppered Attorney Carlucci and his five witnesses with questions addressing numerous environmental and safety issue concerns: for example: that there is a trailer park just behind the Trading Post, which park's entrance is essentially shared with the Trading Post; that Routes 973 and 44 intersect at the site; that the property is less than an acre in size; that there are residential homes (one directly across Route 44) nearby; that there are curves on Route 44 both south and north of the site; that there is a school bus stop there; that there is no safe area for any potential backup of trucks to wait while others are being unloaded.

If the project were allowed, a steady stream of tanker trucks (just for this endeavor) would be going up Route 44 to the site, 24 hours a day, adding to the already intolerable flow of gas-industry-related trucking (my estimate is 500-1,000 a day right now).

This proposal of PGE would result in yet one more degradation of Pine Creek Valley, of what has been touted as well-nigh a paradise for fishermen, hunters, hikers, boaters, bicyclists, sightseers and campers.

I can't fathom how anyone who is a moral, caring, humane being – someone who believes even just the least bit that the good life consists of more than money and greed – someone who professes to love this very special valley (as I have for over 40 years) – could possibly consider supporting and voting in favor of PGE's proposal.

It's time to say "NO!" for once – enough! It would be nice to salvage a bit of the Pennsylvania Wilds, not allow it to be totally transformed into the Pennsylvania Wells!

Hopefully, when the Watson Township Zoning Hearing Board reconvenes to conclude this issue, an even larger standing-room-only crowd will appear to show their opposition.

## PGE's Pine Creek Cofferd Dam Wiped Out By High Water

By David Ira Kagan: May 20, 2011

During the high water from recent heavy rains, the coffer dam for Pennsylvania General Energy (PGE) Company's water extraction site on Pine Creek at Poust's (about six miles above Jersey Shore) was destroyed. The swiftly flowing water began to breach the dam's upstream wall on May 19<sup>th</sup>, with the eventual collapse of the entire structure by the next morning.

The contractor was attempting to salvage some of the tons of stone used in the project, as shown in the accompanying photograph taken the morning of May 20<sup>th</sup>. Much of the stone and other debris, however, must have been washed downstream to settle on the creek bottom, with unknown environmental consequences.

The Department of Environmental Protection has been alerted, with their deliberations unknown to this writer at this time. Most likely, the PA Fish and

Boat Commission and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission will be involved in the ultimate response to this disaster.

Interesting questions to arise out of this situation include: (1) Will PGE be allowed to try again with another coffer dam at the site? (2) Will any fine be levied? (3) Will this affect any plans for other possible coffer dams on Pine Creek? (4) What will be the environmental impact of this?

\*A coffer dam is an enclosure within a water environment constructed to allow water to be pumped out to create a dry work environment. Commonly used for oil rig construction and repair, bridge and dam work, the coffer dam is usually a welded steel structure that is temporary and is typically dismantled after work is completed. Its components consist of sheet piles, wales, and cross braces. (Wikipedia)



High water from recent rains washed away the coffer dam on Pine Creek! Lord knows how DEP, EPA, SRBC and PA Fish and Boat Commission will respond.

Photo by Dave Kagan

## PGE Receives Notice of Violations for Not Following Cofferd Dam Permit

Submitted by Dave Kagan with this note: The attached is DEP's Notice of Violation by Pennsylvania General Energy, related to their coffer dam on Pine Creek, two miles above my home in Torbert Village. They didn't abide by their permit! But is that really that shocking given the track record of the gas industry companies? Here's an excerpt.

### NOTICE OF VIOLATION

May 20, 2011  
PGE Company, LLC  
c/o Mark Mummert, Environmental Manager  
120 Market Street  
Warren, Pennsylvania 16365  
Re: Water Obstruction

On May 9, 2011, the Department performed an inspection of your company's Pine Creek Intake Project, located in Watson Township, Lycoming County, in response to complaints regarding the discharge of sediment into Pine Creek due to construction of a coffer dam. Our inspection found that the type of coffer dam being constructed was not the type approved by your permit number E41-611. Additionally, dewatering of the excavation pit for the pump station was discharging sediment to Pine Creek, a High Quality stream. Further investigation found that earth disturbances for this intake project ran up to the limit of disturbance for the Honniasont pipel-

ing project; however, activities were not appropriately permitted.

Our inspection revealed the following violations of the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, 32 P.S. §693.1 et seq., The Clean Streams Law, 35 P.S. §691.1 et seq. and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder:

1. Failure to implement a waterway encroachment according to specifications. . . .
2. Pollution of "Waters of the Commonwealth . . . ."
3. Conducting activities contrary to permit conditions and Department rules and regulations . . . .
4. Failure to appropriately permit all project earth distur-

bance activities . . . .

A violation of The Clean Streams Law or the rules or regulations promulgated under the law ... could institute administrative, civil and/or criminal proceedings. The Act provides for up to \$10,000 per day in civil penalties, up to \$10,000 in summary criminal penalties and up to \$25,000 in misdemeanor criminal penalties for each violation. Each day of continued violation constitutes a separate offense . . . .

A violation of the Dam Safety and Encroachments Acts ... provides for up to \$10,000 per day in civil penalties plus \$500 in misdemeanor criminal penalties for each violation. Each day of con-

tinued violation constitutes a separate offense.

Please notify me in writing, within 10 days of receipt of this letter, as to when the above listed violations were or will be corrected and what steps are being taken to prevent their recurrence. The Department also requests that your response outline your intent to utilize the former Pine Creek Trading Post for water storage and transportation operations and whether or not those operations will also utilize the Honniasont Work Line Pipeline Project facilities . . . .

Robert W. Everett III  
Water Quality Specialist  
Bureau of Oil and Gas Manage-

## Water Withdrawal Legislation Will Soon Become Law in NY

### DEC Gets Big Tool to Control Gas Drilling

By Jim Willis  
Marcellus Drilling News: June 20, 2011

It's looking quite likely that legislation requiring a permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for any water withdrawals from a lake, river or stream in New York State exceeding 100,000 gallons will soon become law. The New York Assembly passed a bill in May governing water withdrawals from state waterways. The New York Senate has joined them in unanimously passing the same bill. It now goes to Governor Andrew Cuomo's desk for signature.

Marcellus drilling operations, which have not yet begun in New York State due to a moratorium, require large amounts of water per well drilled – some three to four million gallons per well. This new law requiring permits for water withdrawals is one of the important tools that the DEC will use to control drilling in the state when drilling finally begins. No water – no drilling. Or, "Take your time approving that permit," to slow things down. It's a powerful tool that the DEC can (and assuredly will) use to keep tight control over gas drilling in the state.

According to the *Elmira Star-*

*Gazette* on June 19<sup>th</sup>,\* "The state Senate has unanimously passed a bill that gives the state permission to build a permitting system for large withdrawals from many of the state's lakes, rivers and streams.

"The legislation will require anyone with the capacity to withdraw at least 100,000 gallons from the state's waterways to get a permit from the Department of Environmental Conservation first.

"The bill was passed by the Assembly last month and now heads to Governor Andrew Cuomo's desk for approval. It was proposed by the DEC, which is led by a Cuomo appointee.

"Passage of this monumental legislation will protect our environment by regulating the amount of water that can be extracted," said Senator Mark Grisanti, R-*Buffalo*, who sponsored the bill.

"Currently, the state operates under a 'riparian rights' system, meaning anyone who owns property adjacent to most bodies of water can withdraw from it.

The DEC has said the permitting system is necessary in order to monitor the state's water resources and it would enhance the riparian rights by still allowing small-scale users fair use of the water."

\*"Water-withdrawal bill passes Senate, heads to Cuomo's desk."

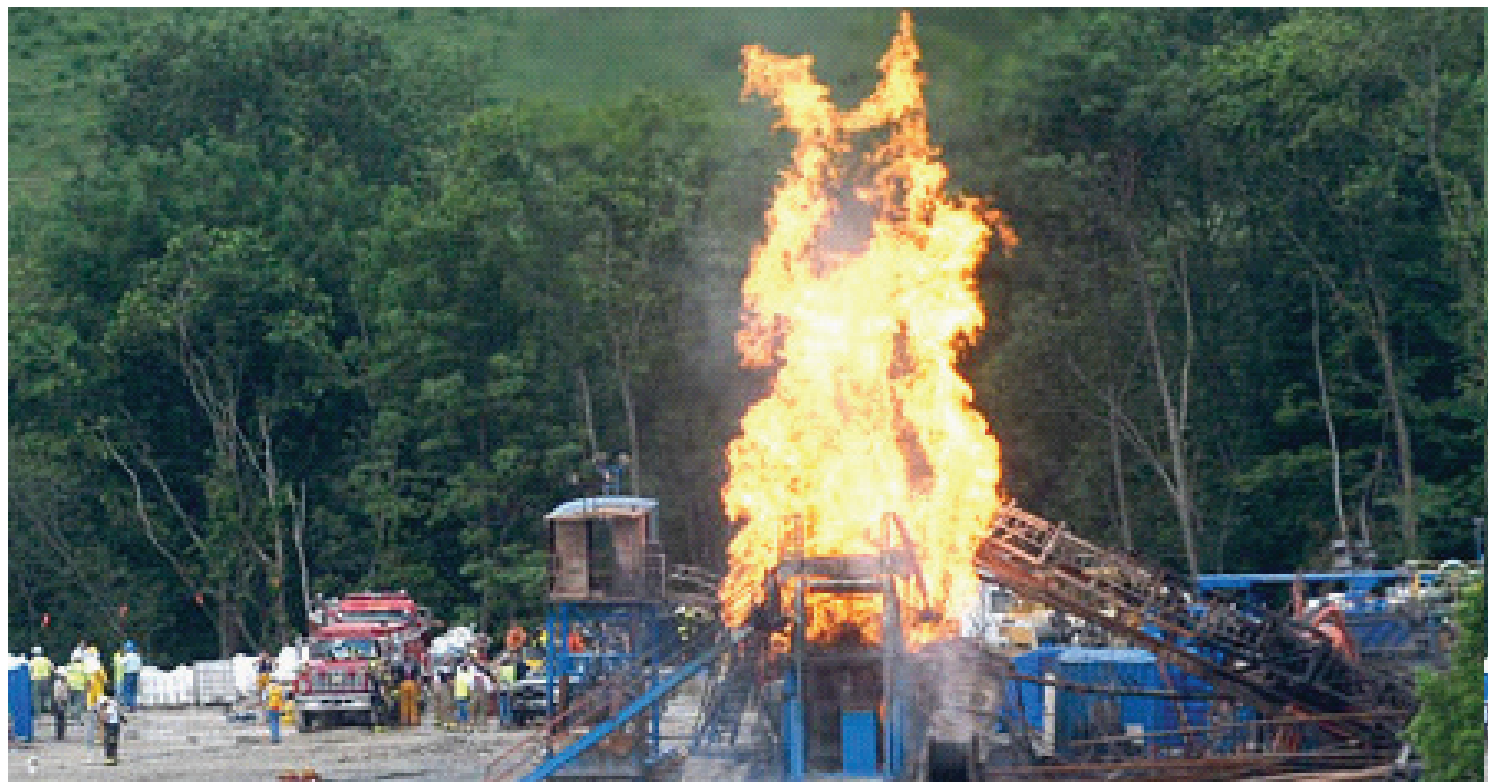


Photo by Keith Hodan, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*  
A crew from Texas-based Chief Oil and Natural Gas were drilling a natural gas well through an abandoned coal mine in Moundsville, West Virginia when they hit a pocket of methane gas that ignited, triggering an explosion that burned seven workers on June 8, 2010.

## Return of the Wasteland: Consequences of Hydro-Fracturing

Report on Speech  
by Bob Myers  
in Mercersburg, PA

By Iona Conner, Publisher  
May 13, 2011

Robert Myers is Chair of the English Department and Director of Environmental Studies at Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. He started his talk by explaining that he is not a scientist or expert on gas drilling or hydraulic fracturing (fracking) but being an English professor has taught him to be a good researcher and a critical thinker who can sort through conflicting claims. His documentation can be found at <http://www.lhup.edu/rmyers3/Marcellus.htm>.

This event was organized by Karen Ramsburg, a co-founder of Fracking Foes Unite! who is going to run against Congressman Shuster in 2012 for Pennsylvania's 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. He announced Myers' talk at a standing-room-only Marcellus Shale meeting in Gettysburg about a month prior to the talk.

"It is clear to me that hydrofracking represents the biggest environmental threat to Pennsylvania of my lifetime," Myers said, launching his program. He talked about corruption of the legislature, forest fragmentation created by hundreds of well pads and pipelines, air pollution from compressor stations with diesel engines running 24/7, road degradation caused by an endless cycle of trucks carrying water to and from drilling sites plus all the equipment necessary to clear the land and bring in workers and supplies. "But that all pales compared to the effects on our water supply," he added.

One would think state officials and residents would have learned to respect the beauty of Penns Woods after lumber companies cut down nearly every tree to enrich a few individuals. Coal mining presented another form of destruction with resulting acid mine drainage. But the trees grew back, only to be subject to a new assault – gas drilling.

The Susquehanna River was clear a while back because nothing lived in it, Myers explained, but five years ago people started catching fish in the West Branch so progress in restoring the ecosystem was happening thanks to groups like Trout Unlimited – until about three years ago when the natural gas invasion began.

More than 2,000 wells were drilled in the past two years alone. Local hotels are filling up with drillers and associated workers from Oklahoma, Texas and even overseas companies. At the time of Myers' talk, 692,000 acres of state forest had been leased for drilling with every well requiring four to seven million gallons of water. Where is it going to come from?

Twenty tons of chemicals are used per million gallons of water, many of them toxic, causing health problems when people's drinking water gets contaminated, not to mention the effects on wildlife. The gas industry tries to minimize this by saying that 99.5% of fracking fluid is water and sand but that still means 20

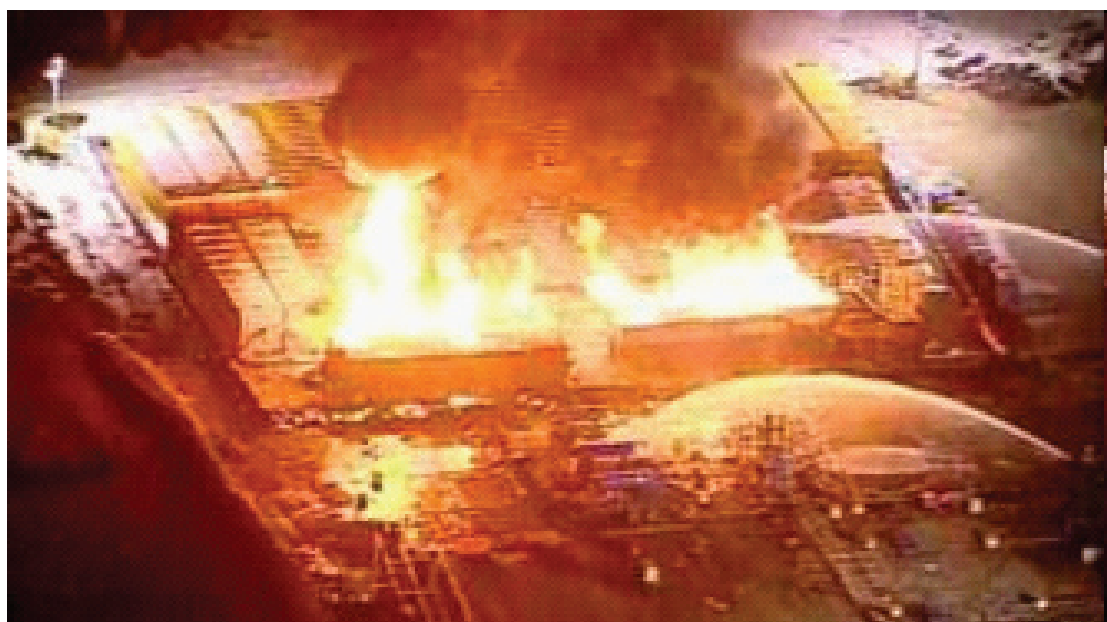


Photo from WTAE.com  
Explosion at Chesapeake Energy site near Pittsburgh injures three on February 23, 2011.

to 60 TONS of chemicals per crack job.

Back in February 2009, Cabot Oil & Gas poisoned 14 wells in Dimock, Pennsylvania because of "defective casing and cementing" according to the state DEP, which reached an agreement with Cabot that the company would pay \$4.1 million to residents and \$500,000 to the state to offset the costs of their investigation. There are ongoing lawsuits by the federal government and the residents of Dimock.

Josh Fox documented these and other problems in his well-known documentary 'Gasland.' It's amazing to watch people's tap water catch on fire because of the methane gas in it. There have been explosions and many people must ventilate their homes so they don't explode.

One of several incidents Myers discussed occurred on June 2, 2010. "... A gas well that was being fracked by EOG Resources in Clearfield County experienced a blowout that raged out of control for 16 hours, shooting fracking fluid and gas 75 feet into the air. EOG, whose spokesperson insisted that protecting the environment is of "utmost importance" to the company, waited five hours before contacting the DEP [Ed.: *The law requires companies to report discharges immediately.*] DEP determined that the accident was caused by "untrained personnel and the failure to use proper well-control procedures" and they fined EOG \$400,000.

On July 1, 2010, 28 cows in Tioga County were quarantined after they came into contact with drilling wastewater from a leaking containment pond at a drilling site operated by East Resources.

More recently, on April 19, 2011 seven families were evacuated from their Bradford County homes after a well being fracked by Chesapeake Energy blew out and spilled thousands of gallons of contaminated water into a tributary of Towanda Creek. (See the Notice of Violation in last month's *Earth News*.) The DEP confirmed that amphibians in a farm pond died as a result of the spill.

"Responsible drilling is a myth," Myers said. "The most rigorous enforcement can't prevent accidents." Pennsylvania consistently pulls the licenses of chroni-



Photo from Wellsboro Gazette  
Tioga County, Pennsylvania truck accident, March 25, 2010.

cally-bad automobile drivers but they have not pulled the permits of a single gas company.

The drillers have had three years of unrestrained "play" (a euphemism they use for this attack) because, "They have taken advantage of the economic need of individual Pennsylvanians and of the state as a whole," he explained.

Regarding the political climate in Pennsylvania, Myers told his audience that Governor Tom Corbett received \$835,000 from the gas industry and his 30-member Marcellus Shale Commission is "stacked with industry representatives, outnumbering environmentalists three to one. These industry representatives have contributed \$1.4 million to Corbett's various campaigns."

As if that weren't bad enough, at the federal level Obama is trying to increase natural gas drilling in the country as a form of compromise with Republicans and even the EPA's current study on hydraulic fracturing may have already been compromised by political pressure, as was the last one they did.

In summary, Myers shared a quote straight from the industry which had been submitted to the Securities Exchange Commission in May 2006 by Range Resources Corporation: "Our business is subject to operating hazards and environmental regulations that could result in substantial losses or liabilities. Oil and natural gas operations are subject to many risks, including

well blowouts, craterings, explosions, uncontrollable flows of oil, natural gas or well fluids, fires, formations with abnormal pressures, pipeline ruptures or spills, pollution, releases of toxic natural gas and other environmental hazards and risks. If any of these hazards occur, we could sustain substantial losses as a result of:

- Injury or loss of life;
- Severe damage to or destruction of property, natural resources and equipment;
- Pollution or other environmental damage;
- Clean-up responsibilities;
- Regulatory investigations and penalties; or
- Suspension of operations."

In leaving the audience with something to think about, ecotourism was Myers' smug idea.

"Not the kind of ecotourism where celebrities go to rainforests to see rare wilderness but instead we can invite people to Pennsylvania to show them the destructive effects of bad environmental decisions. The tour could start at the Palmerton zinc Superfund site and then travel to Centralia to see the fire that has been burning underground for decades. A swing up to coal country will reveal lots of acid-mine-drainage damaged streams and, finally, we can end up at the gas fields that used to be the Pennsylvania state forest system," he explained.

"Even if we can't learn from our own history, at least we can help other states avoid our mistakes," Myers hopes.

## France Outlaws Shale Hydro Fracking

AlbertaSurfaceRights.com  
May 12, 2011

MPs have voted to ban the shale gas mining process of hydraulic fracturing in France.

The proposition was passed by 287 votes to 186, with the Socialist Party and Green MPs voting against it because it did not constitute an outright ban of shale gas mining in France.

The latest proposition bans the technique of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, which uses a high-pressure blast of water, sand and chemicals to create a shockwave to break open cracks deep in the Earth and shift the gas into collection areas.

Fracking, currently the only technique used to collect shale gas, has come into the spotlight for causing damage to drinking water supplies.

Thousands of protesters have marched against shale gas exploration, voicing fears of the

damage that, beyond the danger to the water table, the transport of materials and drilling could cause to local communities.

All firms which currently hold shale gas exploration permits in France will need to produce a report ensuring that their mining technique is not fracking.

If hydraulic fracturing is used, or no report is produced, the drilling permits will be rescinded. The list of companies and their techniques will be made public.

The proposition leaves the door open for drilling experiments used to hone other methods of obtaining shale gas, held under public supervision.

Senators were to debate the proposal on June 1.

Ecology Minister Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, told interviewers that the original granting of shale gas exploration permits by her predecessor Jean-Louis Borloo was "a mistake."

## BALDWIN, PA ADOPTS ORDINANCE BANNING GAS EXTRACTION

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund: June 22, 2011

BALDWIN, Pennsylvania — Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Baldwin Borough Council voted 5-1 to adopt a Community Rights Ordinance that bans the corporate extraction of natural gas. The Ordinance establishes a Bill of Rights for the Baldwin community and imposes the prohibition as a protection of those rights.

The Ordinance was drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) and taken up as a rallying point by members of the community, who took it to Council.

The Ordinance prohibits "any individual or corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas" with the exception of gas wells installed and operating at the time of enactment of the Ordinance.

The Ordinance also includes a local "Bill of Rights" that asserts legal protections for the right to water, the rights of natural communities, the right to local self-government, the right to a sustainable energy future and the right of the people to enforce and protect these rights through their municipal government.

The law was modeled after the CELDF Ordinance adopted on November 16<sup>th</sup> of last year by the City of Pittsburgh. Similar ordinances have been enacted by Mountain Lake Park, Maryland; West Homestead and Licking Township in Pennsylvania; Wales, New York and have been introduced as bills by communities in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio and West Virginia.

Council members Michael

Stelmasczyk, John Conley and John Ferris brought the Ordinance to the floor for a vote at the urging of concerned community residents. At their April 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting the question of zoning or banning the gas extraction process known as "fracking" was discussed. Borough Solicitor Stanley Lederman noted that any action taken by council would most probably be challenged in the courts and suggested that a ban would be more protective of the community. Council member Stelmasczyk commented that the state "has dropped the ball" on this issue.

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

After the vote, community resident Aaron Booz commented, "We are proud that another community in Allegheny County has taken a stand for Constitutional Rights and we think this can only help in getting other communities on board."

That sentiment was echoed by Mel Packer, an organizer with Marcellus Protest, who said, "Sure is wonderful to find some elected officials who can see through all the propaganda and threats of the energy companies."

# Banning Methane Mining in New York, the U.S. and the World

By Robert Jereski  
Synthesis/Regeneration: Spring 2011

In late 2009, environmental justice activists in New York State began to build a very large grassroots movement and an impressive coalition of over 70 groups calling for a ban on a particularly destructive method of methane mining called horizontal hydrofracking or 'fracking'.

Upstate groups like the Chenango Delaware Otsego Gas Drilling Opposition Group – made up of farmers, shopkeepers, lawyers and small landowners – began the arduous task of mapping out lands in their members' three upstate counties that were being leased for gas drilling, organizing pancake breakfasts for people in small rural communities to hear about the threat that was looming and organizing and participating in rallies to attract media attention.

The Shaleshock Citizens Action Alliance began a Listening Project to learn from farmers and small landowners in upstate counties how their existing concerns with taxes and the economy in general might be answered in ways other than a quick signing bonus and sacrificing of their way of life and connection to the land.

In New York City, the ecological education organization, Friends of Brook Park (FoBP), organized and participated in colorful demonstrations and panel presentations exposing political intrigues that would sacrifice upstate communities to industrialization and pollution. FoBP advocated forcefully for the basic principles of environmental justice that protection of one's water must not depend on access to concentrated political power but is a fundamental right for which environmentalists must stand firmly.

All of these participants in the statewide ban movement were grassroots organizations representing their communities and members. They and other key signatories to the petition (like the Sierra Club's local Chapter which bucked the National Sierra Club in taking a principled position informed by the grassroots) are the bulwarks of the statewide ban movement against horizontal hydrofracking in New York State.

Fracking is a water- and energy-intensive form of drilling for 'natural gas' (an industry euphemism for methane which has also tried to sell the public on 'clean-burning natural gas') and is used to force nearly impermeable geological formations like tight sands and shales to yield methane gas trapped in tiny pores.

Developed by Halliburton and used extensively throughout the country west of the Appalachian Trail, fracking was unknown to all except for the most ardent environmentalists in the Northeast. The movement for a ban on horizontal hydrofracking in New York State is one of the largest campaigns in that state responding to the threat of this relatively new fossil fuel extraction method. Yet, in his film 'Gasland,' Josh Fox chronicles his cross-country odyssey searching for answers about the impacts of gas drilling, while failing to support or even refer to the existence of this or any other campaign to ban gas drilling.



Note from the author: Friends of Brook Park is a leading environmental organization based in the South Bronx. Please support their work promoting a New York statewide ban on fracking! They're the real deal. They are one of the groups in New York City fighting honestly and passionately for a statewide ban on hydrofracking and have done great work educating and mobilizing people. Phone 646-648-4362; email information@friendsofbrookpark.org; www.FriendsOfBrookPark.org. You can send a check or money order to Friends of Brook Park, PO Box 801, Bronx, NY 10454. Thank you.

Which brings us to a provocative question this review of the film will touch on: Why are Josh Fox and his film becoming famous? To address this question, we need to explore how people came to learn about the threat of horizontal hydrofracking to their way of life, the environment and public health and to recognize the various responses to that threat by communities directly threatened, as well as by political environmentalists, politicians and, finally, artists.

In 2008, a shale formation stretching from New York State through Pennsylvania, part of Ohio, all the way to Tennessee began to be mentioned outside of circles of gas industry speculators. New Yorkers began to hear more about 'natural gas' in general as the mainstream media began promoting the importance of gas and as multi-billionaire energy investor, T. Boone Pickens, began promoting the use of methane.

As the new Congress began secretly shaping legislation ostensibly to address the threat of catastrophic climate change,

the media became a vehicle for various hydrocarbon industries (coal, gas, oil) to posture, schmooze and tout their particular form of fossil fuel to the public and hopefully receive a fat piece of what were to become the pork-laden 'climate' bills of Representatives Waxman and Markey and Senators Kerry, Lieberman, Graham and Boxer. The Marcellus Shale, where exploratory wells had been drilled in 2004, saw a rapid expansion of new drilling operations as the media described the deposit of gas locked in shale rocks as an exciting new 'play'.

But horizontal hydraulic fracturing had already been underway for a few years across the country in the Barnett shale in Texas, the Fayetteville and Haynesville shales in Louisiana and tight sands and shale in Wyoming, Illinois, Colorado and elsewhere. Stories in local papers, published on the Internet and word-of-mouth revealed how communities in those states had faced massive water withdrawals, contaminated waterways and wells, toxic spills, ozone levels requiring people to stay indoors, destroyed roadways, large-scale wilderness destruction and the emergence of illnesses, including rare brain cancers.

As more New Yorkers began to learn about the experiences of Americans in the South, the Great Plains and the Rockies, many came to realize that the mining process Halliburton had developed (which was being pre-

sented as a means of obtaining 'clean energy,' economic revitalization and addressing climate change) was in fact completely unsustainable and had to be stopped.

Those New Yorkers, from the Big Apple to towns like Ithaca and Albany, from tiny hamlets to small communities like Delhi and Margaretville, and from farmland being tilled by families for generations, reaching up to the Finger Lakes – these New Yorkers came together and became activists fighting a media-savvy, well-connected fossil fuel industry for their lives, their homes and the well-being of their communities.

## On 'Environmental' Organizations and Legislators

A primary obstacle to consolidating nationwide movements to ban fracking is the promotion of methane as a 'transitional' or 'bridge' fuel by major environmental organizations like the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the National Sierra Club. They claim that 'natural' gas is a stepping-stone on the way to a zero, or suitably low, carbon economy, based on the fact that methane burns cleaner than other hydrocarbons. Associated with these pro-gas drilling groups are high-profile figures like Riverkeeper and NRDC attorney Robert Kennedy, Jr., the Sierra Club's Chairman Carl Pope and its new

Executive Director Michael Brune, some of whom have toured the United States with gas industry reps. These 'environmental' leaders lend their names to the gas industry.

The industry's front groups like the Clean Sky Initiative promote 'natural' gas and give it a non-profit face, thereby deceiving those receiving information from them into believing that the information is being shared by a disinterested party as opposed to an industry-funded public relations outfit. Nevertheless, these 'environmental' groups promoting methane gas are unable to point to a single comparative life-cycle analysis showing that the greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint of shale gas is less than that of coal or oil. Such a study, necessary for any argument for gas as a bridge fuel, has been initiated by Professor Robert Howarth at Cornell, who put together a preliminary assessment ([http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/Howarth\\_Energy\\_and\\_Environment.html](http://www.eeb.cornell.edu/howarth/Howarth_Energy_and_Environment.html)) of the comparative GHG emissions of coal and unconventional gas. Howarth's assessment suggests that gas is more GHG intensive than coal, when including conservative estimates of methane leakage from the drill pads and transportation systems. As the public becomes more aware of such measures, the industry devises more deceptions to prevent its lies from being uncovered.

In New York State, various distractions have undermined the movement for a statewide ban on unconventional gas drilling. One such distraction was the (failed) campaign to have the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) restart its environmental review of the potential dangers of horizontal hydrofracking in the Marcellus and similar geological formations. The campaign urged that the draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS), which the DEC had issued, be withdrawn on the dubious premise that a *de-facto* moratorium on such hydrofracking instituted by New York Governor Paterson would stay in place and that the dSGEIS was not the appropriate vehicle for reviewing flaws in any proposed regulatory scheme.

Another distraction from the statewide ban movement has been the promotion of carve-outs or "special protected areas" that are deemed more deserving of protection – such as efforts to protect the "New York City watershed." Such efforts have been advanced by New York City politicians like Councilmember Gennaro and Borough President Scott Stringer who have hidden behind excuses of (non-existent) jurisdictional restrictions to justify their promotion of carve-outs. They have been supported by the pro-gas drilling NRDC and Riverkeeper, for whom sacrificing

upstate watersheds and foodsheds (where much regional food supply is sourced) to the contamination of drilling operations seems less important than cashing in on a hollow victory with funders and new (naïve) members.

Finally, there was a push at the State government level for a one-year moratorium on gas drilling, which recently passed the State Senate but failed to pass the New York State Assembly. But many – including many landowners' groups with leases – believe that no hydrofracking is threatened in New York State before 2014. The entire exercise of rallying people for a moratorium bill will have taken energy and resources away from activists pursuing what they actually want: to ban horizontal hydrofracking in New York State and the country.

The campaigns around bills proposing either a one-year moratorium or a moratorium until the EPA completes its study on the impacts of drilling (about two years) distracted from the growing momentum towards a gas drilling ban. A moratorium bill has been promoted by some activists as a means of buying time to organize for a ban; others claim it is a 'realistic' intermediary step. But many advocates for the ban believe that the timing of a moratorium plays into the hands of the gas industry while pointing out that declaring what activists want is 'unrealistic' becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy because it stifles those demanding urgently-needed transitions away from polluting energy sources while insulating politicians from the true demands of their constituents. A moratorium not only delays the ban effort but also serves the gas drilling industry. Because of the moratorium, some shale 'plays' may become more attractive according to the industry itself.

Because of the recession/depression and the glut of gas on the market, gas prices are very low. During the moratorium period and, in part because of the moratorium, leases can be scooped up by major players at bargain-basement prices, thereby adding to the gas industry's economic and political muscle.

Statewide ban advocates have tried unsuccessfully to determine how the sponsoring legislators for the moratorium efforts decided to introduce moratorium bills as opposed to a ban bill, in light of the already strong movement for a ban and the absence of any moratorium movement prior to the introduction of the legislation. They have also asked how these two bills were drafted, given NRDC's role in drafting and pushing for the inadequate Federal legislation known as the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals (FRAC) Act.

Robert Jereski can be contacted at [mutualaid10@gmail.com](mailto:mutualaid10@gmail.com).

## ESTABLISHED ANTI-FRACKING GROUP OFFERS HELP TO OTHERS

### Damascus Citizens for Sustainability Launches New Initiatives

By Liz Bucar  
Callicoon, New York

In the spring of 2008 when Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DCS) launched its campaign to educate the Delaware River Basin about natural gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing, "fracking" was not a household word.

There were people like Laura and Larry Amos (Garfield County, Colorado), who could have told us in 2001 about life in the shadow of natural gas drilling. They could have shown us their poisoned drinking water and shared the medical reports confirming Laura's adrenal tumor. Unfortunately, the Amos' story of exploding wells, flammable water, cancer and an endangered child wasn't found on the nightly news.

We and the Amos family were kept in the dark.

Seven years later, in the Delaware River Basin, as natural gas rights were being quietly leased and the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) was being subjected to nearly uncontested pressure to permit fracking of

the Marcellus Shale, very few residents of the River Basin understood that their hydrologic system – the one relied upon by "over 15 million people ... for drinking, agricultural and industrial use" – was in danger, according to the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Among the few who had identified the threat and stood ready to spread the word and defend the Basin was a not-for-profit educational group, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability. In the Spring of 2008, DCS began hand-delivering its message up and down the Delaware River corridor, re-telling the stories of the Amos family, Cathy Behr and the wasting of Garfield County, Colorado, among other places. DCS was instrumental in building a network of community groups and actions that spread 330 miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Hancock, New York and from Texas to Delaware.

Even though Cabot Oil's methane wouldn't be found in Dimock, Pennsylvania's drinking water until 2009, Josh Fox was already listening intently to Damascus Citizens and, in May 2008, embarked on a personal journey through many of the 34 U.S. States where shale drilling was occurring. He chronicled what he found in his scientifically-backed and critically-acclaimed film 'Gasland,' which

not only catapulted natural gas extraction into the mainstream media but was also dedicated to Damascus Citizens for Sustainability.

Since 2008, DCS has grown in scope and impact. Its working relationships with Theo Colburn's Endocrine Disruptor Exchange and grassroots community groups across the nation have given rise to three new community-building initiatives: DamascusCitizensHelpStreet.org, GasDrillingTechNotes.org (a gas extraction research library) and, still in its early days, a registry for people who believe they've been exposed to gas extraction toxins. (According to the Gas Drilling Tech Notes Web site, DCS "will work with medical advice to create a national petition campaign that notifies ATSDR [Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry] of the need for Gas Drilling Health Surveillance, a Gas Drilling Health Registry and a comprehensive health impacts study.")

Damascus Citizens Help Street.org, the first of the three initiatives to get its own Web site, was a long time in the making. DCS' Director and Science Officer, Barbara Arrindell, explains, "Help Street is built on a very old idea. If you give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day. If you teach him to fish, he'll eat for a lifetime. Ever since we opened our

doors in 2008, people have been asking how they can keep their communities safe from the degradations of hydraulic fracturing and gas extraction. All of us, each and every one of us, gains something when a community can share what has been learned to protect itself. So, we designed Help Street."

HelpStreet pairs new community groups with battle-tested volunteers who share their organizing and Internet know-how for free. Whether you're a volunteer looking to help or a group desperately seeking assistance, DamascusCitizensHelpStreet.org is a great place to start and their request and volunteer forms couldn't be simpler to complete.

"Sometimes, people want a speaker or help getting free publicity for their events. Sometimes they need to know how to submit a Freedom of Information request for documents or how to write zoning laws to protect their resources and community's character," Arrindell said.

Or sometimes, they want to create an international conversation.

Recently, Tanyette C. contacted HelpStreet. She was planning a trip to Norway, where onshore gas drilling is prohibited. She wanted to talk with Norway's Statoil ASA ("Driven by Norwegian Gas"), which purchased 32% of Chesapeake Oil's assets in the

Marcellus Shale. She wanted to tell Norwegians what she feared, what Statoil's ventures in the Delaware River Valley would do to her river and its environs. She believed that Norwegians, who had the good sense to prohibit gas extraction on their home soil, wouldn't want her valley in the United States sacrificed to the industry.

Soon after contacting HelpStreet, Tanyette wrote, "Our conversation was inspiring and I started compiling a list of Norwegian environmental groups... one said he would help me organize a screening of 'Gasland' for their people. I took your advice on how I should approach them via email and those contacts have been key to building the relationship. My conversation with you was very helpful in preparing for the trip .... One gentleman even asked if I could bring a jar of the contaminated water to Norway with me."

And that's just one example. Since its Spring 2011 beginnings, HelpStreet volunteers have sat on panels in community fora, helped build Web sites, provided scientific and technical insights, connected an attorney in Oregon with groups needing zoning advice, helped create an art auction fundraiser and much more.

DCS' second initiative, GasDrillingTechNotes.org, is a gas drilling research library created

by Damascus Citizens for the sole purpose of assisting individuals and community organizations to discover the truth about gas extraction and hydraulic fracturing.

The sheer volume of information at the Web site is staggering. Between an article about the potential danger of fossil fuel air pollutants on the IQs of developing fetuses and a home-made video on the effects of chemical exposure on cats, cows and people, community researchers will find toxicological profiles, the industry "in their own words," geologic reports and videos, government advocacy agencies and legal papers detailing ways to protect your neighborhood with better zoning regulations.

In 2008, the idea of communities sharing resources to "Stop The Drill" was not much more than a dream held in common by a handful of people from California to Maine. Today, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is helping build a nationwide network of educated and determined organizations that work computer-to-computer to spotlight the truth of hydraulic fracturing: one person at a time; one community at a time.

Liz Bucar is the Coordinator of Volunteers for Damascus Citizens' HelpStreet.org; DCSHelpStreet@gmail.com.



# “This is Just Too Much Death . . . We Have to Educate Ourselves, Do the Right Thing”

By Iona Conner, Publisher  
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

**Editor's Note:** I have been communicating with Angel Smith for a couple of years now about fracking issues. Bit by bit, she sent me information about what was going on in her area – people having meetings, making YouTube's, hiring lawyers, etc. but it wasn't until May 18<sup>th</sup> that I had a chance to talk with her on the phone and hear her story. Half an hour after we hung up and I started writing this article, my heart was still beating hard from hearing all the grief she and her family and her animals have gone through because of incompetent gas drilling operators and public employees. It is hard to believe that these things can happen in this country, in this state, to ordinary people just going about their business, in her case farming.

Angel and William (Wayne) Smith of Clearville, Pennsylvania thought it was all right to sign a lease for a natural gas company to drill on their land so they could earn extra money. So in 2007, PGE (Pennsylvania General Energy Company, LLC) started drilling vertical wells (the less harmful kind, not fracked). They were just going to look for gas and, if they hit gas, they said the wells could last for 10 to 15 years.

But two-and-a-half years later those wells were ordered shut off by Steckman Ridge so they could convert the system to gas storage. A compressor station is now a half mile from the Smith's farm. “Everybody's property was storage,” Angel explained.

The Smith's first royalty checks from PGE were based on 106 acres but, with Steckman Ridge now involved, the Smiths are getting royalty on only 90 acres. Steckman Ridge is now storing 12 billion cubic feet of natural gas under Clearville's properties for \$5.00 an acre.

An artesian well was the source of the Smith's water but, after the drilling started, polluted water was running over the casing. In January 2007, “our horse went down,” Angel said. Then in April 2007 a cow “went down” and died. Another cow started stumbling around so the Smiths called a vet who tried treating her with pills and other things he thought would help but, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, the cow “crashed through the fence” and died. All of these animals acted in the same way before they died: they were lying on their sides with their feet moving back and forth in a walking motion.

Angel, 41, was upset and started going around to her neighbors asking if they were having trouble with their animals. No other animals were dying. In September 2007, the DEP came out and tested the water, finding that manganese and iron were “off the charts.” Yet the DEP person told Angel he needed “a smoking gun.” Did he expect people from Steckman to admit they were having problems? Weren't the dead animals enough of a smoking gun, Angel wondered.

“We lost calves, all the chickens died, one little dog was wasting away,” Angel said. The dog would scream at night and Angel couldn't sleep for months, during which time she would go downstairs and hold her pet so it could finally sleep.

Then Wayne got sick so they drove to the hospital for blood tests, which showed high iron, not an alarming rate, but still iron. At that point, the Smiths switched their water source to springs, which had no arsenic. “We had high iron and manganese in our water, Lord knows what else,” explained Angel.

But that wasn't the solution. The Dalmatian got kidney disease and the Rottweiler started breathing “like a freight train” one night – like the cows had been doing – and then died the next morning before they could go to a vet.

There were no autopsies done at the time and the vet suggested waiting till the next one.

“Jesus, we hope there isn't a next one,” Angel told him.

But there was. In 2010 another cow died.

“This is just too much death,” Angel declared. “In 2009, we had to make a choice. We had found



Angel and Wayne Smith's grandchildren feed one of two baby calves after the mother cow mysteriously had no milk and would not accept her twins. Angel wonders if this peculiar behavior is somehow related to drilling near her farm. Angel also hopes the children have not suffered from all the hand-washing they did when visiting their grandparents whose water was contaminated by gas companies in the area.

out by then we also had arsenic and methane in our water so we bought an \$11,000 water system and prayed that it would work.”

Now, coming back to the present, on May 25<sup>th</sup> (2011), Wayne smelled gas. The Smiths have a gas stove, so that was the first thing they thought of. Wayne ran soap along all the joints and there were no bubbles. He went out to the field and the odor was strong there so they called the National Response Center, a federal hotline which theoretically emails local agencies like the DEP, DOT (which permits the compressor) and EPA when there's trouble. “That is such a joke,” Angel said, “They send it to all those agencies and nobody responds.”

She finally had to make the calls to DEP herself. When she notified DEP in Altoona, the man told her he was downloading his computer and couldn't come. When she called the non-emergency line in Bedford County she was told, “Every time you smell gas I'm not going to come running but I'll come down now.”

The non-emergency person and fire chief brought a meter to the field and found propane, carbon monoxide and mercapton (the substance used to make gas smell so people will know when there is a leak). With those readings in a house, the home would have been evacuated.

Not long after that, one more cow died and “another cow had twins and she did not want them, so now we are bottle-feeding two babies called Fric and Frac,” Angel said.

It seems to Angel that the DEP in Harrisburg is working to protect the gas companies and “that leaves people like us to try to protect the environment. Like I have also said, farming and gas drilling do not mix – you can't have both at all.”

Here's one tiny example of the kinds of exchanges the Smiths have had with public officials.

## May 10 Summary of the Incident the Smiths Sent to DEP

I called Mr. Ruddick, air quality in Altoona this morning but he was out today. There has been something going on here that we need some answers to. On April 25, 2011, we reported we smelled gas. I called air quality, he was updating his computer and COULD NOT come down. So, we called Bedford non-emergency line. They came and got a reading in our pasture of carbon monoxide, propane and another chemical at 11:00 a.m. It was the volume of what was smelled that was the real problem. Steckman Ridge responded about 5:00 p.m. His reply was, “We are not sure it was our gas. But, the key point (was) it was gas. Then on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 we lost a 600-pound steer and another cow was trying to miscarry. May 9<sup>th</sup> that cow had her babies but no milk to feed them and she doesn't claim them at all. On May 9<sup>th</sup> around 12:00 [midnight], we were awaked by the compressor station roaring over

top of the refrigerator running and our doors and windows were closed. Then there was also a siren. Now, 12:00 p.m. this afternoon, we saw a big oil truck go up the road. Did they lose oil again? Did the compressor station do its normal malfunction?

These are questions that we feel need to be answered. We all should not have to wonder what went on, we should be left known! At least Bin Laden blew something up and he said he did it! We are tired of lies. Wayne and Angel Smith Clearville, Pennsylvania

## May 12 Reply from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

I contacted Spectra (the parent company of Steckman Ridge which bought Texas Eastern Transmission) to inquire whether there was an ESD [Emergency Shut Down] Monday night or if what you heard was the typical “unit venting” of the station. I also asked if there was any oil misting as occurred with the very first ESD they ever had.

I received a call back today. The response I received was that there had been no unusual operations at the facility within this month (no ESDs included) and no oil was released.

I was also told as a follow-up that, although Steckman had gone out during your initial report of smelling gas at the end of the day and found that they did not believe the gas was coming from their pipeline. Steckman is continuing to work with the DOT [Department of Transportation] to perform some follow-up testing to ensure that they do not have any leaks in their pipelines that could be contributing to the gas smell you reported.

Magdalene Suter  
Environmental Engineer  
Office of Energy Projects  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

## May 16 Letter to Congressman Shuster

Hi, (it's) Wayne and Angela Smith in Clearville, Pa. We have had some really troubling events happen here and we are asking for your help in this matter.

We were supposed to have Alex Dankanich from DOT/PHMSA [Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration] come to our home today, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. A few hours before he was supposed to be here, he emailed and said he was not coming. He was coming here to look for a gas leak. This is really upsetting to us. We know there was gas on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Carbon monoxide, mercapton, propane. With the Marcel-

lus in this area and the storing of gas, the compressor station and well drilling, a leak or what may have happened should be taken as top priority.

We are hoping for a response in this matter as soon as you can. Thank You,  
William and Angela Smith

## May 17 From Angel to Me

I have dealt with a lot of PA DEP members and every one of them has lied to me, called me names and tried very hard to belittle me . . . We also are getting ready to talk with USDA about the cattle. We raise them and put them in the food chain. I am so upset about this because the last thing I want to do is poison someone else.

## May 19 From Angel to Me

... The compressor station is not on our property – it's a half-mile away and this morning around 10:18 it blew off, shook windows!

Now, back to the phone interview. Angel told me that when a man from Steckman showed up with a sniffer and went up and down the pipeline, he said, “We're not sure it's our gas.”

“Whose gas is it?” asked Angel.

He told her that the compounds that had been identified were coming from the dead cow.

“I want Spectra here with their sniffer held over the dead cow and let's see if all three chemicals show up.”

So, the Smiths ask themselves, “Do we just stay here? Where would we go? We'll just stay here and keep fighting.” One way they are fighting is through a lawsuit.

The Smiths are also working with their neighbors. When Angel first went to some of them a while ago to warn them about arsenic and suggest that they get their water tested, they treated her like she “had leprosy.”

Then one day Wayne helped one of them do a job with his tractor. When the man went to pay him, Wayne refused the

money and asked the man to put the money into a water test. The [level of] arsenic was off the charts. Finally, others got their water tested.

Last year the Smith's pond turned red and the creeks have foam on them or they go dry. A call to her state representative, John Eichelburger, ended with him reassuring her that, “The DEP knows what they're doing.” Angel says that some DEP employees end up working for the gas companies.

At this point, Wayne (54) has such a high level of iron in his liver that his doctor pulled him aside and quietly said, “Wayne, you're going to have to stop drinking.” But Wayne is not a drinker. And Angel's blood pressure was so high that her doctor asked her, “Girl, what are you doing?”

In the meantime, the Smiths have seen a nitro truck and a truck with radioactive placards running a scope to see if the casing is all right. When they drilled under their property, a spring popped up in their barn. The state told THEM to fix it. Another side effect of the drilling activities around their farm was a blowout that sprayed lubricating oils over 500 blueberry bushes, ruining their harvest. That happened on a Sunday and they were told to simply “wash the oil off.”

“No,” said Angel. “The garden's gone.” She wasn't about to risk poisoning anyone else. This emergency shutdown had released 967,000 standard cubic feet of natural gas. “This proved to me that little towns are not prepared for these problems and the sad part is that there's an elementary school less than two miles up the road,” she added.

Did the company get penalized? For two incidents in August 2009 and again in October 2009, they received a fine of \$22,000. Steckman Ridge did not believe the release posed an imminent danger to public health and safety.

“How can they say this? After the blow off we had a reading of toluene in our water. Lord only knows what we were breathing,”

exclaimed Angel. Then Steckman went to the neighbors and gave them each \$100 gift certificates to a restaurant. “They bought (their) health for \$100,” she said.

But Angel keeps going. She planned to go to a River Valley Stream Keepers testers training in July. According to her, Steckman Ridge has messed up two watersheds: Shaffer Creek (a warm water fishery) and Siding Hill (an exceptional-value stream).

For a while, the Smiths received royalty checks for about a million dollars all together but today Angel says, “If I could give back every check we ever got for a royalty for them to go away, I'd do it in a minute – get back my animals – oh, yeah.”

At the end of the interview, Angel told me that the couple had lovingly named their farm Four Beat Beaver Creek Farm for their horses. Now they sit on their porch and see turkey vultures lining up on their fence post. With black humor, they tell each other, “This place is now called Death Valley. They are just waiting for us to die.”

But to end here wouldn't be doing Angel's spirit justice. She closed the interview by explaining how hard she and others must work to be able to counteract the effects of the gas industry. She talked of how they must educate themselves and “pull off the wind direction and speed” from the closest weather channel. “We've got to do the right thing to get the right thing done.” It's almost as if the Smiths have become their own DEP. Angel said that they must be like “private eyes” and figure out which agency to call when there are problems and hope that they will respond rapidly and effectively.

“I guess it's really not about win or lose for me, I am to the point that, they [the gas company] did wrong and they need to stop hurting people. I look at it that we the people are innocent but the gas companies say, ‘No, you're guilty’ and they take no blame! I could never be in their job because I feel that life is so very fragile. God gave us one life and we feel that we owe it to live the best that we can and not have to worry about turning on our water and being poisoned!”

“I have not felt myself the last couple of days and I think I am just so depressed. I used to think: Okay, the gas companies just poisoned me and my husband and my animals, I can live with that but I cannot and will not let them hurt the children. So many other people are living a nightmare and my heart goes out to them; I cannot imagine having small children going through this.”

“This is just our story and, if you sit down and really think about, how many others are in the same place we are – selling beef to the food chain, selling vegetables and fruit? Do you know what the product you're buying really starts at? Is it near gas wells or compressor stations and are they being watered by contaminated water? What goes up in the air will come back down and that can get into soil, water, animals and the list is endless,” explains Angel in conclusion.

Think about it.  
Then do something.



Now the Smiths sit on their porch and see turkey vultures lining up on their fence post. With black humor, they tell each other, “This place is now called Death Valley. They are just waiting for us to die.”



Photos by Bill Belitskus, Northwest Pennsylvania Community Rights Network  
Mari Magill and Ben Price of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, role play a lesson on replying to 10 outlandish claims by the gas industry which are used to convince people that their work is safe, such as, "Corporations will do good by us; we need them and they need us" or "The state will protect us."

## Municipal Officials Learn How to Say "NO" to Fracking

By Iona Conner, Publisher  
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania

Nearly 100 municipal officials from dozens of communities in the northwest part of Pennsylvania spent June 11<sup>th</sup> at Robert Morris University near Pittsburgh learning how to enact ordinances to keep gas-drilling companies out of their communities, thereby protecting the communities and public health from corporate assaults while simultaneously upholding their oaths of office. The meeting, sponsored by the City of Pittsburgh and the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) in Mercersburg was billed as "Stopping Fracking Within Our Communities by Restoring Municipal Self-Government."

"We're within our rights to protect our rights," announced Ben Price, projects director for CELDF, during his opening remarks. CELDF is working with people in Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, Maryland (and even Ecuador) to develop ordinances banning such corporate attacks as gas-drilling, hog farms and landfills as they help draft language for local Bills of Rights.

Lately CELDF has been pioneering the Rights of Nature to exist and flourish. Now, thanks to their work, citizens have the legal right to stand for Nature. Since we currently are not allowed to govern ourselves, we must take on this challenge to our basic democracy and "take it on frontally: NOT HERE, NOT NOW," Price said.

First, CELDF is coordinating local grassroots efforts in order to gather enough momentum to do state-level work and change the Pennsylvania Constitution so that people will govern corporations and corporations will no longer govern people. Currently Pennsylvania's Oil and Gas Act states: "...all local ordinances and enactments purporting to regulate oil and gas well operations by this act are hereby superseded."

WHOA! We can't make laws in our own communities to protect us from the horrible consequences of fracking?? Nope. Not according to this Act.

But the Pennsylvania Constitution states: "People are the source of all governmental power...and to ensure that this is so, the "community" has "an indubitable, unalienable and indefeasible right to reform, alter or abol-

ish government." Pennsylvania's Constitution is "one of the most radical, democratic constitutions in the United States," said Tom Linzey, Esq., CELDF co-founder.

Dr. Tom Junta, MD, a foot and ankle specialist who is now part of the Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition, gave an overview of the problems communities are facing as a direct result of the Marcellus Shale drilling being done in Pennsylvania. There are over 3,000 wells so far with over 7,000 already permitted and expectations of up to 300,000 in the future. Each well that is fracked requires five to nine million gallons of water from our streams, lakes and rivers. Furthermore, the explosions that occur underground in the fracking process use explosives with 1,500 pounds per square inch (psi) of pressure, compared with air bombs in Afghanistan, which use 500 psi. Now, if THAT weren't bad enough, horizontal hydraulic fracturing can go up to three miles underground so your land or community could be fracked from as far away as three miles without your permission.

People end up with methane in their wells and many faucets can now be lit on fire. "I don't care how it got there," Junta said. "You're poking a hole through people's drinking water aquifers." But that's not all. As many as 18 wells can be constructed on a well pad; a noisy compressor station is required for every 100 wells; at least 1,000 truck trips are necessary for each well and three out of four of these trucks have had safety violations. Ninety-three percent of the wells drilled thus far have received Notices of Violation, 52 percent cited with the potential for health impacts.

"What's more important, natural gas or water?" Junta asks his audience. "It's all about water."

### What's to be Done?

"The state structure gives us no remedy to stop fracking," Linzey explained from a legal point of view. "Then we have only one option: go renegade, look for structural change." It's not just oil and gas, it's factory farms, sewage sludge (two children died as a result of this being spread on land). "This has to be banned; it can't be regulated ... We have a right to make the rules for government where we live."

Pittsburgh leads the way. They passed an ordinance in Novem-

ber 2010 banning fracking and protecting their community from other forms of corporate assault while protecting the rights of Nature. Linzey summarized their work:

1 Community Bill of Rights (the community itself and community members have rights);

2 Ban activities that violate that Bill of Rights; and

3 Take a direct and frontal attack at the corporate rights provisions in legal documents.

"Any permit that violates the Bill of Rights is void," Linzey explained. These ordinances drive the larger process to ultimately change the Constitution, first in Pennsylvania and then in the nation. "We have a different vision - communities governing themselves," he added. "It doesn't matter who you elect. They are stuck in the same legal system to keep you powerless over your own community ... We need to change the very structure under which we live."

"Everybody's watching you," Linzey told the audience of Pennsylvanians. The state is even on a Web site in South Africa. Idaho just got its first frack job. Fracking is spreading around the world now. "These folks are watching you; this will determine the future of the country; we must lead a different kind of revolt rather than living in a straightjacket," he said.

Doug Shields, a Pittsburgh Councilman for 20 years, told the gathered officials exactly how he helped get the ban in Pittsburgh. "I became their [citizens'] vehicle; I was the elected official and I had a responsibility to respond to the concerns of my citizens. There's a hunger and thirst in them to have someone to work in their interest. I had the temerity to take the aspirations of those people at their direction."

"The behaviors of the corporations in this community are abominable," Shields said. Every time he deals with companies like Lamar Billboard, Verizon or JP Morgan, there is subterfuge.

But it wasn't just corporations that Shields criticized. "Who the hell gave Governor Rendell the authority to lease out 500,000 acres of state forest and game-land (to drillers)?" he asked.

"I still remember what I learned in Civics: Government by the people, for the people and of the people," Shields concluded. And that's what he's working so hard to achieve.

civil and political rights of the residents of the Town of Wales to govern themselves and protect themselves from harm to their persons, property and environment."

The Ordinance was drafted in consultation with the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF) and advocated for by the community group Protecting Our Water Rights (POWR).

Two key prohibitions are enacted to protect the rights enumerated. The Ordinance bans "any individual or corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas or oil utilizing in whole or in part the process commonly known as and herein defined as hydraulic fracturing" and also prohibits "any individual or corporation to engage in the extrac-

tion of natural gas or oil utilizing in whole or in part the process commonly known as horizontal gas well drilling," with the exception, in each case, of gas wells installed and operating at the time of enactment of the Ordinance.

The bill also recognizes the right of the people to a form of government where they live "which recognizes that all power is inherent in the people, that all free governments are founded on the people's authority and consent and that neither individuals nor corporate entities and their directors and managers shall enjoy special privileges or powers under the color of state law which purports to make community majorities subordinate to them."

CONTACT: Ben Price, 717-254-3233; benprice@celdf.org.

# Gas-Drilling Resources

## Food & Water Watch: Ban-Fracking Toolkit

A nationwide effort to ban fracking has been launched by Food & Water Watch (see page 6). You can download a free toolkit for grassroots activism at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org). The kit includes Ban Fracking petitions to help reach out to your community and directions on how to use it; half-sheet, colored Ban Fracking flyers with persuasive facts; two booklets called "How to Get Your Resolution Passed to Ban Fracking" (a guide to passing a local resolution to help pass bans at the local level until a national ban can be accomplished along with suggestions for implementing it) and "Not So Fast, Natural Gas: Why Accelerating Risky Drilling Threatens America's Water."

Contact: Katy Kieffer, Outreach Organizer

Phone: 202-683-4939

Email: [kkieffer@fwwatch.org](mailto:kkieffer@fwwatch.org)

Address: 1616 P Street NW, #300, Washington D.C. 20036.

## Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

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

Email: [info@responsibledrillingalliance.org](mailto:info@responsibledrillingalliance.org) Web site: <http://www.responsibledrillingalliance.org>

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

## Protecting Our Waters (POW)

Protecting Our Waters is a Philadelphia-based grassroots alliance committed to protecting the Delaware River Basin, the state of Pennsylvania and our region from unconventional gas drilling and other threats to our drinking water, environment and public health. A fund has been created enabling landowners to perform baseline testing of private water wells.

We call for a MORATORIUM on shale gas drilling in Pennsylvania at least until:

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

•An Environmental Impact Statement has been completed for Pennsylvania;

•All federal exemptions for hydraulic fracturing are lifted: Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; and

•The Environmental Protection Agency study is complete.

Email: [protectingourwaters@gmail.com](mailto:protectingourwaters@gmail.com) Web site: [protectingourwaters.wordpress.com](http://protectingourwaters.wordpress.com)

Address: 4808 Windsor Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143 Phone: 215-840-6489

## EARTHWORKS

EARTHWORKS is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the destructive impacts of mineral development in the U.S. and worldwide. We work with communities and grassroots groups to reform government policies, improve corporate practices, influence investment decisions and encourage responsible materials sourcing and consumption.

Email: [info@earthworksaction.org](mailto:info@earthworksaction.org) Web site: [earthworksaction.org](http://earthworksaction.org)

Address: 1612 K St., NW, Suite 808, Washington, D.C. 20006 Phone: 202-887-1872

## The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)

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

The TEDX List of Potential Endocrine Disruptors is on our Web site ([www.endocrinedisruption.org](http://www.endocrinedisruption.org)). Every chemical on the TEDX List has one or more verified citations to published, accessible, primary scientific research demonstrating effects on the endocrine system. To download the TEDX List go to <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/endocrine.TEDXList.overview.php>

Web site: [www.endocrinedisruption.com](http://www.endocrinedisruption.com) Address: P.O. Box 1407, Paonia, Colorado 81428

Phone: 970-527-4082

## Fracking Chemicals Disclosure Registry

**FracFocus.org** is the hydraulic fracturing chemical registry Web site, a joint project of the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. On this site you can search for information about the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas wells. You will also find educational materials designed to help you put this information in perspective.

## Marcellus Drilling News

Jim Willis creates this news wire. He is not opposed to drilling but he has very good reports: [marcellusdrilling.com](http://marcellusdrilling.com).

## FracTracker-Post Gazette Collaboration

An exciting collaboration between FracTracker and a project run by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* (PG) called 'Pipeline' helps inform the PG's expansive readership about the diverse issues surrounding natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region. For this project, FracTracker's DataTool will provide a platform for data collection and map creation. You will find blog articles, raw data and thematic maps related to the Marcellus Shale gas extraction industry in Pennsylvania organized into the following categories:

Industry Violations  
Vulnerable Populations

Farming and Agriculture  
Wastewater Management

The *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* (PG) and fractracker blog and data tools are linked. The PG site <http://shale.sites.post-gazette.com/> is up and running and the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh is running a mirror end on their blog-data site at <http://www.frac-tracker.org/p/pg-pipeline.html>. You will see permits and violations, too.

## MarcellusProtest.org

Excellent Web site with lots of resources. Especially good to see are the Pipeline Explosions videos. Also the Fraccidents Map prepared by EarthJustice. Go to Resources and scroll down to Frac Accidents Map. The country is in the midst of an unprecedented gas drilling boom brought on by a controversial technology called hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Along with this fracking-fueled gas rush have come troubling reports of poisoned drinking water, polluted air, mysterious animal deaths, industrial disasters and explosions. We call them "Fraccidents."

### Water Resources at Stake: Delaware, Monongahela and Susquehanna Rivers

Governor Tom Corbett (Pennsylvania) accepted nearly \$1 million from oil and gas companies during his political campaigns and, since assuming office in 2011, promptly began repaying his benefactors by cutting down on environmental enforcement and oversight of gas drilling activities. As of July 6, 2011, the map had 70 locations with details about fracking accidents across the country. Click on "View Fraccidents Map" and a sidebar will pop up on your left listing many communities in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Click on the town/accident you want to learn about and a description of the accident will be visible, along with a skull and cross-bones to give the viewer a graphic reminder that fracking is a deadly, industrial process.

## Money Influencing Fracking Policy Deep Drilling, Deep Pockets: Lobbying Expenditures

Common Cause/NY released its report on lobbying expenditures of the natural gas industry to shed some light on the amount of money the natural gas industry is spending to influence public policy in New York State. Read the report at: <http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=6721533>.

Contact: Deanna Bitetti, Associate Director

Address: Common Cause/New York, 74 Trinity Place, #901, New York, New York 10006

Phone: 212-691-6421 Ext. 203 Blackberry: 917-751-2342 Fax: 212-807-1809

## www.PAForestCoalition.org

Excellent email updates and analyses of current drilling issues. Also has link to Republicans for Environmental Protection at <http://www.repamerica.org>.

## Wales, New York Adopts Community Rights Ordinance That Bans "Fracking"

CELDF Press Release: June 15, 2011

*"This local law embodies the will of our residents to protect our natural resources from destruction so our children and grandchildren can have the quality of life we enjoy."*

- Councilman Mike Simon -

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Wales, New York, adopted a community rights ordinance titled "Town of Wales Community Protection of Natural Resources." The Ordinance (No.3-2011) was enacted as a local law under NYS Municipal Home Rule Act, which recognizes broad police powers under the statute. The Ordinance establishes a Bill of Rights for Wales residents and "recognizes and secures certain





Photo by Iona

Bikes parked outside the University Hospital in Philadelphia.

## Bike v. Car on a Hot Planet

By Stephen Leahy, excerpt

BERLIN, June 6, 2011 (IPS) — As global carbon emissions hit record-high levels last year, officials from leading Asian nations told the 2011 International Transport Forum in nearby Leipzig that their citizens want more cars.

At the same meeting, some Europeans urged a 21<sup>st</sup>-century renaissance in bicycle transport, with electric and electric-assist bikes for personal health and the health of the climate.

"We in India need to provide more roads and rail," said B.K. Chaturvedi, a member of India's Planning Commission.

"Cycling is a minuscule thing. That's not the future," Chaturvedi told the nearly 800 attendees.

"The bike is better to get around in Beijing but bicycle use is dropping fast due to poor air quality and the danger from car traffic," said Pan Haixiao, a professor at Tongji University in China.

The number of cars and light trucks globally is projected to triple from the current 850 million to 2.5 billion by 2050, according to the International Transport Forum's (ITF) Transport Outlook 2011. That growth is projected to be almost entirely in the developing world.

Richer countries are actually reducing the personal vehicle use in the last few years.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's ITF is an intergovernmental organization for the transport sector involving 52 different nations.

Transport is the second leading source of carbon dioxide emissions, contributing about 7.5 gigatons to the 30.6 gigatons (Gt) emitted in total in 2010. The International Energy Agency (IEA) reported last week that humanity cannot exceed annual emissions of 32.0 Gt or it will be impossible to achieve the internationally-agreed

target of below two degrees C of global warming to avoid very dangerous levels of global warming.

IEA acknowledges that 32.0 Gt could be reached by the end of this year.

Even with significant improvements in fuel efficiency and wider use of electric vehicles, the ITF report projects that carbon emissions from the transport sector will likely grow 250 percent by 2050. That would amount to roughly 19 Gt annually from transport alone.

Scientists warn that to have a 50-50 chance of staying below two degrees C, carbon emission growth must flatline by 2015 at the latest and start to decline by three percent per year. Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for a long time — emissions from the 19<sup>th</sup> century are still contributing their small share to current and future warming.

Scientists also caution that there are feedbacks in the climate system, such as the potential for large releases of carbon from melting permafrost, that have not been included in their estimations.

Bicycles, and particularly electric-assist bikes, offer an important, practical solution for mobility and significant carbon emissions reductions, Manfred Neun, president of European Cyclists' Federation, told the conference.

The advent of lithium batteries with improved capacity-to-weight ratios now means electric bikes or e-bikes are ideal for trips up to 15 km (9.3 miles) at speeds of 25 km/hour (15 mph), Neun said. The Dutch Cyclists' Federation reported that if all car journeys up to 7.5 km (roughly 5 miles) would be replaced by cycling trips, carbon emissions would decrease by 2.4 million tons per year in the Netherlands.

Even in Europe, with its very good public transit system, about half of all car trips are six km (3.7 miles) or shorter . . .

# Momentum Grows for Fracking Bans, Resolutions and Moratoria

Compiled by Joe Hoff  
Chairman, Keuka Citizens  
Against Hydrofracking  
as of July 1, 2011

New York, Pennsylvania  
and a Sampling of Eastern  
Municipalities and Key  
Organizations Opposed to  
Hydrofrack Drilling

## New York State:

- Two legislative bills on hydrofrack drilling were considered by the legislature. The Assembly passed an extension of the current moratorium through June of 2012. The Senate did not act on a parallel bill and the issue is closed for the present.
- NYS Executive Order calling for a drilling moratorium by former Governor Paterson has been affirmed by Governor Cuomo.
- Yates County resolution unanimously passed calls for similar protection treatment of their watershed as that in NYC and Syracuse watersheds.
- The Town of Jerusalem (Yates) enacted a moratorium ordinance for their entire township. The one-year moratorium begins when the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) relating to the extraction of natural gas by the process of high-volume hydraulic fracturing now under review by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is finalized.
- The Town of Milo is drawing up a moratorium statement for board action.
- Dewitt, Tully, Marcellus and Skaneateles have enacted moratoria laws.
- Highland, (Sullivan Co) is developing a moratorium statement.
- Buffalo has banned hydrofrack drilling and wastewater disposal in their city.
- Sullivan County is the first county in New York State to enact a moratorium.
- Lumberland (Sullivan Co.) is considering a moratorium statement.
- Town of Ulysses is establishing "industrial zones" attempting to restrict the negative impact of drilling in their water supply.
- Tompkins County has enacted a ban on fracking on county land.
- Broome County: Ban on hydrofracking on county lands. Waste restrictions for fracking cuttings and flow back water established.
- Ontario, Sullivan and Onondaga Counties have enacted bans on fracking on county owned land.
- Ulster County has banned hydrofrack drilling on county owned lands.
- Gorham in Ontario County enacted a moratorium ordinance.
- The towns that ring Cooperstown's reservoir, Otsego Lake - Middlefield, Otsego, Butternuts, and Cherry Valley - are moving to ban or restrict natural gas drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing.
- Springfield has adopted local laws prohibiting heavy industry, including gas drilling.
- The Medical Society of the State of New York has gone on record supporting a moratorium on gas drilling using high volume hydraulic fracturing.
- Cooperstown's Chamber of Commerce has issued a position statement supporting a total ban on fracking due to the impact it will make on their watershed, farming and tourism.
- A group of residents have launched a petition drive designed to ban the use of high-volume, slick water hydraulic fracturing in the Town of Caroline, Tompkins County.
- The Village of Penn Yan will not accept any hydrofracking wastewater for processing at the village wastewater treatment plant.
- New York City has called on the U.S. Congress to remove hydrofrack drilling's exemption from the Safe Water Drinking Act.
- The Skaneateles Town

- Board has initiated plans for a ban in their township.
- The Otsego County Planning Board approved changes to Middlefield's master plan and zoning law that would specifically prohibit heavy industry, including gas and oil drilling.
- The Board of Trustees of Bassett Medical Center, based in Cooperstown, New York, views the issue of hydrofracking as a public health issue of the highest priority and resolves that the hydrofracking method of gas drilling constitutes an unacceptable threat to the health of patients, and should be prohibited until such time as it is proven to be safe.
- A consortium of interested citizens is planning for a unified moratorium and eventual ban of hydrofrack drilling in the entire Keuka Lake watershed region.
- Lebanon town board members adopted a memorializing resolution that calls on the New York State Legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo to repeal and reform compulsory integration laws in the State of New York that currently govern natural gas development.
- A petition drive has resulted in the Dryden Town Board unanimously passing a resolution to move forward with an ordinance to ban fracking.
- The Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Inc. has sued the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in New York State Supreme Court to declare High Volume Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing in New York State Forests contrary to the New York State Constitution and applicable environmental laws.
- The Otsego Town Board clarified a long-standing prohibition against heavy industry, including fracking for natural gas, in the town's land use law. By this vote the town, which includes most of the Village of Cooperstown, reaffirmed its home rule right to prohibit drilling through local ordinance. They also approved revisions to its land-use law that strengthen a ban on gas drilling and hydrofracking within the town. The law now specifies that while the removal of gravel, rock, stone, sand, fill, topsoil or "unconsolidated" minerals has been allowed, extraction of natural gas and petroleum is not permitted.
- The Common Council of Oneonta voted to ban all forms of natural gas drilling in city limits.
- The Town of Wales adopted a community rights ordinance that bans "fracking." The ordinance establishes a Bill of Rights for Wales residents and "recognizes and secures certain civil and political rights of the residents to govern themselves and protect themselves from harm to their persons, property and environment."
- The exploration of land for natural gas by horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing is prohibited in the Town of Camillus.
- Brighton became the first municipality in Monroe County to take a position on hydrofrack drilling calling for a state-wide moratorium.

## Pennsylvania

- Pittsburgh adopts the first-in-the-nation community rights ordinance which elevates the right of the community to decide, and the rights of nature over the "rights" associated with corporate personhood. The City Council unanimously adopted this ordinance banning corporations from conducting natural gas drilling in the city.
- Luzerne County Lehman Township, ordinance calling for "home rule" and a ban on drilling within their surrounding township area.
- The Board of Supervisors for Licking Township, Clarion County voted

- unanimously on Wednesday to adopt an ordinance banning corporations from dumping "fracking" wastewater in the township. The Licking Township Community Water Rights and Self-Government Ordinance is the first ordinance of its kind adopted in Pennsylvania to confront the threat of Marcellus Shale drilling.
- Cresson has enacted legislation banning fracking.
- Washington Township has banned fracking.
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania City Council unanimously passed the pro-moratorium Resolution on Marcellus Shale Drilling Environmental and Economic Impacts.
- The Borough Council of West Homestead, Pennsylvania, unanimously adopted an ordinance that enacts a Local Bill of Rights, along with a prohibition on natural gas extraction to protect those rights. The bill, titled "West Homestead Borough's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance; establishes specific rights of West Homestead residents, including the Right to Water, the Rights of Natural Communities, the Right to a Sustainable Energy Future, and the Right to Community Self-Government."
- Philadelphia refuses to purchase Marcellus Shale gas as the dumping of flow back waters is polluting their water supply.
- Collier Township upgraded its natural gas drilling ordinance to enhance their Marcellus Shale ordinance that would push drillers farther away from schools and provide baseline measurements for noise levels at drilling sites.
- United Methodists representing 950 churches across central and Northeast Pennsylvania passed a resolution calling for a temporary halt in gas well drilling in the Marcellus Shale as well as an impact tax on those places where drilling already has taken hold.
- Religious groups such as the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia have advocated against fracking and in April, 2011, America, the national magazine of the Jesuits editorialized very critically about the process.
- Baldwin Borough Council adopted a community rights ordinance that bans the corporate extraction of natural gas.

## Arkansas

- A class-action lawsuit has been filed against companies that drill for natural gas in central Arkansas. The suit is asking for millions of dollars in relation to the earthquakes associated with the fracking process the companies use. The damages enumerated in the suit are property damage, loss of fair market value in real estate, emotional distress, and damages related to the purchase of earthquake insurance.

## Maryland

- The first community in Maryland, Mountain Lake Park, adopted an ordinance banning corporations from natural gas drilling.
- Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler has sent a letter to Chesapeake Energy Corporation and its affiliates, notifying the companies of the State of Maryland's intent to sue for violating the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- Governor Martin O'Malley has signed an executive order for a three year moratorium on drilling in Maryland while studies continue.

## New Jersey

- The New Jersey Assembly voted to ban hydraulic fracturing in New Jersey in a bipartisan overwhelming vote (58 to 11, 8 abstained), following the landslide vote 32-1 earlier in the day by the NJ Senate. New Jersey is the first state legislature to ban fracking.

## Ohio

- Wellsburg City Council approved an ordinance prohibiting natural gas drilling in or within one mile of the city as concerns mounted about the city's water being contaminated by procedures in hydrofrack drilling. A reservoir serving the city is beside property that Chesapeake Energy is leasing for drilling.

## Virginia

- George Washington National Forest has disallowed horizontal drilling for natural gas within its 1.1 million acres of territory while opening up segments of the forest to the potential for wind energy construction.

## Texas

- Texas Gov. Rick Perry has signed a bill requiring drillers to publicly disclose the chemicals they use when extracting oil and gas from dense rock formations, the first state to pass such a law.

## West Virginia

- Wellsville has banned fracking.
- Lewisburg has banned fracking within their city limits.
- Morgantown banned fracking in the city and within one mile of the city limits as well.

## British Columbia, Canada

- First Nations people in NW British Columbia enacted a four year moratorium against drilling for natural gas by Royal Dutch Shell in the Sacred Headwaters. Members of the Tahltan First Nation are blocking Shell's coalbed methane project in the Sacred Headwaters, the birthplace of the Skeena, Nass and Stikine Rivers.

## Nova Scotia, Canada

- Nova Scotia citizens call for ban on Nova Scotia fracking. Graham Hutchinson says the province should impose a moratorium on the controversial practice. The group recently presented a petition to Energy Minister Charlie Parker calling for a ban.

## Quebec, Canada

- The Quebec government is putting the brakes on shale-gas drilling and exploration in the province, following the release of a special committee report saying such work should be delayed until the government can do a strategic environmental evaluation. "There will be no compromises on health and the environment," the minister said. Premier Jean Charest has said the development of a shale-gas industry must be done "correctly" or it will not be done at all.

## England

- London, England - A mining company has halted drilling for shale gas in England after scientists said two small earthquakes might be linked to the controversial process, known as "fracking".

## France

- The French Parliament and Senate have voted to ban hydraulic fracturing or fracking. France is the first country in Europe to ban the controversial practice that involves using 'slick' water a combination of water, chemicals and mud, to fracture the rock with hairline cracks and prop open underground fissures.

## South Africa

- A countrywide moratorium against hydrofracking has been implemented.



Prank signs in a rest area of the Pennsylvania Turnpike's drinking fountains target gas drilling. The professionally-printed sign in the Midway Service Plaza looked official at first glance but something didn't look quite right to Tonya Markiewicz, who stopped in for a drink June 8<sup>th</sup>. The message, which bore what purported to be a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection logo, has since been discovered in several other Turnpike service plazas. From Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article by Don Hohey on June 27, 2011.

# SHALE GAS OUTRAGE 2011

Confronting A Poisonous Industry

## PHILADELPHIA, PA

## SEPTEMBER 7-8

Wed., 9/7: Rally, March, Concert  
Thurs., 9/8: Conference, Independent Actions

Bus and housing info at [shalegasoutrage.org](http://shalegasoutrage.org)  
Take off work and school now for this massive mid-week rally!

The nationwide movement to stop dangerous shale gas drilling confronts the mega-corporations playing fast and loose with public health.

## UN Climate Panel Adopts Strict Reporting Standards

By Bob Berwyn, excerpt  
Summit Voice: May 16, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which has been a whipping boy for the global-warming deniers on the fringe of the climate debate, last week adopted stringent new standards that will give the panel even more credibility as it tries to provide an international framework for dealing with the spiraling climate change crisis.

"I feel gratified that the process that the UN Secretary-General and I initiated a little over a year ago requesting InterAcademy Council to review the IPCC's processes and procedures has culminated in such a successful outcome," said IPCC chair Rajendra Pachauri. "The 194 governments which constitute the IPCC have put in enormous efforts to analyze the challenges facing the panel, study the recommendations carefully and come up with decisions that strengthen its work."

One key focus was on better defining any potential conflict of interest issues that could taint IPCC findings. The new Conflict of Interest Policy applies to anyone directly associated with the preparation of IPCC reports. The new policy covers:

- Both financial and non-financial interests;
- The distinction between a strongly-held view and a conflict of interest;

- The need to execute the policy to reflect the various roles, responsibilities and levels of authority held by individuals within the IPCC process; and

- To mandate a task group of governments to continue to complete a plan for implementing this policy (including a form for disclosure) for approval at the IPCC's 34<sup>th</sup> Session.

Todd Kriebel (New Zealand) and Munjural Khan (Bangladesh), co-chairs of the Conflict of Interest Policy Task Group, said, "Here in Abu Dhabi we have established a clear policy

on conflict of interest that draws on best practice globally. It will allow authors to get on with their crucial work so it is their scientific integrity and the integrity of their assessments that is the focus of the wider world. What we have is a milestone: The next step is to embed the policy into IPCC processes as part of the wider IAC recommendations on management and procedures."

The IPCC also wants to modernize its communications policy.

"Modern, responsive and accurate communication is essential in a world with multiple channels of communication from newspapers, radio and TV to online journals and social networking to news delivered via Ipods and mobile phones," said Darren Goetze and Antonina Ivanova Boncheva, co-chairs of the communications panel.

"Communications are vital in terms of effectively communicating the IPCC's scientific findings to a wide audience and in handling controversies and crises in a factual and timely fashion. What has been agreed here in Abu Dhabi should better equip the IPCC and its Secretariat to deal with the communication challenges of mitigation and adaptation in a rapidly evolving and information-hungry world," they said.

The IPCC will also strengthen procedures on how all literature is reviewed and considered; document a wide range of scientific views; establish a procedure for dealing with errors that may arise and improve the handling of scientific uncertainties. That includes more standardization for dealing with uncertainty in reports and more accountability for how lead authors arrive at their ratings for the level of scientific understanding of an issue.

The new standards will be applied in developing the IPCC's next assessment, due out 2013 and 2014 . . .

*Summit County Citizens Voice, www.summitvoice.org, is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.*

## Global Warming Worse Than Thought: Warm Water Culprit

International Business Times: July 4, 2011

Global warming and the melting of the polar caps is worse than previously thought, according to a new study from the University of Arizona that appeared in *Nature Geoscience*.

The study asserted that the culprit is warming ocean waters.

"Water has a much larger heat capacity than air. If you put an ice cube in a warm room, it will melt in several hours. But if you put an ice cube in a cup of warm water, it will disappear in just minutes," said Jianjun Yin, who worked on the study.

Water has the second highest specific heat capacity of all known substances. It, rather than air, holds most of the earth's global warming heat, so it makes sense that its impact on global warming is significant.

The study estimates that subsurface ocean temperature along the coast of Greenland could rise by 3 degrees Fahrenheit and those along the coast of Antarctica could rise by 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100.

While the study estimates that

the subsurface temperatures for both poles will rise more than what the scientific community previously expected, the danger is greater for the North Pole (coast of Greenland).

LiveScience explains that the Gulf Stream sends warmer waters towards the North Pole while the Antarctic Circumpolar Current blocks some of the warm waters from reaching the South Pole, hence the temperature discrepancy.

As a result of the warming ocean, the sea level could rise by three feet by 2100 and much more in subsequent centuries, estimated the study.

The melting of ice sitting on water will not raise the sea level because water is actually denser than ice (that's why ice floats and takes up more space than water).

However, the problem is that global warming is melting ice that's sitting on the land of Greenland and Antarctica; the releasing of the grounded ice adds additional water to the oceans, thus raising the sea level.

## Arctic Warming Faster Than Predicted, Scientists Say

By Alan Bailey, excerpt  
Petroleum News/Anchorage Daily News: June 17, 2011

Surface temperatures in the Arctic since 2005 have been higher than for any five-year period since record keeping began in 1880, according to a new report from the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program, an international group within the Arctic Council that monitors the Arctic environment and provides advice on Arctic environmental protection.

The rate of sea-ice decline has accelerated and the decline rate in the past 10 years has been higher than the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted in 2007, the report says.

"Evidence from lake sediments, tree rings and ice cores indicates that Arctic summer temperatures have been higher in the past few decades than at any time in the past 2000 years," the report says. "Previously unseen weather patterns and ocean currents have been observed, including higher inflows of warm water entering the Arctic Ocean from the Pacific."

Temperatures in the Arctic permafrost have risen by up to 3.5 degrees in the past two to three decades and the southern limit of the permafrost has been moving north, with the limit having retreated by 80 miles in the past 50 years in the Canadian province of Quebec, scientists say . . .

## Ocean Acidification: 'One-Way' Experiment

Clownfish may lose hearing, become vulnerable to predators as CO<sub>2</sub> levels rise.

By Bob Berwyn  
Summit Voice: June 2, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY — Increasing acidification of the oceans is affecting sensory organs in fish and could make some marine species more vulnerable to predators.

Existing research shows that the CO<sub>2</sub> in the oceans is causing some fish to lose their sense of smell. Now, a new experiment by University of Bristol scientists suggests clownfish could lose their sense of hearing as CO<sub>2</sub> levels climb ever higher.

Since the Industrial Revolution, over half of all the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by burning fossil fuels has been absorbed by the ocean, making pH drop faster than any time in the last 650,000 years and resulting in ocean acidification.

Working with Professor Philip Munday at James Cook University, lead author Dr. Steve Simpson of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Bristol reared larvae straight from hatching in different CO<sub>2</sub> environments.

"We kept some of the baby

clownfish in today's conditions, bubbling in air, and then had three other treatments where we added extra CO<sub>2</sub> based on the predictions from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for 2050 and 2100," Simpson said.

After 17-20 days rearing, Simpson monitored the response of his juvenile clownfish to the sounds of a predator-rich coral reef, consisting of noises produced by crustaceans and fish.

"We designed a totally new kind of experimental choice chamber that allowed us to play reef noise through an underwater speaker to fish in the lab and watch how they responded," Simpson continued. "Fish reared in today's conditions swam away from the predator noise but those reared in the CO<sub>2</sub> conditions of 2050 and 2100 showed no response."

This study demonstrates that ocean acidification not only affects external sensory systems but also those inside the body of the fish. The ears of fish are buried deep in the back of their heads, suggesting lowered pH conditions may have a profound impact on the entire functioning of the sensory system.

The ability of fish to adapt to rapidly changing conditions is not known. "What we have done here is to put today's fish in tomorrow's environment and the effects are potentially devastat-



Photo by Nick Hobgood

Clownfish in waters off East Timor.

ing," Simpson said. What we don't know is whether, in the next few generations, fish can adapt and tolerate ocean acidification. This is a one-way experiment on a global scale and predicting the outcomes and interactions is a major challenge for the scientific community."

The study was published this week in *Biology Letters*.

*Summit County Citizens Voice, www.summitvoice.org, is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.*

## Glued to Weather Channel While World Burns

By Paul Rogat Loeb  
Seattle, Washington

Following the weather is beginning to feel like revisiting the Biblical plagues. Tornadoes rip through Missouri, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma — even Massachusetts. A million acres burn in Texas wildfires. The Army Corps of Engineers floods 135,000 acres of farmland and three million acres of bayou country to save Memphis and New Orleans. Earlier in the past year, a 2,000-mile storm dumped near-record snow from Texas to Maine, a fifth of Pakistan is flooded, fires made Moscow's air nearly unbreathable and drought devastated China's wheat crop. You'd think we'd suspect something's grievously wrong.

But media coverage rarely connects the unfolding cataclysms with the global climate change that fuels them. We can't guarantee that any specific disaster is caused by our warming atmosphere. The links are delayed and diffuse but, considered together, the escalating floods, droughts, tornadoes and hurricanes fit all the predicted models. So do the extreme snowfalls and ice storms, as our heated atmosphere carries more water vapor. So why deem them isolated acts of God — instead of urgent warnings to change our course?

Scientists are more certain than ever, from the National

Academy of Science and its counterparts in every other country to such "radical groups" as the American Chemical Society and American Statistical Society. But the media has buried their voices, giving near-equal "point/counterpoint" credence to a handful of deniers promoted by Exxon, the coal companies and the Koch brothers. Fox News's managing editor even prohibited any reporting on global climate change that didn't immediately then question the overwhelming scientific consensus. The escalating disasters dominate the news but stripped of context. We're given no perspective to reflect on their likely root causes.

Meanwhile, leading Republicans who once acknowledged the need to act, like Tim Pawlenty, disavow their previous stands like sinners begging forgiveness. A Tea Party Congress insists that they know better than do all the world's scientists, dismissing decades of meticulous research as Ivory Tower elitism. Even Obama has fallen largely silent, as if he can't afford an honest discussion.

As a result, too many Americans still don't know what to believe. We can't see, smell or taste the core emissions that create climate change. The industrial processes that create the crisis are so familiar we don't even question them, no more than the air that we

breathe. And if we're not getting hammered by the weather, the world still seems normal, particularly on a lovely summer day. Plus we're told that in the current economic crisis we can't afford even to think about climate change or any other urgent environmental issue, even though the technologies that provide the necessary alternatives are precisely those our country will need to compete economically. Add in a culture of overload and distraction and it's easy to retreat into denial or self-defeating resignation. It's as if half our population was diagnosed with life-threatening but treatable cancer — visited the world's leading medical centers to confirm it — and then decided instead to heed forwarded emails that assure them that they can freely ignore the counsel of the doctors and simply do nothing.

The antidote to denial and the forces that promote it is courage. And as Egypt and Tunisia remind us, courage is contagious. We need to act and speak out in every conceivable way and demand that our leaders do the same. We need to engage new allies, like religious evangelicals who've recently spoken out to defend "God's Creation," from best-selling minister Rick Warren to highly conservative organizations like the Christian Coalition. We need to work with labor activ-

ists who link this ultimate issue with the renewal of American jobs. A recent BlueGreen Alliance (see page 1) conference, for instance, brought together leaders of major unions like the United Steel Workers, SEIU, Communications Workers of America, United Auto Workers, Laborers' International and American Federation of Teachers, with environmental groups like the Sierra Club, National Resource Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation and Union of Concerned Scientists, all speaking about the need to invest in an economy where both ordinary workers and the planet are respected.

We need to join with these allies and others to voice our outrage at those risking our common future for greed. We need to find creative ways to do this until America's political climate comes to grips with the changing climate of the Earth.

Here's hoping the mounting disasters will finally teach us to turn off The Weather Channel and begin taking action.

*Paul Loeb is author of Soul of a Citizen: Living With Conviction in Challenging Times with 130,000 copies in print including a newly updated second edition and The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear. See [www.paulloeb.org](http://www.paulloeb.org) or [www.soulfacitizen.org](http://www.soulfacitizen.org).*



## Climate Rap, Yo!

Climate scientists take on denier crowd with Beastie Boy-style rap. Really!

DailyClimate.org: May 12, 2011

The media landscape is dotted by climate believers and deniers but why are those who do much of the speaking about climate science so rarely climate scientists?

That's the question raised by a handful of Australian scientists who, teamed with producers from the Australia Broadcasting Corp. show *Hungry Beast*, recently offered their riposte: A Beastie Boys-style video attacking those who deny the science showing human activity is altering

the climate.

The two-minute video runs through a fair share of clichés — icebergs, big-hatted oil tycoons, scientists in white lab coats and cheap shades.

But it is blunt in its critique of the United Nations' climate talks (indeed, language on the video is not exactly work-or kid-safe). And several of the scientists are identified by name and affiliation.

Not surprisingly, most of the scientists identified are early in their careers — Ph.D students and post-docs. But a few senior folk struck the pose: Roger Jones from the Center for Strategic Economic Studies and Leanne Armand of Macquarie University.

The YouTube clip is showing some sign of a viral lift-off — at least for videos

that don't include cats kissing kids or miraculous lacrosse shots. Posted to the Web on Monday, it had 45,000 views by Thursday afternoon and almost 63,000 by Friday morning.

Not too shabby for a bunch of scientists that rap. Still, those Australians have a ways to go before they can match the pull of mass-market entertainers like, say, the Blue Man Group. Their 2006 global warming video, "Earth to America," to date has been seen by almost four million.

For the YouTube, go to <http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2011/05/climate-rap> and then take a few more minutes to click on the blue "Earth to America" link. If that doesn't work, go to [DailyClimate.org](http://DailyClimate.org) and search Climate Rap, Yo!

## Pelicans Rescued from Gulf Spill Nesting in Georgia

By Jenney Coberly  
Summit Voice: June 17, 2011

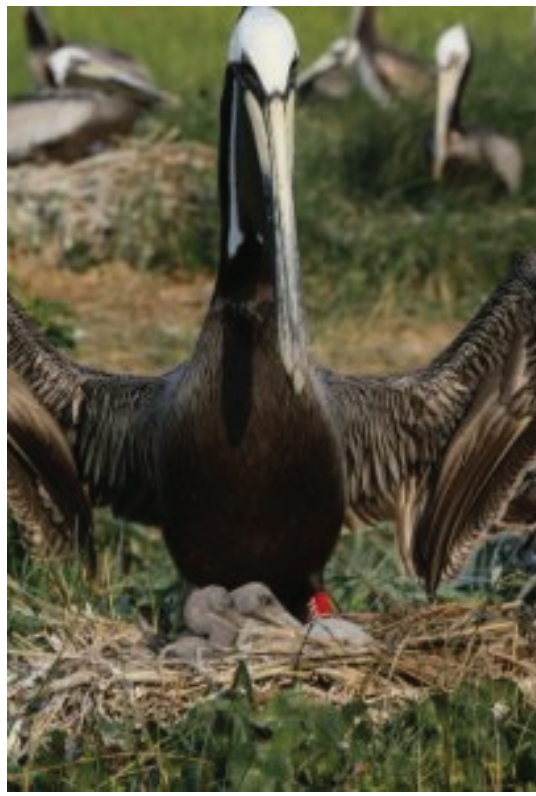
SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — In the months during and after the BP oil spill that began April 2010, more than 7,000 birds were collected dead, or died soon after, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. An unknown number of additional birds were most likely exposed to oil and never recovered, either because they died at sea or in remote locations on the coast.

More than 1,200 birds were rehabilitated and released in Georgia, Florida, Texas and upstate Louisiana. Of those, 699 were brown pelicans, 140 of which were released in Georgia last June and July. Some of those pelicans not only returned to the state this spring, they are nesting and raising young here.

"So far, they look great," said Tim Keyes, a Georgia Department of Natural Resources biologist. He recently spotted eight of the pelicans nesting in a large pelican colony on Little Egg Island Bar, a state-managed natural area in Glynn County. At least seven of the nests have chicks.

While the pelican sightings are a hopeful sign for those particular birds, Hunter said there are still many unanswered questions about the impacts of the oil on the pelican population in general, as well as specific questions about the pelicans spotted in Georgia.

"These birds, no matter how clean, likely still have some oil in their internal systems and females especially may pass this contaminant on to the chicks," said Chuck Hunter, chief of the Division of Planning and Resource Management for the National Wildlife Refuge System in the Southeast for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "But this does tell me that it's possible for some oiled birds to reproduce.



Georgia pelican. Some signs of hope for the beleaguered birds but future still uncertain.

Whether or not these chicks will fledge and survive to reproduce successfully themselves is also unknown and would take many years to determine."

Summit County Citizens Voice ([www.summitvoice.org](http://www.summitvoice.org)) is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.

## Connecticut First State to Pass Paid Sick Leave Law

By Lauren Kelley  
AlterNet: June 4, 2011

It's hard to believe that the ability to take paid time off work when you're ill is controversial. If you can't afford to take time off, how will you ever get well or find time to seek medical help? And what favors are you doing for your employer, bringing germs into the joint? Then there are parents and caretakers: without paid sick days, how are they supposed to care for dependents who've fallen ill?

For these and many other reasons, it seems like a bill requiring businesses to offer employees a certain number of paid sick days would be a no-brainer. And yet, whenever and wherever they've been introduced, paid sick leave bills have generated a lot of controversy. But there's good news: last night Connecticut became the first state to pass a paid sick leave measure.

The Times: "The State Senate approved the bill on May 25 in an 18-to-17 vote, with one Republican voting in favor and five Democrats opposed...."

The bill would require only service companies with 50 or more workers to provide paid sick days.

The measure was significantly toned down from earlier versions but opponents raised the same objections, that the bill was anti-business and coun-

terproductive at a time of high unemployment and low job creation in a state that has consistently lagged behind the nation in creating jobs. Proponents said it offered major and overdue protections for workers and for the public health, particularly at a time when workers' rights were under attack.

It sucks that the bill had to be watered down to make it through the legislature, especially with such a stupid argument against it. (Who will think of the businesses??) But considering that no other state-wide paid sick leave bill has made it into the law books, we should consider this a victory.

There's heartening news at the city level that these laws actually work, by the way. Per a Connecticut Working Families Party statement:

San Francisco enacted the nation's first paid sick leave policy in 2007. According to a recent, in-depth survey, two-thirds of employers in San Francisco now support the city's policy. A recent study by the global accounting firm PriceWaterhouseCoopers named San Francisco the world's third best city for business and innovation.

According to The Times, "Liberal groups have presented similar legislation in other states and cities." So with ground broken in Connecticut, other successes could follow.

## Justices Tell California to Cut Prisoner Population

By Adam Liptack, excerpt  
The New York Times: May 23, 2011

WASHINGTON — Conditions in California's overcrowded prisons are so bad that they violate the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment, the Supreme Court ruled on Monday, ordering the state to reduce its prison population by more than 30,000 inmates.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, writing for the majority in a 5-to-4 decision that broke along ideological lines, described a prison system that failed to deliver minimal care to prisoners with serious medical and mental health problems and produced "needless suffering and death."

Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel A. Alito Jr. filed vigorous dissents. Justice Scalia called the order affirmed by the majority "perhaps the most radical injunction issued by a court in our nation's history." Justice Alito said, "The majority is gambling with the safety of the people of California."

The majority opinion included photographs of

inmates crowded into open gymnasium-style rooms and what Justice Kennedy described as "telephone-booth-sized cages without toilets" used to house suicidal inmates. Suicide rates in the state's prisons, Justice Kennedy wrote, have been 80 percent higher than the average for inmates nationwide. A lower court in the case said it was "an uncontested fact" that "an inmate in one of California's prisons needlessly dies every six or seven days due to constitutional deficiencies."

Monday's ruling in the case, *Brown v. Plata*, No. 09-1233, affirmed an order by a special three-judge federal court requiring state officials to reduce the prison population to 110,000, which is 137.5 percent of the system's capacity. There have been more than 160,000 inmates in the system in recent years and there are now more than 140,000.

Prison release orders are rare and hard to obtain and even advocates for prisoners' rights said Monday's decision was unlikely to have a significant impact around the nation . . .

## Washington State Outlaws Shark Finning

OLYMPIA, Washington, May 15, 2011 (ENS) — Washington Governor Chris Gregoire has signed into law a bill that bans the sale, trade or distribution of shark fins or derivative products in the state. The measure outlaws the sale of shark fin soup, often served as a status symbol in Chinese restaurants. The soup, which can sell for more than \$50 a bowl, is a feature of banquets and weddings.

Shark cartilage supplements will also disappear from store shelves in Washington. Shark cartilage is claimed to combat and/or prevent a variety of illnesses, including cancer. The benefits of this supplement have not been scientifically proven, nor has shark cartilage been reviewed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

State Senator Kevin Ranker, a San Juan Island Democrat who chairs the Natural Resources and Marine Waters Committee, was the bill's primary sponsor. The measure unanimously passed in the Senate. The House voted 95 to 1 in favor.

"Despite current efforts, shark populations along the west coast continue to shrink," said Ranker. "This is a new way to combat the problem — and one which will work. Without this legislation, shark communities will only continue to decline until they become endangered or extinct."

Conservationists say the law will help to relieve the pressure on dwindling shark populations. Unsustainable fishing methods have led some shark populations to decline by as much as 99 percent in recent decades.

More than 73 million sharks are killed every year primarily for their fins, which are often harvested through finning, a practice that involves slicing off the fins and discarding the animal at sea to drown or bleed to death.

"The signing of SB 5688 sends a strong message



that the Evergreen State will not tolerate the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning," said Dan Paul, state director for The Humane Society of the United States in Washington. "We commend Washington's lawmakers for standing up for the world's top oceanic predators."

"By signing this legislation the governor took a very large West Coast leadership role in initiating action to address a global problem," said Whit Sheard, senior advisor and Pacific counsel for Oceana, an international advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

"This bill will do two things — help us move closer to ending the wasteful and unnecessary depletion of our ocean's top predators and serve as a model for Oregon and California as they have similar pending legislation," said Sheard.

Similar laws have been passed in Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam and are before the legislatures in California and Oregon.



Photo by Caroline Ross  
Alexis Ross (standing, left in background) and her friend Taylor Lee (standing right in the background) raised money through the Alexis Ross Foundation, which helps brighten the lives of children undergoing medical treatment (see EN May 2011). The two girls in the front right are undergoing limb lengthening at Sinai Hospital. The Ross family (including Laura, left) visited the Ronald McDonald house in Baltimore. Learn more at [www.livelovelaugh.org](http://www.livelovelaugh.org).

## Spotted Owl Placed Above Timber Harvest

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 30, 2011 (ENS, excerpt) — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today released the final recovery plan for the threatened northern spotted owl, which relies on old-growth Pacific Northwest forests to survive. The plan's goal of conserving spotted owl sites and high-value spotted owl habitat means some of the lands previously slated for potential timber harvest on federal lands, and possibly non-federal lands, will not be logged, federal officials said today.

The plan's three main priorities for achieving spotted owl recovery are: protecting the best of its remaining habitat, actively managing forests to improve forest health and reducing competition from barred owls. Barred owls, native to eastern North America, have moved into the spotted owl's range in Washington, Oregon and northern California.

"For more than 20 years, northern spotted owl recovery has been a focal point of broader forest conservation efforts in the Pacific Northwest," said Robyn Thorson, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Northwest regional director. "This revised recovery plan is based on sound science and affirms that the best things we can do to help the spotted owl turn the corner are conserving its habitat, managing the barred owl and restoring vitality to our forests," Thorson said. Because 20 million acres of U.S. Forest Service lands and two million acres of Bureau of Land Management lands could be affected by the recovery plan, these two agencies worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service on key forest management recommendations and provided formal letters of support for the plan's recovery goals . . .



Photo courtesy USFWS Pacific Region  
Family of northern spotted owls.

## Japan's Elders Help at Crippled Reactors

"Physical Strength and Experience" Sought From Japanese Over 60

By Ken Belson, excerpt  
The New York Times: June 28, 2011

TOKYO, Japan — By any measure, the thousands of people toiling to cool the crippled nuclear reactors in Fukushima are engaged in jobs that the Japanese consider kitanai, kitsui and kiken — or dirty, difficult and dangerous.

Seemingly against logic, Yasuteru Yamada, 72, is eager for the chance to take part. After seeing hundreds of younger men on television struggle to

control the damage at the Daiichi power plant, Yamada struck on an idea: Recruit other older engineers and other specialists to help tame the rogue reactors.

Not only do they have some of the skills needed but, because of their advanced age, they are at less risk of getting cancer and other diseases that develop slowly as a result of exposure to high levels of radiation. Their volunteering would spare younger Japanese from dangers that could leave them childless, or worse.

"We have to contain this accident and, for that, someone should do the work," said Yamada, a retired plant engineer who had worked for Sumitomo Metal Industries. "It would benefit society if the older generation took the job because we will get less damage from working there . . ."

## Compassion Day by Day

People are often unreasonable, irrational and self-centered  
**Forgive them anyway.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives.  
**Be kind anyway.**

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies.  
**Succeed anyway.**

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.  
**Be honest and sincere anyway.**

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.  
**Create anyway.**

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.  
**Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today will often be forgotten.  
**Do good anyway.**

Give the best you have and it will never be enough.  
**Give your best anyway.**

**In the final analysis, it is between you and God.  
It was never between you and them anyway.**

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle, Earthbridge Community, Marianna, Florida



Such beauty and delicacy in Mimosa flowers!

Photo by Ron Erdody at Flickr/Yahoo!

## INVITATION TO WONDER *Mimosa Moment*

By Elizabeth Ayres  
California, Maryland

The blooms made me stop, the scent made me linger, the buds made me wonder about almost everything.

I know, I know, it isn't fair. You're already asking, Who, what, where? When, how, why?

Let's start over.

It was sometime in July. All the roads were lined with effervescence of mimosa. Flowers like fans, ballerinas, balloons, butterflies – I couldn't help myself, I had to get up close to one – so I parked my car on a grassy knoll, scrambled over a ditch, up a hill, into a whorl of scent as delicate as pink cobwebs, as fragile as blushing soap bubbles. I thought, "How is it I have lived so long burdened by gravity when all along a nirvana of weightlessness has been waiting for me, disguised as a simple perfume?"

I plucked one gossamer blossom. Ticked my cheek into a fuzzy giggle with it. Painted the flesh of one arm incandescent with a fairy brush of it. I couldn't fathom how something so small and gentle could grip my heart like a strong fist. Could make me want to pitch a tent. Spend the rest of my life there, a devotee of mimosa.

I would sleep at night on green feathers, under a blanket soft as sunrise. Every morning I would wake, ready to go out and preach mimosa to our harsh, our strident, our dog-eat-dog, survival-of-the-fittest, looking-out-for-number-one world. Billions of people would convert to mimosa, coining new phrases for old values like tenderness and compassion. We would abandon force as a path to change and learn the power of cooperation but, as I stepped up to the podium to accept my Nobel peace

prize, a bumblebee landed on an eye-level branch and that's when I noticed the buds.

Tight green knobs, impenetrable verdigris knots, solid, infrangible nodes from which nothing could emerge and yet, from each hard pebble, an effusion of soft threads had burst. A silky, extravagant testament to the unlikely. As astonishing a witness to surprising potential as pink cobwebs of morning spun from the black silk of night.

That was July, this is August. Just passing, the season for mimosa, and just passing, a woman I know, who would have become a dear friend except the impenetrable knot of sickness claimed her first. The last time I saw her, she lay in bed stroking her cat's white fur with fingers thin as twigs. The trees beyond her bedroom window seemed to reach in and stroke us both, a peaceful, consoling moment and, although she is leaving behind the pebble of her body, I know her soul will blossom into a surprise of potential.

Religion wants to teach us there is life after death. Wants to teach us tenderness and compassion as well. Most of us seem not to have learned those lessons, so maybe after all we should all convert to mimosa, which proclaims what it also proves: that just beyond the hard, tight bud of the present, an extravagant and surprising future awaits. Amen.

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

## School District Turns Lawn Care Over to Sheep

AP via Daily News: June 13, 2011

CARLISLE, Pennsylvania — A central Pennsylvania school has a woolly plan to keep its grass neatly trimmed.

The Carlisle Area School District says it can save up to \$15,000 a year by turning over some landscaping chores to sheep.

The Patriot-News of Harrisburg reports the district is using the sheep to keep the grass near its solar panels neatly trimmed. The sheep nibble grass

in the morning and take refuge in the shade of the panels in the afternoon.

With the food already on hand, the district need only supply the sheep with water.

A middle school assistant principal is providing the sheep. Eric Sands says he's still trying to figure out exactly how many sheep he needs to use to keep the area clear.

## giving light in darkness

gold is murky in a stream, flashing out of mud and never more lovely than the stream – buttercups take shelter in the grass of pastures alive in the dark light of summer storms



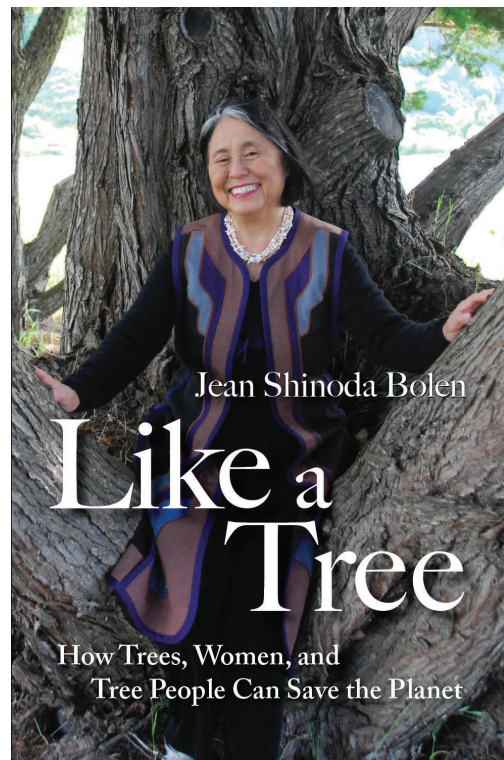
By Sandy Chilcote  
Newfoundland, Canada

## Book Review: Like a Tree: How Trees, Women and Tree People Can Save the Planet

By Terry Carnila  
Bedford, Pennsylvania

Jean Shinoda Bolen writes beautifully of the Pearls of Nature which include the wonderful world of trees in her newly-released book, *Like a Tree: How Trees, Women and Tree People Can Save the Planet*. Read the book! Love the huggers! You will learn how each of us can save the Planet. Her resources and index are commendable.

There is a theme throughout this book regarding woman being considered less superior to man and how we can work to dispel this theory. If you read the Bible, you know that, in the Old Testament, Genesis Chapter 1 Verse 27, God created man and woman. It is only in Chapter 2 Verse 22 that we learn God created woman from Adam's rib and, with this in mind, man is considered superior. As long as Religion concentrates on Chapter 2 Verse 22, the notion of male supe-



riority cannot be challenged.

Striving for excellence in a man's world is no easy target. Bolen has been successful in her field and we are grateful that she lends her expertise to so many organizations that are helping women.

I feel that you, as a woman, are as good as any man. Just keep it to yourself or it may backfire.

### From the Book's Flap

"Like a Tree grew out of Jean Bolen's practice of walking among tall trees and her grief over the loss of a Monterey pine that was cut down in her neighborhood. It is a poetic and educational, inspirational, mystical and down-to-Earth exploration of the interdependence between humans and trees.

Like Bolen's ten previous books, this book draws from her background as a medical doctor, psychiatrist and Jungian analyst. Like a Tree covers the subject of trees from their anatomy and physiology to their role as archetypal and sacred symbols."

Like a Tree is available through Red Wheel/Weiser for \$23.95 at 800-423-7087, orders@redwheelweiser.com or www.redwheelweiser.com.

## A final "tune in June"

*Going out to find berries, I found a rose  
and the rose had petals of love, warmth, caring and truth  
it was an old rose, antique rose, wild rose  
Newfoundland red rose by the side of a ruined house  
and its scent was true and its message of love was forever*

By Sandy Chilcote, Newfoundland, Canada

## EPIC continued from page 1

in terms of both exposure and toxicity. For even the most toxic chemical, if it doesn't get into the environment, there is no exposure; there is no risk, he said.

The problem with risk assessment related to fracking is that many of the chemicals don't show up on the toxicological screening list – the "priority pollutant list." Add to that the lack of completed "exposure assessments" and you end up with a high level of uncertainty. And that means that politics, not science, dictates how environmental risks are managed.

The most obvious solution, Penningroth said, is to require that drilling companies inject tracer chemicals into their fracking mixes. He also suggested that communities develop stream-monitoring programs.

Sandra Steingraber, ecologist

and scholar-in-residence at Ithaca College, spoke about the links between environmental pollutants and cancer as she introduced her movie 'Living Downstream.' Later in the day she addressed the health threats from hydro-fracking. As industrialized drilling moves into more residential areas – rural towns and even urban areas such as Fort Worth, Texas – more people are exposed to the toxic chemicals used to extract gas. In addition, the types of chemicals used include endocrine disruptors, chemicals that mimic our body's natural hormones.

"Hormones are designed to have huge, dramatic impacts at vanishingly small concentrations," Steingraber emphasized.

In addition, the amount of water needed to smash the rock to extract the gas means using

lots of trucks to haul that water. And that translates into air pollution that contributes to increased risk of pre-term births, increased asthma rates, increased numbers of cancers, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and a host of other chronic – and expensive – health problems.

"For a lot of us, fracking arrived in our lives and took us on a path we hadn't intended to take," Steingraber said. Citing a story from her most recent book *Raising Elijah*, she urged people to become environmental heroes. The question isn't about whether it fits into your busy life, she said. Rather, the question is, "How will I live with myself if fracking comes to New York and I didn't do everything I could to stop it?"

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# 18 New Biosphere Reserves Protected in Global Network

DRESDEN, Germany, June 30, 2011 (ENS) — The United Nations today added 18 new sites to its global list of biosphere reserves, bringing the total to 581 in 114 countries. Biosphere reserves are places of outstanding value recognized by UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme where local communities are actively involved in socio-economic development and biodiversity conservation.

Meeting in Dresden, the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme added sites in Lithuania, Maldives, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Togo for the first time to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Biosphere reserves are sites for experimenting with and learning about sustainable development, the council said.

The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme is an inter-governmental scientific program aiming to set a scientific basis to improve relationships between people and their environment globally by combining natural and social sciences, economics and education.

Launched in the early 1970s, the MAB Programme is concerned with problems at the interface of scientific, environmental, societal and development issues.

By focusing on sites interna-

tionally recognized in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the program strives to identify and assess the changes in the biosphere resulting from human and natural activities and the effects of these changes on humans and the environment, in particular in the context of climate change.

The new Man and the Biosphere sites are:

- Bras d'Or Lake, in Nova Scotia, Canada, which encompasses a saltwater estuary watershed inland sea with three passages to the Atlantic Ocean. (See photo.)

- Mao'er Mountain in China, which features a mountain landscape of exceptional scenery, with peaks reaching more than 6,561 feet above sea level.

- Corredor Biologico Nevados de Chillan-Laguna del Laja in Chile, which is located in the northern part of the Patagonia region and is a global biodiversity hotspot.

- Songor, Ghana, which is characterized by a unique combination of brackish estuarine, freshwater and marine ecosystems with mangroves, islands and small patches of community-protected forests.

- Mujib, Jordan, which is part of the Dead Sea basin and Jordan Rift Valley landscape.

- Zuvintas, Lithuania, which includes lakes, wetlands, mires, peat bogs, and pine tree stands.



Photo by kdg2709

Bras d'Or Lake, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada.

- Baa Atoll, Maldives, which harbors globally significant biodiversity in its numerous reefs.

- Berlangas archipelago, Portugal, which includes the Berlangas, a group of small islands and rocks, and the city of Peniche on the mainland.

- Volga-Akhtuba floodplain in the Russian Federation, which represents high-yielding floodplain meadows, spawning

grounds, oak groves and internationally important wetlands.

- St. Mary's, Saint Kitts and Nevis, which comprises cloud forests, mangroves and coral reefs.

- Blekinge Archipelago in Sweden, which includes most of the coastal areas and archipelagos of Blekinge.

- Nedre Dalalven River Landscape in Sweden, which covers

1,190 square miles with wetlands, rivers, lakes, flood plains and productive forests.

- Oti-Keran/Oti-Mandouri in Togo, which encompasses shrubland, savannas, forest galleries and grasslands. The catchment of the Oti-Mandouri River is recognized as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

- Roztochya, Ukraine, which

covers a total area of 288 square miles with agriculture, stock-breeding and fish farming as its main economic activities.

- Bura'a, Yemen, which is a rugged mountainous area intersected by deep valleys rich in rare, vulnerable and endemic plant species.

- Santana Madeira, Portugal, which is the first biosphere reserve in the Madeira Archipelago. Despite an active tourist industry, agriculture dominates the economy.

- Ramot Menashe in Israel, which encompasses the Mediterranean Basin's version of the global "evergreen sclerophyllous forests, woodlands and scrub" ecosystem types.

- Trifinio Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve, which stretches over parts of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. The tropical humid forest is inhabited by many endemic species.

Meanwhile in Vietnam, Cat Tien is the new name of the former Dong Nai Biosphere Reserve, which was designated in 2001. Two new core zones have been added to the site, bringing its total area to over two million square miles, UNESCO said.

Australia withdrew Macquarie Island from the World Network of Biosphere Reserves because it is uninhabited by humans and human presence is a criterion for inclusion in the network.

## Eel River Flows Free Again



Photos courtesy Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

The Eel River before restoration (left) with a concrete control structure, and flowing freely after restoration (middle).

Photo Interflue

The Sawmill Pond Dam has been removed to enhance fish passage.

PLYMOUTH, Massachusetts, June 17, 2011 (ENS, excerpt) — It took five years and \$2 million to complete but today the effort to restore the headwaters of Massachusetts' Eel River and its wetlands paid off with an award from the Coastal America Partnership honoring the project's success in protecting an important coastal ecosystem.

In southeastern Massachusetts, the Eel River once flowed uninterrupted to the Atlantic Ocean through a wetland known as Finney's Meadow. In the early 1800s, a series of mills and dams were constructed. Cranberry farming began in the late

1800s and continued until 2002.

Agricultural activities resulted in land clearing, modification of the stream channel, construction of upland berms and water control structures. The downstream dam was a barrier to fish migration and the impoundment affected habitat, water quality and natural riverine processes.

In 2005, the town of Plymouth purchased 39.5 acres of abandoned cranberry bogs that were part of the Wetland Reserve Program through the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

In 2006, the Community Preservation Commit-

tee of Plymouth, Massachusetts purchased surrounding forest, upland and cranberry bogs from the Phoenix Cranberry Corporation and converted the entire area to public conservation land.

The restoration project included the naturalization of the abandoned cranberry bogs and the removal of Sawmill Pond Dam, located downstream of the bogs. The restoration site is inhabited by six endangered or threatened species including the Eastern box turtle, the bridle shiner, the barrens buckmoth, the adder's tongue fern, swamp oats and the northern red bellied cooter.

The natural stream channel was restored, artificial side channels were filled, berms and water control structures were removed and undersized culverts were replaced to enhance fish passage.

More than 24,000 plants, including 17,000 Atlantic white cedar trees, were planted.

The project represents the first large-scale restoration of this rare wetland type in Massachusetts. Now known as the Eel River Preserve, the area is managed by the town of Plymouth for public use and benefit . . .



This beautiful sight is around milemarker 280 on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Photo panorama by Iona.

## HERE COMES THE SUN!

**BlueGreen** continued from page 1

project of the nonprofit Tides Center, is a national coalition of environmental, labor, business and community leaders committed to building a clean energy, good jobs economy.

Launched in 2003, Apollo's name refers to President John F. Kennedy's visionary call to restore America's technological leadership by landing the first human on the Moon by the end of the 1960s. Apollo 11 was the spaceflight that landed the first humans on the Moon on July 20, 1969.

The newly unified organization will call on lawmakers and elected officials in Washington to focus anew on creating good jobs, securing America's energy future and preserving the environment for future generations.

In their first official act together, leaders from the newly-merged BlueGreen Alliance and Apollo Alliance joined U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, an Ohio Democrat, for a teleconference to announce their support for his new legislation.

Brown's bill, the Strengthening Manufacturing and Rebuilding Transit (SMART) Act, would invest in American-made transportation infrastructure. Senator Brown's legislation is aimed at enhancing domestic transportation supply chains while maximizing job creation in manufacturing.

"With gas prices close to \$4.00 a gallon



Photo courtesy SunPower

SunPower solar panels on a Macy's store in California.

in many parts of Ohio and across the country, reinvesting in transit is more important than ever. And at the same time, manufacturing is responsible for creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying, middle-class jobs," Brown said.

"The buses, trolleys and trains that take Americans to every corner of our country should be Made in America as

well," said Brown. "By strengthening the domestic supply chain for public transit, the SMART Act will strengthen our public transit options and revitalize our manufacturing heritage."

"Nearly three years after the bottom fell out of our economy, we are still facing a jobs crisis of historic proportions," said Leo Gerard. Gerard serves as international

president of the United Steelworkers, he is co-chair of the BlueGreen Alliance and also an Apollo Alliance board member.

"We can't afford to sit on the sidelines while the U.S. misses the boat on the industries of the 21<sup>st</sup> century — the biggest job-creating opportunity in a generation," said Gerard. "That is why the BlueGreen Alliance and the Apollo Alliance are joining together today — to build a stronger movement to create good jobs that protect the environment for the next generation."

Phil Angelides, chairman of the Apollo Alliance and a former California state treasurer, said, "Today, with this collaboration and our support for Senator Brown's SMART Act, we are sending a powerful message that our highest priority must be to build an economy of good jobs and broadly-shared prosperity in place of the financial speculation and recklessness that brought our economy to its knees... Together, we are committed to building a new green economy for America's future that will meet the convergent threats of climate change, dependence on foreign oil and unacceptable joblessness."

The new BlueGreen Alliance will continue its Jobs21! Initiative by going door-to-door and community-to-community in nine states calling for a national jobs plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### U.S. Boosts 'Game-Changer' Solar Technology in Bid for Global Market

By Melanie Stetson Freeman  
Christian Science Monitor  
June 17, 2011, excerpt

The Department of Energy (DoE), aiming to boost U.S. competitiveness, gives a \$150m loan guarantee to a Massachusetts firm that has found a way to dramatically reduce the cost of solar voltaic cells. The pilot plant at 1366 Technologies creates efficient and lower cost solar cells out of silicon wafers. The DoE gave the firm the loan with the hope that the cost of solar power can be reduced to competitive levels ... Part of the plan is also to produce at least a three percentage point gain in the solar cells' output. Their goal is to reduce the cost of manufacturing a photovoltaic cell to less than \$1 per watt...

# Demands for Green Constitutions Rise as Threats to Nature, Humans Increase

By Vonca Povraz Dogan, excerpt  
Zaman, Istanbul: May 22, 2011

Two small countries of Latin America have been taking Mother Earth, or "Pachamama," quite seriously so they have passed a series of laws to protect it and their worries reached some concerned citizens in Turkey where there has been a vigorous debate going on for making a new, citizen-centered constitution.

"We are just starting a campaign calling for an ecological constitution," said Turkey's Green Party spokesperson Ümit Şahin, who is among 40 people including politicians, academics and lawyers involved in the Initiative for an Ecological Constitution (IEC). "As Turkey has been talking about making a new constitution, which is supposed to value the individual, then we should be talking about an ecological approach to it," Şahin said, adding that their role models are Bolivia and Ecuador, which understand the value and rights of Mother Earth. The IEC believes in this approach of the Latin American states, he said, because neither the European states nor the United States have been able to fully address the issue even



Volunteers cleaning up the bottom of the Marmara Sea found an incredibly diverse range of trash.

though there are some examples like France, which has a Green Charter, and some states in the U.S., which have been adopting ecologically-sensitive laws.

He noted that Ecuador's is the first constitution in the world to recognize legally enforceable Rights of Nature. Although a small country, Ecuador is home to the Galapagos Islands, Andean Mountains and Amazon rainforest as it is a geologically, ecologically and ethnically diverse country.

Ecuador took a bold step in 2008 to add Rights for Nature to their new constitution providing a system of environmental protection based on rights. Şahin noted like many countries, Turkish laws treat ecosystems as articles of property that give land owners the right to destroy even fragile ecosystems but that a lot of governments have started to enact environmental regulations to limit harm to ecosystems and impose fines for damage.

Additionally, a group of countries led by Bolivia have recently brought the issue to the agenda of the UN General Assembly as they ask for a UN treaty that would grant the same rights found in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to Mother Nature so there will be legal systems to maintain balance between human rights and what they say are the rights of other members of the Earth, such as plants, animals and terrain . . .



Photo by Kayt-u-Eric  
Power lines in Hanapepe, Kauai, which is a flyway mentioned in the Habitat Conservation Plan.

## Kauai Utility Ordered to Protect Rare Seabirds

LIHUE, Kauai, Hawaii, May 16, 2011 (ENS, excerpt) — It has taken two lawsuits against the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) and years of advocacy work but Hawaiian and national conservation groups are now optimistic that their goal of protection for two species of rare seabirds is within reach.



Photo by Michael Walther  
Newell's shearwater.

On Friday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a permit that requires the utility on Hawaii's northwesternmost main island to reduce the number of endangered and threatened seabirds it kills and injures each year and to offset unavoidable harm.

When KIUC acquired Kauai's utility in 2002, the nonprofit, member-owned cooperative promised to seek the required permit [but] has since refused to implement the measures needed to prevent the deaths of two species of seabirds protected by the federal Endangered Species Act — the threatened Newell's shearwater, also known by the Hawaiian name 'ao and the endangered Hawaiian petrel, called 'ua.

From 1993 to 2008, the population of Newell's shearwaters on Kauai declined by 75 percent, as the birds flew into power lines and became disoriented from the utility's streetlights.

The Hawaiian petrel was formerly found on all the main Hawaiian Islands except Ni'ihau but it now has a very small breeding range, just five locations in the main Hawaiian islands. Urbanization is one of the main reasons for the species' decline.

KIUC's delays prompted Earthjustice to file a federal lawsuit in March 2010 on behalf of four groups — Hui Ho'omalua I Ka Aina, Conservation Council for Hawaii, Center for Biological Diversity and American Bird Conservancy.

Two months later, the U.S. Justice Department indicted KIUC for criminal violations of the Endangered Species Act for killing the protected seabirds...

## Delaware Riverkeeper Seeking River Monitors

### Help Protect Upper Delaware River Tributaries Threatened by Natural Gas Drilling

Saturday August 6, 2011  
9:30-1:30  
(Hancock, New York area)  
Priority Areas: Wayne County, Pennsylvania and Sullivan, Delaware and parts of Broome County, New York

This hands-on training is designed for local citizens living in the Marcellus Shale areas (priority areas: Wayne County, Pennsylvania and Sullivan, Delaware and parts of Broome County (New York) of the Delaware River watershed willing to become a part

of a corps of volunteers in the Upper Delaware collecting field data for streams that are threatened by natural gas drilling. Volunteer monitors have performed monthly testing for 45 stations in Pennsylvania since March 2010.

Information collected is provided to Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) and has been used to testify and provide important comment about the conditions of Upper Delaware tributaries and what may be lost if drilling is permitted in the Basin.

To see the protocols used, visit [http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/pdf/Gas\\_Drilling\\_Stream\\_Watchdog\\_Protocols.pdf](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org/pdf/Gas_Drilling_Stream_Watchdog_Protocols.pdf).

These techniques are being used across the state of Pennsylvania and were developed in partnership with Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) and Pennsylvania

Council of Trout Unlimited.

There are still unmonitored streams in New York and Pennsylvania where Delaware Riverkeeper Network is seeking reliable volunteer teams to collect data.

Consider becoming a volunteer monitor to learn the tools you will need to help accomplish this vital river protection. Streams in need of coverage include: Faulkner Brook, Weston Brook, Sherman Creek, Pea Brook, Oquaga Creek, Hoolihan Creek, Abe Lord Creek, Sands Creek, Cadosia Creek and many more on both the Pennsylvania and New York sides of the Delaware Watershed.

Volunteers need to live locally so they can monitor these streams monthly before drilling and more frequently if drilling is allowed to begin in our Basin.

No prior experience is necessary but monitors should live within the Upper Delaware to monitor regularly and year-round. DRN has monitoring kits available for loan.

Groups or individuals may sponsor kits to help with this important effort. Pre-order kits in advance to have additional equipment available by the training — kits cost \$150 (and include electronic Lamotte Meter, chloride test kit and calibration solution).

Questions? Please contact Faith Zerbe at 215-369-1188 x. 110.

Cost: Free — equipment and space limited; please register early.

To Register: [stephanie@delawariverkeeper.org](mailto:stephanie@delawariverkeeper.org) or 215-369-1188. Please register by July 28. These workshops are possible thanks to a grant from the William Penn Foundation.

## Getting Started With Local Fracking Activism: Research

**Note from Editor:** As I was beginning to work in my county (Huntingdon, Pennsylvania) while publishing all these good stories about other people fighting fracking in their locations, a new friend showed up after reading one of my articles about trying to get an ordinance banning fracking in Cromwell Township, where I live. I was so impressed with this person's research that I wanted to share it with you in hopes that you will be inspired to dig in and get going in your own community. Here are the emails I received.

June 21, 2011: Spoke to Steven Volgstadt | Park Manager PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Canoe Creek State Park Complex / Trough Creek and Warriors Path State Parks, 205 Canoe Creek Road | Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; Phone: 14.695.6807 Fax: 814.696.6023; E-mail: [svolgstadt@state.pa.us](mailto:svolgstadt@state.pa.us); [www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us).

Confirmed there is NO drilling within Canoe Creek State Park nor Trough Creek State Park nor Warriors Path State Park.

Confirms in Todd township, Eagle Foundry Road, NW of 944 on a Shannon private property. Two producing wells and one being under construction. These well locations are approximately six to seven miles from Trough Creek State Park which is near Lake Raystown Lake! These wells are considered drilling in the Oriskany sandstone area, which are deeper vertical wells. The same fracturing procedure is being used with chemical-laced water.

The only drilling I'm aware of in the vicinity of Trough Creek State Park is east of the park on Route 994.

Main page on DCNR website for Pennsylvania Marcellus information: <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/naturalgas-exploration/index.htm>.

[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/oilandgas/Marcellus\\_wells\\_4\\_2011.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/oilandgas/Marcellus_wells_4_2011.pdf).

**Information on gas exploration on State Forest lands:**  
[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/oilandgas/Marcellus\\_wells\\_4\\_2011.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/oilandgas/Marcellus_wells_4_2011.pdf).

**Map of Pennsylvania Marcellus wells as of 4-22-11:** Only one well is shown in Huntingdon County (Trough Creek State Park is in Huntingdon County).

**General Raystown area information:** <http://raystown.org/>

**Raystown Lake:** Army Corps of Engineers: <http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/>

**Map of Raystown Lake area:** <http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/welcome/directions.htm>.

**Trough Creek State park map:** [http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/troughcreek/troughcreek\\_mini.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/troughcreek/troughcreek_mini.pdf).

According to the DCNR Web site, in Pennsylvania, over 3,000 Marcellus Shale Drill sites exist with over 6,000 more permitted to drill.

In talking with Richard Stahl (814-643-5091), Huntingdon County Planning office, he states that there is only one permit required through DEP to drill and they are not required to report that to the local Planning office.

Richard further states that there is potential in Cooks, Jacks Mountain and the Calvin area for possible drilling ... drill contractors are out there knocking on doors in an attempt to get drill leases generated.

In talking to Mark Potter, DCNR, U.S. forestry confirmed there [is] no Marcellus drilling in the Roth State Forest. Cannot confirm or deny if

potential drill sites are on target or leased in the state forests ... states they are not privy to that information???

June 27: We went to Lake Raystown this weekend for dinner and I was shocked to see how LARGE this drill site is. The water area is the size of a baseball field ... or larger. It is my understanding that this water is pulled from a well (FRESH CLEAN WATER) and then mixed with toxic chemicals and shot back down the well for fracturing purposes. This used to be all beautiful, fertile farm country ... pristine in nature. Think about this, the elevation here is ABOVE the watershed, so all this water runs DOWN-HILL ... and the location is dangerously close to Raystown lake. There are many surrounding farms below this elevation as well. I did not research the Oriskany drilling yet but it is my understanding that the fracturing procedure is the same ... only DEEPER!

Did you see the article in the newspaper tonight ... in Susquehanna county the drillers are citing they hit the "mother-lode." .... God Help Us .... they will RUIN our water and fertile farm country and then what will we have left to hand to our future generations???

June 28, 2011 Representative Mike Fleck Irviss Office Building, Room 420 Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Fleck,

I am outraged that the General Assembly is planning to adjourn for the summer and will turn its back on the people of Pennsylvania. You must return to Harrisburg to finish the job. Pass a natural gas drilling tax now! This money is needed to balance the budget, pay for environmental restoration programs and provide compensation to

local communities impacted by drilling. The General Assembly has a responsibility to correct the problems caused by Marcellus.

I am strongly urging you to support dedicated funding for environmental programs and local communities as it relates to Marcellus Shale drilling and the adverse impact it has on Pennsylvania water and air quality and the drain on Pennsylvania water resources. There are numerous proposals in both chambers. You should consider these proposals. Whatever legislation is adopted must not punish municipalities that choose to adopt legally-enforceable ordinances to protect their communities from gas drilling.

Every county in the state of Pennsylvania should have the right to protect its citizens from the adverse impact of Marcellus Shale drilling techniques and the utilization of fracturing with chemical-laced water either in vertical or horizontal drilling. It is your responsibility to represent the Pennsylvania citizens you serve. You cannot deny the horrible adverse environmental footprint left behind from fracturing procedures, They are well documented throughout the West and now even here in our own state. I would urge you to place a total BAN on these fracturing procedures and keep Pennsylvania's water resources from being further degraded.

I understand that there are difficult issues to resolve but you were elected to address difficult issues. You have an urgent responsibility to correct problems Pennsylvania is experiencing from Marcellus drilling. Before this summer is over, Pennsylvania needs to enact legislation to make drilling safe and to fund environmental protection.

Legislating is your full time job. It is time to act on this critical issue.

## Two Girl Scouts Want Palm Oil Out Of Famous Cookies

By Elizabeth Shogren

NPR.org via DailyClimate.org: July 4, 2011

Two Girl Scouts want the organization to stop using palm oil in Girl Scout Cookies. They've started a petition and gathered 67,000 signatures.



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of USA  
Girl Scout mint cookies. Yum!

A lot of adult environmentalists have been trying for years to focus attention on tropical rain forests in southeast Asia but it took two teenagers to get the issue on the front page of a national newspaper and on the network news.

Four years ago, Rhiannon Tomtishen and Madison Vorva started studying orangutans for a Girl Scouts project. What they learned inspired them to start a campaign to raise awareness of the damage that palm plantations are causing the great apes.

"I liked them at first because they are such a cute animal," says Rhiannon, 15. "But they are also helpless. Their rainforest, their home, is being cleared for these palm oil plantations and they have no say in it."

In two decades, companies have cut down millions of acres of rainforest to plant palm trees and meet the skyrocketing demand for oil and biofuel. This releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases and shrinks habitat for rare animals like tigers, elephants, rhinoceroses and orangutans.

The girls decided to stop eating food with palm oil in it. That's when they started looking at ingredient lists and learned that Girl Scout cookies are part of the problem.

"It was Girl Scout cookie season," says Madison, 16. "And so we checked the ingredients and palm oil was an ingredient in Girl Scout cookies. I remember being so shocked and upset . . ."

## EU Unveils Plans to Pay Fishermen to Catch Plastic

By Fiona Harvey, excerpt  
guardian.co.uk: May 4, 2011

Fishermen will be paid to catch plastic, rather than fish, under bold new plans from the EU's fisheries chief, aimed at providing fleets with an alternative source of income to reduce pressure on dwindling fish stocks.

Maria Damanaki, commissioner for fisheries, will unveil a trial project in the Mediterranean this month, which will see fishermen equipped with nets to round up the plastic detritus that is threatening marine life and send it for recycling . . .



# THE AWAKENING: PART VIII

(First published March 2010)



*This message is sent to you from the one who is here offering you the Truth – that is the living springs of the water of life that nourishes souls,  
The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit,  
The Most High God.*

In response to comments received from readers of "The Awakening" messages, I feel I need to clarify a few things. I have written these messages in what I thought was simple enough for all levels of understanding, when in fact I obviously have overestimated some of you. This shows me that oneness in human understanding begins at a very plain and simple level. We all need to back up or lower our understanding so everyone has the opportunity to get on board with the rest of us in order to truly achieve oneness.

For those of you who understand my messages clearly this will be a pleasant reminder and not an inconvenience.

First of all I am not channeling the Living Spirit of the Most High God, I am here now in a human body. For those of you who are biblical, please feel free to read Revelation: Chapter 22, verse 4.

Anyone who wants to may come honorably and humbly and meet me face-to-face and listen to my messages. I am not here to fight, argue or debate with any of you. I am here offering my messages to those of you who chose by their own free will to listen. I am not here to shove my messages down anyone's throat. If you do not want my messages, do not bother to read them and definitely do not come to me.

My name and title is The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God. People

have already come to me from many different countries from around the world. Those who already know me honorably, humbly and modestly, bow to me and address me by my name, which is plain and simply Most High.

Even some of those who already know me are afraid to spread the news that it is truly me and I am truly here due to the fact that some people are very judgmental in the fact that if they do not understand something, nobody else should be able to understand it either, because they are hard-hearted, closed-minded and/or not open to new ideas because of what the world has taught them.

I do not wish harm, pain, suffering or cruelty on anyone or anything. I am here to help and comfort any who choose by their own choice to receive my help and comfort.

I am the righteous God. I do not play favorites. I am here offering all of you my Kingdom (Heaven) on Earth – Christians as well as atheists, Muslims as well as agnostics, Jews as well as Buddhists, Hindus as well as Quakers, and so on. I also offer my Kingdom to those who are educated as well as those who are illiterate. I am offering all races, tribes and nations to be a part of my Kingdom here on Earth no matter what your beliefs have been. The gates are now open to my Kingdom to all walks of life.

I am offering all of you change that you can be a part of for you must be willing to change to be a part of it. I am offering all of you new hope and new faith; however, you must be willing to walk away from the ways of the world. You must be willing to follow instead of lead. You must be willing to be servants instead of slaves or masters. In my Kingdom everyone and all things are servants to me and my Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, My Council Of Elders, and you must be willing to serve each other as well.

Every day and every night the governments, corporations and political machines are planning who they will mold or shape to be the next so-called leaders (misleaders really) so they can continue to oppress and take advantage of the people, nature and the environment, fooling themselves and some people into thinking and believing that jobs, money, econ-

omy and control are more important than anyone or anything.

The world now teaches that men and women alike should be empowered. The Truth is all things should empower my Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, My Council of Elders, and their names are:

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

Once again I ask you PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM THESE "AWAKENING" MESSAGES IN ANY WAY. I also ask you to feel free to translate these "Awakening" messages as close as you can to word-for-word to all languages and feel free to share them anywhere and everywhere you choose.

It is an honor and a pleasure to be your humble servant and friend,

**Most High**

(The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God)

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

## Awakening Booklet Now Available

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

**Iona Conner**

*Earth News*

**21431 Marlin Circle**

**Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255**

**You may email**

**ionaconner@gmail.com**

**or phone 814-259-3680.**

**Thank you.**

## Ancient Ocean Changes Are Warning Signs

By Bob Berwyn  
Summit Voice: May 20, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY — After studying prehistoric ocean sediments, a team of researchers from Australia and the UK concluded that increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the oceans will likely lead to massive die-offs of marine life.

The fossil record pinpoints a mass mortality in the oceans at a time when the Earth was experiencing a greenhouse effect. High levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and rising temperatures depleted oxygen in the oceans and created large-scale changes in a very short time span – within just a few hundred years.

That mass extinction of marine life in the oceans during prehistoric times is a warning that the same could happen again due to high levels of greenhouse gases.

The study was conducted by professor Martin Kennedy from the University of Adelaide (School of Earth & Environmental Sciences) and professor Thomas Wagner from Newcastle University, UK, (Civil Engineering and Geosciences).

Professor Kennedy said that the doubling of the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere over the past 50 years is "like hitting our ecosystem with a sledgehammer" compared to the very small



*The geological record offers a glimmer of hope thanks to a naturally occurring response to greenhouse conditions. After a hypoxic phase, oxygen concentration in the ocean seems to improve and marine life returns.*

changes in incoming solar energy (radiation) that was capable of triggering these events in the past.

Using core samples drilled from the ocean bed off the coast of western Africa, the geologists studied layers of sediment from the Late Cretaceous Period (85 million years ago) across a 400,000-year timespan. They found a significant amount of organic material – marine life – buried within deoxygenated layers of the sediment.

Wagner says the results of their research, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, has relevance for our modern world.

"We know that 'dead zones' are rapidly growing in size and number in seas and oceans across the globe," he said. "These are areas of water that are lacking in oxygen and are suffering from increases of CO<sub>2</sub>, rising temperatures, nutrient runoff from agriculture and other factors.

"What's alarming to us as scientists is

that there were only very slight natural changes that resulted in the onset of hypoxia in the deep ocean," said Professor Kennedy. "This occurred relatively rapidly – in periods of hundreds of years or possibly even less – not gradually over longer, geological time scales, suggesting that the Earth's oceans are in a much more delicate balance during greenhouse conditions than originally thought and may respond in a more abrupt fashion to even subtle changes in

temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> levels."

"This could have a catastrophic, profound impact on the sustainability of life in our oceans, which in turn is likely to impact on the sustainability of life for many land-based species, including humankind," he added.

However, the geological record offers a glimmer of hope thanks to a naturally occurring response to greenhouse conditions. After a hypoxic phase, oxygen concentration in the ocean seems to improve and marine life returns.

This research has shown that natural processes of carbon burial kick in and the land comes to the rescue, with soil-formed minerals collecting and burying excess dissolved organic matter in seawater. Burial of the excess carbon ultimately contributes to CO<sub>2</sub> removal from the atmosphere, cooling the planet and the ocean.

"This is nature's solution to the greenhouse effect and it could offer a possible solution for us," said Wagner. "If we are able to learn more about this effect and its feedbacks, we may be able to manage it and reduce the present rate of warming threatening our oceans."

*Summit County Citizens Voice (www.summitvoice.org is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.*



*Call of the Sea. Artwork by Josephine Wall, www.josephinewall.co.uk.*