

# The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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Photo by Laura Sivell/Papilio/Corbis

A common blue butterfly.

## Butterflies Vanishing

By Patrick Barkham

Guardian.co.uk, April 27, 2009

Once there were swarms of butterflies in our skies

... but if you go out for a walk today, you will be lucky to spot one or two. Patrick Barkham, who has been a passionate lepidopterist since he was eight years old, laments the dramatic decline of these most extraordinary insects — and wonders if there is any chance of saving them

On a bright spring day, the chalky slopes of the Chilterns smell of warm thyme. Tiny purple violets bloom underfoot. For miles beyond, the Vale of Aylesbury unfolds in a tapestry of different minted trees, yellow fields and the spires of village churches. This great vista of the English countryside seems gloriously immutable, unchanged since Victorian times, when Walter Rothschild would set out from Tring Park, his country house in the valley below, to throw his net at our summer butterflies and place them in his extraordinary zoological museum.

Not everything, however, would please the eye of Victorian lovers of nature. An easy jet plane casts a shadow across the downland. The air is filled with the complaint of two diggers, quarrying chalk from the bottom of the hill. But what would really make Rothschild weep is what is missing: the sky and the steep meadows dotted with the white flowers of wild strawberry are almost bereft of butterflies.

A casual eye might not notice it. Butterflies are still a conspicuous symbol of our summers, much celebrated by everyone from Wordsworth to Nabokov.

On the Chilterns, a male orange tip patrols a hedgerow, two peacocks spiral into the air in a territorial dogfight and a speckled wood jinks its way through the trees. This scattering of a few common species is pitiful, however, compared with the riches that once adorned our countryside in summer. Near contemporaries of Rothschild wrote of skimming hundreds of purple hairstreaks from the trees or catching 100 Lulworth skippers in an hour. In 1892, S. G. Castle Russell took a walk through the New Forest: "Butterflies alarmed by my approach arose in immense numbers to take refuge in the trees above. They were so thick that I could hardly see ahead and indeed resembled a fall of brown leaves." A few centuries earlier, Richard Turpin recorded a probable mass migration to or from Britain in his *Chronicles of Calais* during the reigns of Henry VII and VIII: "An innumerable

swarm of whit butterflies... so thick as flakes of snow" that they blotted out views of Calais for workers in fields beyond the town.

Swarms of butterflies have long disappeared. And a relentless decline may now become terminal for some of our best-loved species. Following the wet summer of 2007, last year was a disaster for butterflies: the lowest number was recorded for 27 years. Of Britain's precious 59 resident species, 12 experienced their worst ever year since the scientific monitoring of butterfly numbers began in 1976.

I began a less than scientific monitoring of butterflies in a little note-pad when I was eight, helping my dad count the tiny brown argus on the Norfolk coast where we spent our summer holidays. Finding this darting, chocolate-brown gem ignited an awkward passion for butterflies that I kept well hidden during my teenage years. Dad and I would go on expeditions to discover and photograph rare species: we would sit in a wet meadow in Cumbria waiting for the marsh fritillary to emerge, or hover by piles of horse manure in the woodlands of Surrey, hoping the majestic, haughty (and turd-loving) purple emperor would descend from the treetops for us.

Twenty years on, some of the nature reserves we visited have lost their precious rarities. If trends continue, another couple of bad summers could kill off some species forever.

Numbers of the delicate wood white were down by 66% last year from dismal 2007; its population has slumped by 90% over the long-term recording period. The Duke of Burgundy and the high brown fritillary are most at risk of extinction. The high brown survives in just 50 small sites: at one spot in Dartmoor, there were 7,200 in 1995; last year, there were just 87. Nationwide, numbers have fallen by 85% over 10 years. "This run of bad weather has really pushed those species to the brink in many areas," says Martin Warren, the chief executive of Butterfly Conservation.

Butterflies find it difficult to fly, feed and mate in bad weather but these figures are not just a seasonal blip caused by freakishly soggy summers. The collecting of British butterflies has ceased to be acceptable and yet butterfly populations have still plummeted. Far more devastating than unscrupulous collectors of old has been industrial agriculture and the loss of 97% of England's natural grassland and wildflower meadows, planting conifers or letting our broad-leaf woodlands become too overgrown for woodland flowers plus the sprawl of motorways and urban development.

To this deadly cocktail has been added a new poison: cli-

## Ecuador Recognizes Nature's Rights

By Eric Horstman  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

A couple of friends from abroad have sent me congratulatory messages because Ecuador's new constitution, passed last year, recognizes the Rights of Nature and calls for these rights to be taken into account in the future. While municipal governments in the states of Pennsylvania and New Hampshire have adopted local laws recognizing that ecosystems and natural communities are not property but possess the right to exist and flourish, Ecuador is the first country to put this in their constitution and should be proud of it.

Article 71 of the Ecuadorian Constitution states, "Nature has the right to integrally respect its existence as well as the maintenance and regeneration of its vital cycles, structure, functions and evolutionary processes. In addition, all people, communities or nationalities can demand that public authorities comply with the Rights of Nature." Article 73 goes on to state, "The state will apply measures of precaution and restriction for all activities that could lead to the extinction of species, the destruction of ecosystems or the permanent alteration of natural cycles."

This represents the fruits of the labor of several pioneers that have helped pave the way, including Geologist Father Thomas Berry who wrote, "The natural world on the planet Earth gets its rights from the same source that humans get their rights: from the universe that brought them into being." He goes on to state, "Every component of the Earth community has three rights; the right to be, the right to habitat and the right and responsibility to fulfill its role in the ever-renewing processes of the Earth community."

Berry has called for humanity to move from the current Technozoic period, where Earth is seen only as a resource for the benefit of humans, to an Ecozoic era, where the well being of the entire Earth community is the primary concern.

The work of South African lawyer Cormac Cullinan has also been important. Cullinan coined the term "wild law" which states, "cannot be easily snared within the strictures of a conventional legal definition. It is perhaps better understood as an approach to human governance, rather than as a branch of law or a collection of laws. It is more about ways of being and doing than the right thing to do." (Cullinan, *Wild Law*, 2003).

Recognition must also be given to the behind-the-scenes work of the Pachamama Alliance and the lawyers from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, a Pennsylvania-based group which provides legal assistance to governments and community groups trying to mesh human affairs and the environment, and the then President of the Ecuadorian Constitutional Assembly, Alberto Acosta, whose leadership was crucial.

That said, the challenge before us is how to transform the Rights of Nature into concrete actions, instead of winding up as yet another piece of legislation with nothing but good intentions.

While members of Ecuador's diverse indigenous community have supported this effort as giving voice (finally!) to the

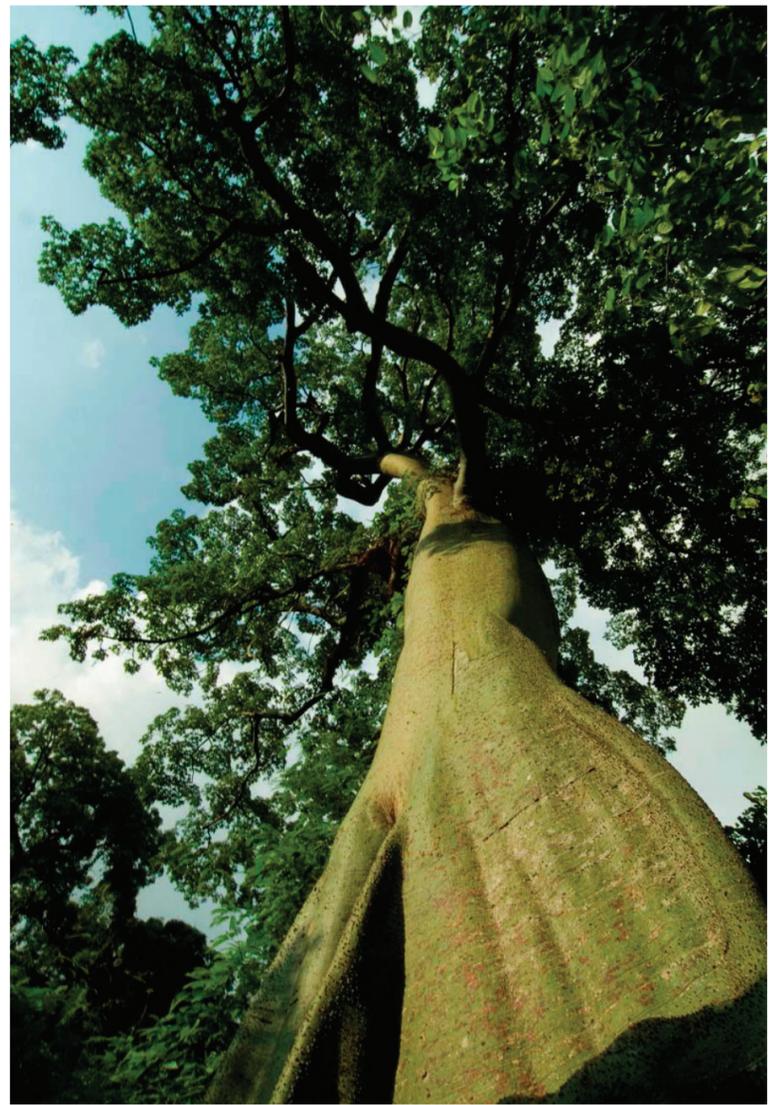


Photo by Murray Cooper

The ceibo or kapok tree, which represents the Ecuadorian Dry Forest.

Pachamama or Earth Mother, I think there is a broad spectrum of Ecuadorians who probably don't know the Rights of Nature are now recognized in their constitution, or its potential ramifications. I suggest that the Ecuadorian Government use its impressive mastery of mass communications to begin to educate people about the Rights of Nature and also incorporate this in future development projects, especially oil drilling and mining, which often take place on indigenous communities' lands.

Earth Day was celebrated recently in Ecuador and I did not see one mention of the Rights of Nature. Unless we move quickly to begin to change people's views and attitudes about nature, I'm afraid that the rampant destruction of this country's natural ecosystems will continue unabated.

For example, Ecuador has one of the highest deforestation rates in South America, with an official figure of 492,000 acres of forest cleared every year. Recently, media attention was focused on at least three municipalities in the southern part of the country dumping all their garbage into a river shared with Peru, already highly contaminated by mercury and other toxic elements.

Continued on page 12

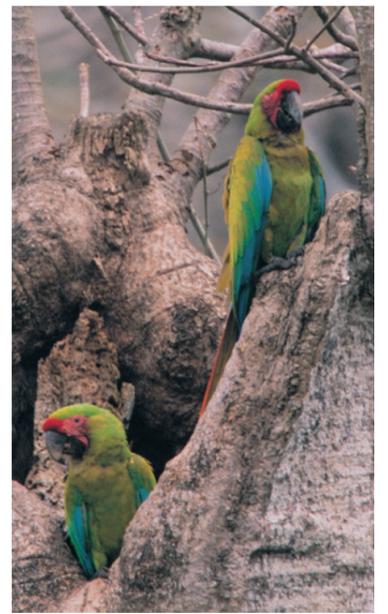


Photo by Pete Oxford

"Papagayos de Guayaquil" or Guayaquil Macaws in their nest.

mate change. In theory, a gentle global warming should benefit almost all of Britain's butterflies. Creatures of sunshine, most of our butterflies are found in southern England where many are at the limit of their natural range; as our summers become hotter, these butterflies should thrive and spread further north. There are a few winners already: the beautiful comma is moving north and the rare silver-spotted skipper has done well, thanks to hotter summers. Britain may also be visited more regularly by exotic species that were once rare migrants.

The fate of one much-loved native shows that this happy outcome, however, will not come to pass for most species. The small tortoiseshell is the labrador of the butterfly world: cheerful and content to live close to humans. Its caterpillars devour ubiquitous nettles. As an adult butterfly, it feasts on suburban flowers and hibernates in garden sheds, pitter-pattering against our windows when spring comes round again. Thanks to climate

change, it is spreading north and is now seen for the first time in remote parts of Scotland. Unfortunately, so too is *Sturmia bella* (how the person who named this ugly brute could call it beautiful is beyond me), a species of parasitic fly.

This nasty fly was recorded for the first time in Britain in Hampshire 11 years ago. By last summer, it had reached Merseyside thanks to a *modus operandi* every bit as gory as the Alien films. It lays its microscopic eggs on patches of nettles where small tortoiseshell caterpillars feed. These unwittingly eat the fly's eggs which become tiny worms inside the caterpillar, bursting out of their bodies just when the small tortoiseshell is beginning its miraculous transformation into a butterfly inside its chrysalis.

Last year was the worst ever year for small tortoiseshells, their population slumping by 45% compared with 2007, despite thousands of migrant small tortoiseshells arriving from Europe in September. In southern and cen-

tral England, it appears to have been virtually wiped out: during my afternoon roaming the Chilterns last week, I saw 10 peacocks and 12 yellow brimstones and the odd rather more elusive species, such as the grizzled skipper, but not a single small tortoiseshell.

Is *Sturmia bella* wiping it out? Where the fly finds small tortoiseshell caterpillars, their mortality rate is 61%, according to research by Dr. Owen Lewis, an ecologist at Oxford University who is studying the impact of the fly. As with many declining species, there is seldom just one cause and the case against *Sturmia bella* is not yet conclusive. In most instances where new predators arrive, the attacked species eventually adapt to elude them. Other research suggests that, before the last two wet summers, the dry summers of a warming world also hit small tortoiseshell caterpillars: low moisture reduces the nutritional quality of nettles.

"Whichever way you look at it, it's linked back to the climate," says Tom Brereton, head of butterfly monitoring at Butterfly

Continued on page 12

# Endgame by Derrick Jensen

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

The sixth premise of this book, the one alluded to early on, is that civilization is not redeemable. This culture will not undergo any sort of voluntary transformation to a sane and sustainable way of living. If we do not put a halt to it, civilization will continue to immiserate the vast majority of humans and to degrade the planet until it (civilization, and probably the planet) collapses. The effects of this degradation will continue to harm humans and nonhumans for a very long time.

Ever since I was a child, I've been asking: If this culture's destructive behavior isn't making us happy, why are we doing it?

I've come up with many answers so far. All of them, unfortunately, point toward the intractability of this culture's destructiveness. In my book *A Language Older Than Words*, part of my answer was that the entire culture suffers from what trauma expert Judith Herman calls complex post-traumatic stress disorder or complex PTSD.

By now most of us are familiar with normal PTSD, if not in our bodies then at least from having read about it. PTSD is an embodied response to extreme trauma, to extreme terror, to the loss of control, connection and meaning that can happen at the moment of trauma, the moment when, as Herman puts it, "the victim is rendered helpless by overwhelming force."

This force may be nonhuman, as in an earthquake or

fire; or inhuman, as in the violence on which this culture is based: the rape, assault, battery and so on that characterizes so much of this culture's romantic and child-rearing practices; the warfare that characterizes so much of this culture's politics; and the grinding coercion that makes up so much of the rest of this culture, such as its economics, schooling and so on. Herman states, "Traumatic reactions occur when no action is of avail. When neither resistance nor escape is possible, the human [and the same is clearly true for the non-human] system of self-defense becomes overwhelmed and disorganized."

Traumatized people, she writes, "feel and act as though their nervous systems have been disconnected from the present." They may experience hyperarousal, sensing danger everywhere. Certain triggers may stimulate "flashbacks," so that a child who was beaten by a parent while on a water skiing trip, for example, may even as an adult become terrified or full of rage when faced with this stimulus.

The same may happen to a woman who was raped in a certain make and model of car. And the adult may wonder at the source of this sudden fear or anger. Those who have been traumatized may go into a state of surrender. Having been brought to the point of powerlessness, where any resistance was futile, this feeling may continue later into life. Faced with any emotionally threatening situation, these



people may freeze, failing to resist even when resistance becomes feasible or necessary.

This entire culture is so violent, so traumatic, I argued in *Language*, as to render most all of us to one degree or another shell shocked and therefore incapable of realizing or even imagining what it would be like to live a life not based on fear. This fear, in fact, runs so deep that it has become normalized in this culture, codified, made the basis of the entire society.

I am sure you can see these symptoms not only among those of your friends who may have been grotesquely and obviously traumatized, but in the culture at large: the culture is certainly disconnected from the present, else we could not possibly kill the planet (and each other) for the sake of production; it certainly sees danger everywhere, even when there is

only hostages, prisoners of war and the like, but also those who have survived the captivity of long-term domestic violence.

Concerning this latter, she asks what happens to those whose personalities are not only deformed by extended violence, having suffered it as adults, but to those whose personalities are formed as children in such a crucible of totalitarian violence.

The answer is that they may suffer amnesia, forgetting the violence of their childhood (or, I would once again add in our larger case, the violence on which, to choose just one example, white title to land in North America is based). They may suffer a sense of helplessness. They may identify with their abuser. They may come to perceive mutually beneficial relationships as impossible and to believe instead that all relationships are based on force, on power. They may come to believe that the strong dominate the weak, the weak dominate the weaker and the weakest survive as they can.

The understanding that the entire culture could reasonably be said to be suffering from complex PTSD helps to make sense of many of the culture's otherwise absurd actions and philosophies. Our hatred of the body. The certainty that nature is red in tooth and claw. The long-standing movement toward centralized control. The neurotic insistence on repeatability (and control) in science, and the insane exclusion of

emotion — which means the exclusion of life — from both science and economics.

Using the lens of domestic violence to look at civilization's unwavering violence helps to make sense of all of these symptoms but the important thing about using this lens as it pertains to the sixth premise of this book, that of civilization's unredeemability, is that perpetrators of domestic violence are among the most intractable of all who commit violence, so intractable, in fact, that in 2000, the United Kingdom removed all funding for therapy sessions designed to treat men guilty of domestic violence (putting the money instead into shelters and other means of keeping women safe from their attackers).

Sandra Horley, chief executive of Refuge, that country's largest single provider of support to abused women and children, said: "I am not a hard-line feminist and I am not against men receiving help but in many years of experience I have known only one man who has changed his behaviour."

*The Guardian* put it simply: "There is no cure for men who beat their wives or partners, according to new Home Office research."

If perpetrators of domestic violence cannot be cured, they must simply be stopped . . . .

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## INSIDE The Order . . .

- Paper and Fuel Wood Biggest Stresses on Forests  
by Lester R. Brown . . . 3
- Mountaintop Removal Activist Wins Award . . . . 3
- Consequences of 'Drill, Baby Drill' = 90 Spills a Day  
by Kari Lydersen . . . . 4
- Exxon Valdez: The Killing Did Not Stop in 1989 . . . . 5
- '60 Minutes' Blows it on Coal by Tara Lohan . . . . 5
- Climate Fight Heating Up by Bill Boteler . . . . 6
- Transition City in the Making by Mike Tabor . . . . 6
- Chemtrails: Morgellons Disease by Gwen Scott . . . . 7
- Saving Jekyll Island from Destructive Development  
by Sally Klein . . . . 8
- Learning About Nature While Vacationing  
by Terry Darling . . . . 9
- Ansel Adams and MTR Coal Mining and Haiku  
by Cynthia S. Waugh . . . . 9
- Freedom by Dave C. Thomson . . . . 9
- Live on Wheels — When All Else Fails by Al Fry . . . . 10
- The Examined Life: On Recycling Doubts  
by Marion Stuenkel . . . . 10
- Poetry by Terry Darling and Sandy Chilcote . . . . 10
- Blue Whales Resume Migrations . . . 11
- Lunch With a Squirrel by Sunny War Eagle . . . . 11
- Making a 'Sacred Zone' in Appalachia  
by Bob Kincaid . . . . 13
- Book Review — Coal Reality: Dirty Little Secret  
by Larry Schweiger . . . . 13
- Val's Column: Vegetarian Activism 101  
by Valerie Stanley . . . . 14
- Composting Basics by Dan Murphy . . . . 14
- Students for Displace People by Iona . . . . 15
- News Submitted by Our Readers . . . . 15
- Letters to the Editor . . . . 15

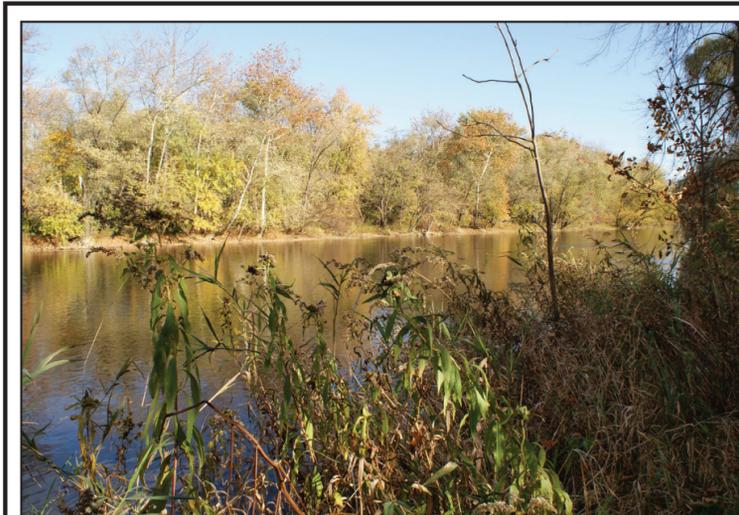


Photo by Terry Darling

## A Tribute to the Oglala Lakota People

### Grandfather Teaching: A Warrior . . .

Listen to me carefully and remember every word.  
 A warrior is not a soldier.  
 A soldier is trained to fight and follow orders.  
 A warrior is trained to think for himself and fight only as a last resort.  
 A warrior is the first to begin and the last to quit.  
 He laughs the hardest and loves the best.  
 Stand your ground in all things and only give ground out of kindness.  
 A warrior is not a follower, nor is he a leader except at great need.  
 A warrior learns from the animals, the hills and the rivers.  
 He respects all things of the Earth as if they were his own heart.  
 All men and all spirits are equals.  
 A warrior never begs or pleads, nor does he give in to hopelessness and despair.  
 Whether the warrior is successful or tries valiantly only to have failed,  
 he thanks the Great Spirit for the opportunity and the lessons.  
 A warrior cares for the weakest and least of his brothers, humbling himself in their service.  
 He seeks wisdom in all things and learns from even the dullest, for all are his teachers.  
 A warrior leaves judgment of his brothers and sisters to the Great Spirit but does not tolerate disrespectful behavior in his presence.

"The Voice of the Red Tail" February 2009 Newsletter  
Earthbridge, Inc. Published by Sunny War Eagle, Marianna, Florida

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

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

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

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**Masthead:** We say "Volume 9" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name nine years ago. In 1995 Iona wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion. The photo is of Dogwood blossoms in Shade Gap.

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**10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH**

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

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

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

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**THANK YOU!!**

## UPDATES

### OUR WORK PAYS OFF

# Incinerator on Hold

By Meg Tully

Frederick News-Post, MD April 28, 2009  
Submitted by Matthew Lindberg-Work

The Frederick County Commissioners are suspending the bid process for building a new trash incinerator. The commissioners voted 4-1 today to suspend bidding and instead explore other disposal options, including expanding the landfill or burning Frederick County's trash at an existing incinerator outside the county.

Only Commissioner John L. Thompson Jr. voted against the suspension. Thompson said he suspects the vote will end his political career. The commissioners have considered building an incinerator, also known as waste-to-energy because it would create electricity, for more than two years.

Calling the issue divisive and citing concerns about public opposition, Commissioners Charles Jenkins and Jan Gardner said that they were not prepared to go forward with a contract to build an incinerator.

"We need results, not lawsuits," Jenkins said. "Fortunately, I think we have other options that do not include building our own waste-to-energy facility."

Jenkins was also concerned about the cost, saying it could be upwards of \$600 million. Gardner objected to the proposed location because of its proximity to the Monocacy National Battlefield and small size.

A motion to proceed with the contract and add requirements to make it less visually intrusive was defeated 3-2, with only commissioners Thompson and David Gray in favor.

Gray later voted in favor of suspending the process and said he did so because it would not completely close the door on the plan. He hopes the commissioners will consider waste-to-energy again.



Photo from Office Publisher

# Paper and Fuel Wood Biggest Stresses on Forests

By Lester R. Brown  
Earth Policy Institute

WASHINGTON, April 14 (IPS) — Protecting the Earth's nearly 4 billion hectares (9.88 billion acres) of remaining forests and replanting those already lost are both essential for restoring the Earth's health, an important foundation for the new economy.

Reducing rainfall runoff and the associated flooding and soil erosion, recycling rainfall inland and restoring aquifer recharge depend on simultaneously reducing pressure on forests and on reforestation.

There is a vast unrealized potential in all countries to lessen the demands that are shrinking the Earth's forest cover. In industrial nations, the greatest opportunity lies in reducing the quantity of wood used to make paper and in developing countries it depends on reducing fuel wood use.

The rates of paper recycling in the top 10 paper-producing countries range widely, from China and Finland on the low end, recycling 33 and 38 percent of the paper they use, to South Korea and Germany on the high end, at 77 and 66 percent. The United States, the world's largest paper consumer, is far behind South Korea but it has raised the share of paper recycled from roughly one fourth in the early 1980s to 50 percent in 2005.

If every country recycled as much of its paper as South Korea does, the amount of wood pulp used to produce paper worldwide would drop by one third.

The use of paper, perhaps more than any other single product, reflects the throw-away mentality that evolved during the last century. There is an enormous possibility for reducing paper use simply by replacing facial tissues, paper napkins, disposable diapers and paper shopping bags with reusable cloth alternatives.

The largest single demand on trees — the need for fuel — accounts for just over half of all wood removed from forests. Some international aid agencies, including the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), are sponsoring fuel-wood efficiency projects.

One of USAID's more promising projects is the distribution of 780,000 highly-efficient, wood-cook stoves in Kenya that not only use far less wood than a traditional stove but also pollute less. Kenya is also the site of a solar cooker project sponsored by Solar Cookers International. These inexpensive cookers, made from cardboard and aluminum foil and costing 10 dollars each, cook slowly, much like a crock pot.

Requiring less than two hours of sunshine to cook a complete meal, they can greatly reduce firewood use at little cost. They can also be used to pasteurize water, thus saving lives. Over the longer term,

developing alternative energy sources is the key to reducing forest pressure in developing countries.

Despite the high value to society of intact forests, only about 290 million hectares (716.6 million acres) of global forest area are legally protected from logging. Forests protected by national decree are often safeguarded not so much to preserve the long-term wood supply capacity as to ensure that they continue to provide invaluable services such as flood control. Countries that provide legal protection for forests often do so after they have suffered the consequences of extensive deforestation, such as in China and the Philippines.

Although nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have worked for years to protect forests from clear-cutting, sustainable forestry is now seen as another way to protect forests. If only mature trees are felled, and on a selective basis, a forest and its productivity can be maintained in perpetuity.

In 1997, the World Bank joined forces with the World Wide Fund for Nature to form the Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use. By 2005 they had helped designate 55 million hectares (135.9 million acres) of new forest as protected areas and certify 22 million hectares (54.36 million acres) of forest. **In mid-2005, the Alliance announced a goal of reducing global net deforestation to zero by 2020.** (bold added)

There are several additional forest product certification programs that inform environmentally conscious consumers about the sustainable management of the forest where wood products originate. The most rigorous international program certified by a group of NGOs is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Some 88 million hectares (85.53 million acres) of forests in 76 countries are certified by FSC-accredited bodies as responsibly managed.

Forest plantations can reduce pressures on the Earth's remaining forests as long as they do not replace old-growth forest. As of 2005, the world had 205 million hectares (207.47 million acres) in forest plantations, an area equal to nearly one third of the 700 million hectares (1,729.7 million acres) planted in grain. Tree plantations produce mostly wood for paper mills or for wood reconstitution mills. Increasingly, reconstituted wood is substituting for natural wood as the world lumber and construction industries adapt to a shrinking supply of large logs from natural forests.

Production of roundwood (logs) on plantations is estimated at 432 million cubic meters (1,417 million cubic feet) per year, accounting for 12 percent of world wood production. This means that the lion's share, some 88 percent of

Continued on page 15

## U.S. Seeks to End Bush-era Mountaintop Coal Mining Rule

By Ayesha Rascoe  
Reuters, April 27, 2009

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Interior Department said on Monday it will try to overturn a Bush administration rule that made it easier for coal mining companies to dump mountaintop debris into valley streams.

Calling the rule "bad policy," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said he will ask the Justice Department to go to the courts to withdraw the Bush regulation and send it back to Interior to stop the policy.

Salazar said the Bush-era rule allowed coal mine operators to use "the cheapest and most convenient disposal option" for mountaintop fill.

"We must responsibly develop our coal supplies to help us achieve energy independence but we cannot do so without appropriately assessing the impact such development might have on local communities and natural habitat and the species it supports," Salazar said.

Under the Bush rule, coal mine operators can dispose of excess mountaintop debris in and within 100 feet of nearby streams whenever alternative options are deemed "not reasonably possible."

The Bush regulation replaced a 1983 rule that allowed dumping within 100 feet of a stream if it would not "adversely affect the water quantity or quality or other environmental resources of the stream."

The Environmental Protection Agency said last month that it had legal power to block permits for mountaintop coal mines if the agency determined the mining would permanently harm water quality by polluting valley streams.

# Mountaintop Removal Activist Wins International Award

The U.S. Goldman Environmental Prize Goes to Mountain Activist

Grassroots environmental heroes too often go unrecognized. Yet their efforts to protect the world's natural resources are increasingly critical to the well-being of the planet we all share. Thus, in 1990 San Francisco civic leaders and philanthropists Richard N. Goldman and his late wife, Rhoda H. Goldman (1924-1996), created the Goldman Environmental Prize. The Goldman Prize continues today with its original mission to annually honor grassroots environmental heroes from the six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands and Island Nations, North America and South and Central America. The Prize recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk. Each winner receives an award of \$150,000, the largest award in the world for grassroots environmentalists.



Maria Gunnoe

### Mining Nature

The Appalachian Mountains, stretching from Canada to Alabama along eastern North America, contains some of the most important forest ecosystems in North America. Central Appalachia, including West Virginia, is home to the most diverse hardwood forests of all Appalachia with oak, buckeye, birch, maple, beech, ash and dogwood species. Central Appalachia's headwater rivers and streams, historically

some of the purest water on the continent, are the water source for millions of people.

Central Appalachia also contains coal, a critical fossil fuel resource. The coal industry has long been the backbone of the region's economy and the main employer of generations of working-class families living in the Appalachian coalfields. In recent decades, mountaintop removal coal mining has become common in Central Appalachia. Different from traditional underground coal mining, mountaintop removal is highly mechanized and thus employs fewer workers.

Companies first clear-cut a mountaintop and then blast an average of 800 feet off the top of the mountain in order to access coal seams that lie beneath. Rubble from the blasted mountains, often containing toxic debris, is dumped into adjacent valleys to form "valley fills."

Without foliage and natural layers of soil, the land is rendered unable to retain water. As a result, flooding of communities below valley fills has become a severe and increasingly frequent problem. In December

2008, the Bush Administration approved a final rule that will make it easier for coal companies to dump rock and other mine waste from mountaintop removal mining operations into nearby streams and valleys.

Weakening what is known as the federal stream buffer rule, the move is one of the most controversial environmental regulation changes coming from the Bush Administration in its final months. To date, mountaintop removal coal mining in Central Appalachia has destroyed an estimated 470 mountains and has buried or polluted 2,000 miles of rivers and streams.

### Unique Appalachian Culture

Maria Gunnoe, 40, was born and raised at the mouth of a narrow hollow in Boone County, West Virginia, now one of the most active mountaintop removal regions in the United States. Her family's roots in the region date back to the early 1800s, when her ancestors escaped the forced removal of their Chero-

kee peoples from Georgia by walking along streams to the headwaters, settling safely in the fertile hollows of Central Appalachia. She comes from a long line of coal miners, including her Cherokee grandfather, who in the 1950s purchased the land where her home stands today.

Throughout much of rural Appalachia, a unique culture of survival and living off of the land has thrived for centuries. Gunnoe's family instilled in her a deep connection to the forest and streams, where her community hunts, fishes and gathers foods and medicinal plants throughout the seasons. This traditional rural culture is threatened by the invasive mining practices that now dominate the region.

### Coal Miner's Daughter Speaks Up

In 2000, a 1,200-acre mountaintop removal mine began on the ridge above Gunnoe's home. Today, her house sits directly below a 10-story valley fill that contains two toxic ponds of mine waste comprised of run-off from

the mine. Since the mine became operational, Gunnoe's property has flooded seven times. Before mining began, Gunnoe's property was never prone to such flooding. In a 2004 flood, much of Gunnoe's ancestral home was destroyed and her yard was covered in toxic coal sludge. The coal company told her the damage was an "act of God." As a result of mine waste, her well and ground water have been contaminated, forcing her family to use bottled water for cooking and drinking.

In 2004, Gunnoe, a medical technician by training and former waitress, began volunteering with many local advocacy organizations and then working for the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (OVEC) to educate her neighbors about the environmental dangers of mountaintop removal. She organized monthly Boone County meetings and soon provided community trainings on how to read mining permits, write letters to the editor, interface with the media and protest using nonvio-

Continued on page 8

# The Consequences of 'Drill, Baby Drill': More Than 90 Oil Spills a Day in U.S.

By Kari Lydersen  
AlterNet, April 16, 2009

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska on March 24 got much attention, including reports that significant oil still pollutes the area and that many fish and animal species, and the Alaska Native economies that relied on them, have still not recovered.

Meanwhile, the captain of the Cosco Busan oil tanker which slammed into San Francisco's Bay Bridge and caused a major spill in November 2007 is currently on trial.

Such dramatic tanker accidents are what normally come to mind when people think of oil spills. But oil spills and ongoing leaks from pipelines, platforms, storage tanks and other infrastructure are actually a daily occurrence in Alaska, the Gulf Coast, California and other parts of the U.S.

Companies are rarely punished for such occurrences, yet these sources of contamination create serious and ongoing public health and environmental problems that communities are often left to deal with on their own. These spills happen from rigs, pipelines and infrastructure both on land and offshore, with the most serious health and environmental consequences coming when oil and related contaminants pollute waterways or seep into groundwater.

The Coast Guard National Response Center, which tallies all reports of oil spills, logged more than 33,000 in 2008. Pipelines and platforms accounted for more than 1,300 each, and storage tanks suffered more than 2,400 spills.

According to the Fish and Wildlife Service, a reported spill should be any "Discharges that cause a sheen or discoloration on the surface of a body of water, discharges that violate applicable water-quality standards, and discharges that cause a sludge or emulsion to be deposited beneath the surface of the water or on adjoining shorelines."

A 2002 report by the National Academies found that an average 880,000 gallons of petroleum enter North American ocean waters because of oil drilling and exploration each year, mainly from leaks in the Gulf of Mexico and off Southern California, northern Alaska and eastern Canada. (The report noted that other human sources, including land-based runoff, boat and jet ski engines and aircraft jettisoning fuel are a much more significant source, introducing about 30 times more petroleum into the ocean each year.)

Worldwide, the report said, 210 million gallons of petroleum enter the sea annually from the extraction, transportation and consumption of crude oil and related products. Oil also seeps naturally from the ocean floor into the water (about 180 million gallons per year according to the National Academies).

The U.S. Department of the Interior is currently considering how to deal with 300 million seafloor acres of offshore-drilling leases President George W. Bush opened up in his final hours in office. President Barack Obama placed a moratorium on new outer-continental-shelf, offshore-drilling leases and **extended the public comment period on the leases through September 2009.** (bold added)

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and the Minerals Management Service, part of the Department of the Interior that handles oil leases, has been holding regional public hearings around the country, including one on April 16<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco. Even though increased drilling doesn't seem to fit with Obama's stated focus on renewable energy, it appears likely the government will end up allowing increased offshore drilling, including along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts,



Photo Courtesy of Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council

*The Exxon Valdez sits hard aground, spilling oil into Prince William Sound.*

off Alaska and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Perhaps the most controversial aspect of offshore leases on the table are those in Arctic waters, where climate change and the effects of increasing industrial development are already taking a huge toll on ecosystems and wildlife. New oil lease sales are being considered in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas off Alaska and in Alaska's Bristol Bay, the world's largest wild salmon fishery. Environmental groups sued to try to block a major February 2008 lease sale in the Chukchi Sea, arguing it would be devastating to walrus, polar bears and other creatures.

Debate also continues over the prospect of drilling in the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.** (bold added) There is no effective way to clean up oil spills in the ice-clogged waters of the north, according to environmental and watchdog groups. That means oil spilled in the Arctic is often just left there.

The famous Prudhoe Bay oil field of Alaska's North Slope — where would-be vice presidential husband Todd Palin worked — suffers more than one oil spill every day on average, according to an analysis of spills from 1996 to 2008 recently compiled by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. The period includes only two years with fewer than 400 spills.

The trans-Alaskan pipeline that carries oil from the North Slope to the southern port of Valdez is also vulnerable to spills and sabotage.

"It adds up," said Pam Miller, Arctic coordinator for the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. "Because of the remoteness of these fields and the lack of state personnel and motivation to do inspections and monitoring, the number of spills aren't declining. The upward trend has been pretty constant. **It shows that oil by its nature, no matter how well done, is a dirty business.**" (bold added)

The North Slope analysis includes on- and offshore accidents caused by corroded pipes and other problems. The federal government recently filed a lawsuit against BP over two oil spills from corroded pipelines totaling more than 200,000 gallons in March and August 2006. The state of Alaska is also suing BP, alleging negligence caused these spills and resulted in greatly reduced oil royalties to the state after operations were temporarily shut down. BP had already been fined \$20 million for the spills after pleading guilty to federal misdemeanor criminal charges.

The Wall Street Journal reported the Justice Department had essentially backed down with this settlement, after initially considering felony charges that could have cost the company more than \$600 million.



Photo Courtesy EVOSTC

*In the weeks following the spill, cleanup crews sprayed oiled rocks with high-pressure hoses. Many became ill from breathing the petroleum vapors and the spray damaged beach structures.*

Any kind of settlement or payment is an exception. Normally, as long as companies report spills and are operating within their permit requirements, they are not fined or otherwise punished. "Sometimes they'll get a Notice of Violation, and they're given time to clean up their act, sometimes for a decade they're out of compliance," said Miller. "And there are very few (inspection) personnel in the field — there's only one inspector for an oil field area larger than the state of Rhode Island. It's pretty much self-reporting by industry."

On the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and neighboring states, residents have learned they must do their own environmental monitoring to protect themselves from the effects of frequent spills and leaks from the extensive local oil industry. Coastal waters, marshes, rivers, agricultural fields and groundwater are regularly contaminated by accidents in the oil industry which release oil, diesel, other petroleum products and chemicals used in the refining process.

When a compressor blows, contaminants can be blasted into people's homes and gardens. In many cases, groundwater that provides drinking water to towns, subdivisions or trailer parks is contaminated. Usually this means the well will be plugged and the town connected to another water source.

Wilma Subra, a Louisiana chemist who works with community groups to do their own testing, said the source of the contamination is rarely investigated and no company is held responsible.

Meanwhile, people who live in rural areas with their own wells, or in private subdivisions with a communal well, must often do their own testing and find alternate water sources. Sometimes the responsible company or the state provides bottled water, other



Photo Courtesy of EVOSTC

*Herring have not recovered sufficiently to support a commercial fishery.*

times citizens are on their own and community groups step in to help, Subra said.

Spills, leaks and other accidents causing contamination are a regular occurrence along the Gulf Coast, even in normal conditions. But when hurricanes hit, the consequences are devastating. Oil platforms and storage tanks are uprooted or damaged, drums of chemicals or petroleum products are tossed asunder and pipelines are damaged. Waste pits or lagoons storing petroleum waste are overwhelmed by storm surges, washing the toxic brew into communities, rivers and fields.

About nine million gallons of oil were spilled during hurricanes Rita and Katrina, with 113



Photo Courtesy of EVOSTC

*Oil from the Exxon Valdez spill persists just beneath the surface of Prince William Sound beaches.*

offshore oil rigs destroyed and much of that contamination still has not been cleaned up.

The town of Meraux, near New Orleans, was practically submerged by floodwaters mixed with oil from nearby Murphy Oil's refinery, eventually resulting in a \$330 million class-action settle-

ment. Then in 2008, hurricanes Ike and Gustav spilled more than half a million gallons of oil, destroying 52 oil rigs and damaging 32 out of the 3,800 oil rigs in the Gulf.

Those hurricanes also stirred up contaminated sediment from past storms and mixed it with water or washed it onto land.

Subra noted that cleanup efforts of the past year have been hindered by red tape, like the fact that certain funds are allocated specifically for contamination from one hurricane season or another.

"This just added onto what still hadn't been addressed from Katrina," said Subra. "They were finally getting around to looking at (Katrina's effects on) water bodies with FEMA funds. But then when debris was added by Gustav and Ike, they were saying we don't have authority to use the money for that. How do you tell which hurricane it came from?"

Since many residents of Louisiana's coast — including significant Native American, Vietnamese and African American populations — practice subsistence farming, hunting and fishing, the contamination from oil spills during hurricanes (and otherwise) has serious health and economic consequences.

"It smothered and killed a lot of organisms — wildlife, fish, benthic organisms — and people in coastal areas survive on organisms they can hunt and catch, so there have been a lot of illnesses," said Subra, whose Subra Co. works with groups nationwide to do environmental testing and push for government involvement.

People are at risk of ingesting oil-related contaminants through food and water and also breathing them in or coming in contact when the contaminants attach to soil and dust particles.

People working in fields, fishing or just going about their daily lives have suffered acute respiratory and skin problems. Longer-term respiratory diseases like chronic bronchitis are being viewed by locals as being the results of contamination.

And in the long run, a cancer spike is possible, since many of the chemicals from the oil industry are carcinogens. Spills typically include volatile organic compounds like benzene; PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), which stay in the environment for many years and toxic heavy metals like arsenic and mercury.

Now, Gulf Coast oil platforms, waste storage areas and other facilities are being built higher to protect them from storm surges. But efforts are voluntary as there have been few regulatory changes affecting the powerful oil industry.

Subra and her colleagues have helped communities acquire the reports of spills or excess discharges, which companies are required to file with various state and local agencies. In many cases, residents end up notifying government agencies of spills before the companies do, she said. Community groups have taken to working directly with companies to persuade them to do a better job protecting against spills and leaks, an approach Subra said has had considerable success.

Many storage tanks for oil and related industries were built during the World War II era, when metal was being conserved for the war effort. Storage tanks often had no bottoms or tops, with oil or waste directly exposed to the earth beneath it. Many of those tanks are still in use today and much of the resulting contamination has still not been dealt with.

New offshore-drilling leases would likely lead to more petroleum pollution along the Gulf Coast, local environmental groups say.

Meanwhile, even if the Department of the Interior does not open up significant new off-



Exxon Mobil Annual Shareholder Meeting, Dallas, Texas May 30, 2007  
Dedicated Exxpose Exxon activists arrived at 8 a.m. on a stormy weekday to tell ExxonMobil executives to stop double-crossing the world by funding global warming deniers and blocking urgent action.

# Exxon Valdez: The Killing Did Not Stop in 1989

## Woman to the Rescue

By Dr. Riki Ott  
AlterNet.org, March 24, 2009

CORDOVA, Alaska March 24, 1989 — The loud, urgent banging on my door early on the morning of March 24, 1989, signaled an emergency. I raced downstairs and flung open the door to find a fisherman bearing news of “the big one.” The Exxon Valdez was aground in Prince William Sound and had already spilled at least 11 million gallons of crude oil.

The Big One was the stuff of nightmares in Cordova, a fishing town that thrived on the bounty of the sea. Within the hour, I was flying out over the sound with instructions to report back to the waiting fishermen.

The low angle of the rising sun tinged the snow-covered mountains a soft pink. Down on the calm water lay the blood-red tanker sitting in an inky black stain. A bluish fog of toxic oil vapors swirled at the sea surface. The promised oil-spill-response equipment was nowhere in sight.

Stopping in the tanker port of Valdez to refuel, I stepped out on the tarmac to try to process my feelings of grief, anger, shock and horror. A question popped into my mind: I know enough to make a difference. Do I care enough?

I saw how my life had stacked up to be in this place at this time with knowledge that was needed — before falling in love with Cordova and becoming a commercial fisher, I had earned master's and doctorate degrees in marine pollution. I decided I did care about my adopted hometown. That single act of commitment is still what drives my work to this day, 20 years later.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill was, and remains, the biggest spill in the history of the United States. Somewhere between 11 million and 38 million gallons of crude oil flooded the environment, blackening 3,200 miles of coastline. Imagine the East coast with slick oil stretched from New York to Cape Canaveral, Fla. The spill killed more wildlife than any other spill to this day but the killing did not stop in 1989.

Roughly half of the spilled oil stranded and was buried on the beaches of Prince William Sound, according to scientists with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. In 2003, the NOAA scientists mapped the buried oil and reported 21,000 gallons of toxic crude oil are still there — and they say it will remain there, possibly, for centuries more.

The latest studies in 2007 show the buried oil is still entering the food web as predators such as harlequin ducks and sea

otters forage on oil-contaminated shellfish. Two-thirds of the species injured by the spill and selected for study have not fully recovered, according to federal and state officials charged with restoration studies. This includes species like herring, the basic forage fish of the ecosystem. The remaining population of herring is now miniscule, barely sustaining the ecosystem — and the once highly lucrative herring fisheries are closed indefinitely.

Exxon's oil spill pushed the vibrant, thriving fishing town of Cordova — once ranked among the top 10 seaports in the nation — into a dark depression. For many fishermen and spill survivors, the debt on their assets (fishing permits) exceeds the value. Herring fishermen, for example, owe a mountain of debt on devalued permits and, with no revenue from fisheries to support annual permit payments, many face bankruptcy.

Years of financial uncertainty stemming from collapsed fisheries, oiled beaches and mounting debt have plagued Cordova. There were spikes in domestic violence, substance abuse, divorce and suicide for years after the spill and the litigation over spill losses contributed to the anxiety and dysfunction.

For the past 20 years, it hasn't been the state or federal government, the legal system or lawyers — and certainly not ExxonMobil — that has helped rebuild Cordova. It has been the residents themselves.

We now have mostly double-hull tankers, a state-of-the-art vessel traffic control system, tractor tugs that can push or pull in 360 degrees and disabled-tanker towing packages that have been proved to work with super-tankers.

Citizen advocacy groups pushed each of these improvements against strong objections from the industry.

In my travels of the last three years, I witnessed people all over America of all ages taking action to reduce our oil dependency and build self-reliant communities with regional food, energy and banking. It's the same “can do” attitude that rebuilt Cordova — and that built our country.

If we want to transition off oil, the change starts with us. It's about focusing on what we have in common: a very basic human desire to pass a livable planet on to future generations. It's about setting aside our differences so that we can work together to achieve that goal.

Just ask the people of Prince William Sound.

*Riki Ott is a marine toxicologist and the author of Not One Drop: Betrayal and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (Chelsea Green, 2008). Ott is a former commercial salmon “fisherma'am” and now a full-time community activist.*

# '60 Minutes' Blows it on Coal Segment

They missed the boat entirely. Coal isn't the answer to our climate woes, it is the problem.

By Tara Lohan  
AlterNet.org, April 27, 2009

Last night the CBS news program “60 Minutes” did a segment about so-called clean coal. Unfortunately, they missed the boat . . . big time.

Here's there intro:  
The future of our climate might be summed up in one question: What do we do about coal? Coal generates nearly half the electricity in the United States and the world. But it's the dirtiest fuel of all when it comes to carbon dioxide, or CO<sub>2</sub>, the leading greenhouse gas.

The entire segment focused on whether it was possible to get carbon capture and sequestration technology (CCS) to trap CO<sub>2</sub> gases from coal-burning power plants onto all of our coal plants in time to stave off our climate crisis.



View of mountains in states like West Virginia after coal companies blow off the tops of the mountains to extract coal more easily, causing enormous destruction to ecosystems and human communities.

To begin with, the technology has serious problems and there is no way that it can be implemented in the time frame top scientists tell us we need to drastically reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions — less than 10 years.

Despite all that, the basis of their segment was also flawed from the get-go. Cleaning up coal is not the answer to the climate crisis. In fact, what we

should be doing is getting rid of it altogether.

In the segment Jim Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy says, “We can't abandon coal. We have to find a way to keep it and use it in the future. And that means the ability to clean it up.”

This is a flat out lie. Transitioning away from coal is the best thing we can do. And one of the main reasons why was

never addressed by “60 Minutes.” **Coal can never be clean. Period.** [bold added] We can spend decades and decades as the Earth warms to try to figure out how to capture carbon emissions and find a way to safely dispose of them but we can never make the process of extracting it from the ground a clean deal.

Just ask anyone in Appalachia who lives near a mountaintop removal mining site where homes are being destroyed, mountains blown to bits, streams buried, people sickened and the whole ecosystem decimated.

Too bad the folks at CBS didn't spend any time in the program talking about the energy alternatives that actually are clean. Joe Romm was interviewed in the segment and he wrote today on Climate Progress, too bad they “cut out all my quotes about the other strategies that can provide all the clean power we need if CCS doesn't prove practical and affordable. [It is CCS or bust for the coal industry, but not for humanity.]”



# A Big Victory and a New Threat

Press Release April 30, 2009

As we announced last week, a federal appeals court recently confirmed that George Bush's massive expansion of offshore drilling in Alaska was unlawful. Accordingly, the court canceled his oil and gas leasing program until the Department of the Interior can properly evaluate the environmental impacts of drilling there — a task we're optimistic the Obama administration will take more seriously than its predecessor.

Five of the six drilling auctions for the 'Polar Bear Seas,' and Bristol Bay canceled — that's a huge victory for America's Arctic! We're so close to finally halting these risky new drilling projects in the Arctic Ocean. Thanks to the activism and financial support of AlaskaWild members like you, we're working overtime to make sure the Court decision sticks. It's been a long battle and we're almost there.

But it seems the work of an Arctic advocate is never done. Despite all the setbacks we've

handed them, Big Oil won't stop scheming. Their latest crackpot proposal, introduced by Alaska Senators Murkowski and Begich, is called “directional drilling,” which really means they want to drill sideways into the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from other environmentally sensitive areas including offshore platforms in the Polar Bear Seas.

The Coast Guard counted an average of 90 oil spills per day in the United States last year. No matter which way you drill into the Refuge, there are going to be spills and there will be negative impacts to the wildlife and wildlands of the Coastal Plain.

Apparently Big Oil expects us to believe that untested, new directional drilling techniques will be safer than vertical drilling which, despite having decades to refine the process, still causes an average of 453 spills per year on the North Slope.

There's no doubt about it: Drilling for oil will spoil this land. We can't allow it.



Alaska Wilderness League has grown exponentially in the last year. There are now nearly 30,000 AlaskaWild subscribers, just like you, communicating with key decision-makers, staying up-to-date on League activities and contributing financially to help us keep Alaska wild.

Periodically, we like to check in with you to find out: How are we doing? What goals for conservation in Alaska are most important to you? Your answers will help us to do our work better in Alaska, Washington, D.C. and our field offices across the country.

If you haven't already, please complete our short survey.

Thanks for all that you do,  
Matt Reading  
Online Communications Coordinator  
Alaska Wilderness League  
www.AlaskaWild.org

*They're too close to the trees to see the forest. People in California or New York understand that Alaska is not so big. They live in places where the wilderness once seemed limitless but they know it disappears.*

-Edgar Wayburn (b. 1906)  
Environmentalist and Doctor

Submitted by Sandy Chilcote  
Newfoundland Canada

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# Climate Fight Heating Up

By Bill Boteler  
Washington, D.C.

As I write this article on May 14th, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES) also known as the Waxman-Markey bill is coming out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives. The real battle for the future of the global climate is beginning. We may not have another chance for a climate bill until 2011 or 2012 and, because time is of the essence in preventing runaway climate change, the stakes are very high.

The Waxman-Markey bill is not the only climate bill currently under consideration. There is also the Cap and Dividend Act of 2009 introduced by Congressman Chris Van Holland (D-MD). The current Waxman-Markey bill will be viewed as deeply flawed by many environmentalists while the Van Holland bill is seen by some as being more environmental.

Before going too far into describing these bills and how caring citizens can get the best possible outcome, it's necessary to discuss the basic approaches to fighting climate change on a policy level as well as how what America does influences the rest of the world.

Two main approaches with which some readers may be familiar are "cap-and-trade" and a carbon tax. The Van Holland bill introduces a third approach which he calls "cap and dividend."

**Cap-and-trade schemes**, also called emission trading, involve setting a cap for total emissions in a given year and then issuing polluters permits to pollute along with an equal number of credits or allowances representing the right to emit a given amount. If I want to pollute more than I'm permitted, I have to go out and buy credits from someone who is not using all of theirs, a company or entity that is managing to cut back pollution more than it is required to. This system is penalizing my pollution and rewarding those who cut pollution.

The other major approach to emission control is a carbon tax. This works by raising the cost of greenhouse-gas-generating energy sources relative to other sources over time in a way that also addresses crucial time tables



Photograph: Joel W. Rogers/Corbis

*Smoke from a factory chimney. Carbon trading is leading to the use of more polluting fossil fuels. Britain's biggest polluting companies are abusing a European emissions trading scheme designed to tackle global warming by cashing in their carbon credits in order to bolster ailing balance sheets. (guardian.co.uk, January 27, 2009)*

for halting runaway climate change. Prices of fossil fuels would go up quickly and progressively and in an economically predictable way. Revenue from taxation would be returned through reduction in other taxes. Ralph Nader outlines such a scheme which relies on taxing a limited number of major carbon bottlenecks (see sidebar).

**The cap-and-dividend** approach introduced in the Van Holland bill is relatively simple. It caps fossil fuel supplies instead of capping emissions. First sellers of coal, oil and natural gas have to buy permits equal to the carbon content of their fuel. In cap-and-trade, the money derived from higher fuel prices goes into the pockets of energy companies who got free permits to pollute, while in cap-and-dividend, this money goes into a not-for-profit trust and is returned equally to all Americans.

We are rapidly converging on a period when some version of these ideas, many of which are unfamiliar to the average American, are going to be decided hurriedly. This is the result of decades of deliberate foot dragging by policy makers and the total absence of meaningful debate on these issues thanks to an indifferent media.

The challenge is trying to guide this process so that it helps us meet climate-saving deadlines set by scientists against powerful lobbying efforts by the energy

industry.

What exactly does science say? The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that some of the worst impacts of global warming could be prevented if global temperatures did not rise by more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels. They further concluded that, at a level of 550 ppm (parts per million), the limit of 2°C would likely be exceeded and that, to be safe, levels of carbon in the atmosphere probably should not exceed 400 ppm. [Ed.: World-renowned climate scientist Dr. James Hansen recommends 350 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> to maintain a liveable climate.]

In order to facilitate this, total greenhouse gas emissions can only keep growing until 2015 at which point they have to stabilize and then be brought down rapidly. The more quickly the emissions are reduced, the less damage to the environment.

Most legislation for dealing with climate change contains goals for the year 2020 and goals for the year 2050. Both the Waxman-Markey and Van Hollen's bills use 2005 as the base year for measuring carbon cuts. The Waxman-Markey bill sets a goal of 20 percent (of 2005 levels) by 2020, 42 percent by 2030 and 83 percent by 2050 while the Van Hollen bill plans for a reduction of 25 percent by 2020, 45 percent by 2030 and 85 percent by 2050.

The deepness of cuts in car-

bon is not only important from a scientific viewpoint but is significant in America's efforts to get other nations to go along with any plan to control climate change. In December the United States will participate in meetings in Copenhagen to craft a global climate agreement.

I spoke with Janet Redman, an expert on climate policy at the Institute for Policy Studies, who said that "the good news is that the world is ready to go along if the United States makes a commitment." But that "proposed caps are not tough enough. They need to be between 25-40% from 1990 levels by 2020 and 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050." This is what is needed to send a clear signal to the world that America is serious about climate change. Also needed would be "revenue for international financial support of adaptation, forest protection and mitigation."

According to Redman, Waxman-Markey is deficient in that it relies on cap-and-trade. Experience to date with cap-and-trade has shown problems with the system. In Europe, companies have found ways to "game" the system and the cost is also high. The complexity of cap-and-trade can open the door for corrupting influences.

Redman says "If we use cap-and-trade, the U.S. should auction 100% of allowances. Obama calls for this in his budget over-

**Renewable Energy Standard Goals of States:**  
[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/states/maps/renewable\\_portfolio\\_states.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/states/maps/renewable_portfolio_states.cfm).

**The New York Times on Cap-and-Trade:**  
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/full-page.html?res=9D04E3D>

**Nader Brief:**  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122826696217574539.html>

**Carbon Taxes:**  
<http://www.carbontax.org/issues/carbon-taxes-vs-cap-and-trade/>

**Cap-and-Dividend:**  
<http://www.capanddividend.org/>

**More Cap-and-Dividend:**  
[http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/news/news\\_detail.cfm?id=960](http://www.chesapeakeclimate.org/news/news_detail.cfm?id=960)

**Comparison of Climate Bills:**  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-sandler/waxman-markey-vs-van-holl\\_b\\_183847.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-sandler/waxman-markey-vs-van-holl_b_183847.html)

view." This means that the polluters would pay for the right to pollute. (See *The New York Times* for problems with cap-and-trade above.)

Added to this are issues of renewable energy standards and not-so-renewable pressures to add nuclear and "clean coal" to legislation. This is a question of which technologies are going to be given the advantage as we try to move towards sustainability.

Renewable energy standards are called RES. An example of RES would be a state requiring that 25% of electricity be generated from renewables like solar, wind and geothermal by 2020. Currently 24 states have such standards.

The Waxman-Markey bill is seen by many environmentalists as inadequate. It doesn't make deep enough cuts, particularly the 2020 cuts. Its renewable energy standards are weak — 15 percent by 2020. Allocation favors dirty energy industries with huge allocations for "clean coal" carbon capture.

Figuring out a legislative strategy is challenging. Lobbyists for dirty energy industries will undoubtedly try to throw in "poison pills," measures designed to divide environmentalists and weaken opposition.

There seems to be some agreement, however, that the best course will be to improve the existing legislation rather than reject it outright. Outright rejection risks sending a mes-

sage to the global community that the U.S. is not serious about climate change. This could scuttle any climate agreement in Copenhagen this December.

The Waxman-Markey bill will be debated in the House of Representatives starting now and continuing through the months of June and possibly July.

After that, whatever comes out of the House, including a possible combination of the Waxman-Markey and Van Hollen bills, will go to the Senate, probably some time this fall. If it passes there, it goes to joint House-Senate conference committee and then gets signed by Obama, in time for Copenhagen.

We can expect the summer months to see a media blitz (already in progress) attempting to convince the public that what the energy industry wants is the best approach.

There will be opportunities for activists to make changes in the legislation, especially in the House Ways and Means Committee. Also, pressure can be brought on Obama and the EPA to use regulation as a way to strengthen climate protection.

I hope to be able to present you next month with an updated report on where climate legislation and policies stand and where activists can use their voices to make a difference.

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

## Takoma Park, Maryland A Transition City in the Making

By Michael Tabor  
Takoma Park, Maryland

I recently attended a deliciously subversive meeting on Transitional Towns and suddenly a lot of activities I've been experiencing started coming together: Bill McKibben's critiques of a deeply flawed economic and agriculture systems in his best seller *Deep Economy*, Michael Pollan's *Omnivores' Dilemma*, J.H. Kunstler's presentation on surviving the converging catastrophes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century at a yearly PASA (Pennsylvania Association of Sustainable Agriculture) conference; plus the articles, books and DVD's I've come across on the impending peak oil crisis. All that and the international consensus on climate change and the need for immediate action and solutions.

The Transition Towns movement, which addresses the twin crises of peak oil and climate change, demonstrates how a positive outcome can happen if citizens are willing to come together and act locally. It's all still a bit too cutting-edge for the Style Section of the *Washington Post*!

Rob Hopkins, a teacher and environmental activist based in the United Kingdom, wrote and published *The Transition Handbook — From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience* in 2008. Since then there are 100 official "initiatives" located in England, Wales, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Chile and Japan. Plus, over 900 communities are exploring the concept.

The meeting I attended in Takoma Park, Maryland was preceded by at least two in the District of Columbia (one in Brookland) and others in Bethesda, Frederick, Greenbelt and Baltimore, Maryland.

Hopkins, who started the movement in the town of Kinsale in County Cork, Ireland in 2000, has a positive vision of what the UK



*Visualization of what a Transition Town might look like. The first two in the United States are in Boulder, Colorado and Sand Point, Idaho.*

might look like in 2030 if we're willing to take seriously the decline of available cheap oil. He brushes aside magic elixirs (hydrogen, cold fusion), fear (societal collapse) and gradual, well-intentioned approaches (carbon rationing, cap-and-trade, reducing per capita consumption — i.e. our current approach) and instead turns to well-planned "transition initiatives" that are built around the concept of community resilience.

Without romanticizing the past, he calls for us to reclaim our communities from the grasp of multi-national corporations, big government and TV/media conglomerates. Reconnecting our communities and homes with local energy sources, farms and gardens, locally-owned businesses and a re-energized population with a clear vision of an abundant future, are all part of the scenario.

Hopkins' vision of a lower-energy resilient future doesn't necessitate a lower quality of life but rather a happier and less-stressed community with an improved environment, cleaner water and air and increased stability. More importantly, changes happen from the grassroots level — communities develop

their own approaches and answers.

Permaculture (moving away from our present system of cropping and monoculture), community celebrations, simplicity networking, re-skilling events (workshops on sustainable practices like canning), seed exchanges (Seedy Sundays!) and local currencies are all strategies used in the UK aimed at raising consciousness around the transition movement approaches.

The second meeting of the Takoma Park group was a pot luck breakfast. The assignment was to bring food to share made from locally-grown sources and a contribution to pay for the organizing efforts. For location and information about future meetings, contact: [Nbloch@igc.org](mailto:Nbloch@igc.org) or Michael at 301 587-2248.

On Sunday, May 31, Michael Tabor hosted a potluck Open House at Licking Creek Bend Farm with tours of the high-tunnel system, fruit trees and fields.

**For more information please see:**  
<http://www.transitions.org>  
<http://www.transitionsmaryland.ning.com>  
<http://www.ecolocity.ning.com>

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Fulton County
- **Sandy Ridge Market**  
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- **Sunny Ridge Restaurant,**  
Shade Gap
- **Weavers Natural Foods**  
Manheim
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And in New York at:

- **Magnolia's Cafe**  
Patterson

And in West Virginia at:

- **Community Garden Market**  
Berkeley Springs

# Chemtrails: Morgellons Disease

## Continuing the Discussion

From a Chain of Emails Arriving  
at *The Order of the Earth Office*  
April 29, 2009

(Introduction by B. Coleman Conroy  
[www.arizonaskywatch.com](http://www.arizonaskywatch.com))

This is of real and significant importance here in Arizona. Arizona's leading cash crop is cotton. Next would be citrus and copper.

All cotton in Arizona has been genetically modified. We have seen sharp increases in Morgellons symptoms, not that one needs to live in Arizona to be impacted by Morgellons, simply look at the number of uses of cotton.

When cotton is "picked" from the ground, you are able to see the cotton-dust rise from the ground.

Mike and I remain grateful to Dr. Gwen Scott, Dr. Mike Castle and all the many people who have donated their time, money and energy to continue to tell the "whole truth" even when it is not convenient or popular, particularly then.

Many blessings to all,  
Mike Caraway and Bridget Conroy

By Dr. Gwen Scott, N.D.

Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine

Chemtrails Illness/Morgellons Update April 24, 2009

There is some new information that may prove of value in this ongoing effort to identify components in the Chemtrail mix and design mitigating medicines. Much of this critical knowledge comes from the brilliant and unselfish mind of Dr. Mike Castle. He has given me permission to use his name and share his latest findings.

Another "red herring," or disinformation is being offered to us. We are told that the "Morgellons Disease" mystery has been solved. The fibers are really products of GMO (genetically modified organism) foods and cotton. That the outer shell is really "indigestible cellulose."

Dr. Castle assures me the fibers are a polymer (silicone) that has the unique ability to reproduce itself. He says it is a nano-technology and was designed for military purposes. NASA has apparently used it on space shuttles as it is "self repairing."

I know from my own observations the "fiber" material is very tough and elastic. Under a microscope you cannot see cell divisions or anything you would expect to see with cellulose (skin of a green pepper, for example.) It is smooth with an internal filament. Please look at the work of Clifford Carnicom ([carnicom.com](http://carnicom.com)) and you will see these fibers under high magnification.

However, I am told, it is very possible that the polymer "fibers" will be present in GMO foods and cotton. I have seen evidence of them in water, soil, foods (even organically grown), plants, people, animals, etc. It seems all ground-level life is infected, so why not these crops?

It seems particularly important to put on our critical thinking hats now more than ever. As more and more people are presenting sores . . . as more and more people are looking up and seeing the Chemtrails . . . there will be a need for explanations. I am told that there will be an effort to legalize spraying the sky to "save us" from global warming.

This is the age-old tactic of creating a problem then offering a solution. Make no mistake, wrapping the planet in heat absorbing metals in the lower atmosphere (think about baked potatoes wrapped in tin foil) and locking in pollutants will cause warming (see Clifford Carnicom's model on his Web site.)

Some are even suggesting that the Chemtrails are good for us, transforming us into higher beings. For me, the first and most important question is, "Did you agree to be transmuted along with all life on the planet?" Secondly, what about all of these new "diseases" of unknown causes?

How many people do you know who don't take



Deesillustration.com

The Chemtrail image is by David Dees. Dees began his airbrush art career in the world of corporate advertising. Starting with a staff position at an Atlanta sweatshop, Dees was soon dealing with cutthroat art directors from New York to Chicago, creating eye-catching visuals that sold everything from cartoon package designs on kids' cereal boxes to billboards of dazzling electronics to the newest soft drink ads. His work "trained a monster who would now turn his creative power back against that very corrupt mainstream media." **CORRECTION:** Last month we said that David Dees lives in Scotland. Not true. He lives in Sweden.

## Chemtrails Petition

We the people request an immediate, thorough and honest investigation into what the substances labeled "Chemtrails" actually consists of and to discover the true purpose of "Chemtrail" operations in this country and across the globe. Such investigations must include independent, impartial experts, as well as individuals and groups. Chemtrail-aware individuals and groups are getting tired of seeing whited-out, man-made skies. Without a credible explanation, many of us have come to the conclusion that a cover-up is underway at some level. The purpose of this petition is to assist in raising public confidence to ultimately demand a serious and open public debate on Chemtrails. Sign on at link below.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/7/investigate-persistent-contrails-aka-chemtrails>

some medication, either prescription or over the counter? If it's so good for you, why the denial from every branch of government that Chemtrails even exist? A local station in Albuquerque, New Mexico actually has a daily "pain index" along with the weather forecast!

Folks, all you have to do is review the nature of the array of materials being dispersed into our air supply (heavy metals, biological pathogens, fibers, polymers, etc.) to know these are not conducive to good health and spiritual growth.

I know it is hard, if not impossible, for good people to imagine the intentions of those inflicting this holocaust, but we must. Anything short of that is aiding and abetting. History will tell you this.

Dr. Castle also told me the diatomaceous earth (Clay) mentioned in the first paper has another important role in health beyond removing heavy metals, parasites and building stronger teeth, hair, bones, etc. He says it actually works to interrupt the communication between the different elements in the complex (fungus, fibers, bacteria, metals, etc.) So, once again, I see Clay as an important tool for wellness.

Another woman called to say she believes she

is alive today because she started drinking large amounts of organic grape juice. She told me she and her husband had "Morgellons." Sadly, he passed before reading about the grape therapy. She said it really helped her to turn the corner. She is going to start taking the clay, doing the grape juice mouth therapy and using the Miracle II soap and Neutralizer.

A very interesting intersection here: Dr. Castle says the trace mineral boron also helps to interrupt, or interfere, with this whole matrix. He recommends using Borax to clean your clothes and whole environment. Borax is rich in boron.

In our food, the purple grape is one of the richest sources of boron, so we see organic grape juice not only "off-loads" the "fibers" but also jams their ability to replicate.

Dr. Castle says he believes the boron stops the little black "seeds" from maturing into full grown "fibers." He also agrees with my observation that these "fibers" are a pseudo-life form. He agrees that they can move very quickly and will respond to either positive or negative input.

A nurse called to say it would be wise to get your iodine levels checked before adding in extra iodine. Seems like a wise suggestion to me.

I have also been advised and concur: Don't use rubbing alcohol of any strength or type. Use grain alcohol (Everclear) for any purpose where you would normally use rubbing alcohol. I am told and have observed that the "system" within us uses rubbing alcohol. Even though some disagree, it certainly isn't hard to make the switch.

I also replaced Clorox with a generic bleach (Shur Saving). [Ed.: We rarely use chlorine bleach at all, maybe once a year; try not to use it as it too is a toxic substance.] Looking at Dr. Hulda Clark's work and speaking with other research doctors, I feel confident that this is important to our health.

Dr. Castle also added another lung tonic to my list. He says peppermint oil (few drops) in boiling, distilled water will help the lungs to break down the polymer and prevent attending bacterial infections. It isn't as strong as tea tree oil and doesn't have that "edge" to it that many find hard to inhale. I've tried it and it works wonders.

I am getting some very disturbing reports about the new television technology being installed in people's homes.

People tell me they are getting "brain fog," severe headaches and joint pain while sitting in front of the television. Other technical people tell me the flat-screen models are actually two-way systems. Even when turned off, I am told, viewing of household activities can take place.

One lady in Florida called to say that her house used to be plagued by all kind of insects, particularly flying roaches and termites. Since installing the new television set-up, they've all disappeared. Might sound like a good thing but I can assure you it is not. Without insects, our whole ecosystem will collapse.

An even stranger report:

When the new system was tested (two reports) all of the battery operated clocks in the houses stopped during the trial. Energy was being drawn out of the environment.

You are the environment.

I don't watch television so I don't have personal observations. However, I would greatly appreciate any and all feed-back on this issue. If any of the information presented is incorrect, please correct it.

If you know more about it, share.

Finally, this is one of the most disturbing and interesting updates from Dr. Castle. Listening to a radio program, he heard a research doctor say that there is a gnome [Ed.: Yes! Gnome; I checked with Dr. Mike Castle.] in the bacteria inside of the "fibers" that is only found in the mouths of serpents. It is hard to know what this means but the implications are vast.

Again, I want to thank Dr. Mike Castle for his deep, soul commitment to helping humanity and his generous sharing of information.

I also thank the rest of you who have contacted me and provided valuable information.

With all of the doom and gloom, it's wonderful to find so many people standing in the Light!

I will update as new information and discoveries become available.

*You may know Dr. Scott best from CNN where she anchored the International Hour. During a lengthy career in broadcast journalism, she began to study natural medicine.*

*Dr. Scott's passion for natural medicine began in a very personal way. In her twenties she was extremely ill. After seven surgeries and many drugs she was still failing. A friend offered to take her to see Chief Two Trees, the head medicine man of the Cherokee People. Three months later, Dr. Scott was completely well with the use of natural herbs, diet and supplements. Since that time, Dr. Scott has been dedicated to learning all she can about natural medicine — both formally and informally.*

*Dr. Scott has studied with Dr. Depak Chopra — the prominent alternative medicine practitioner who teaches whole-body health with Eastern Indian medicine (Ayurvedic) and with traditional healers in the Spanish and Native American communities.*

## Poisonous Chemicals to be Banned

### The Challenges of a POPs-free Future

GENEVA, Switzerland, May 4, 2009 (ENS, *excerpt*) — Nine new chemicals, some widely used as pesticides and flame retardants, are proposed for listing as target substances under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the POPs Convention, that opened its week-long meeting today in Geneva.

Ministers and officials from 150 governments are meeting to advance global efforts to rid the world of some of the most hazardous chemicals ever produced. For the first time in the history of the treaty, new chemicals now are under consideration for listing in the annexes of the Convention.

The nine new chemicals proposed for listing are:

Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; Beta hexachlorocyclo-

hexane; Hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether; Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether; Chlordecone; Hexabromobiphenyl; Lindane; Pentachlorobenzene; Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride.

Until now, the POPs Convention has targeted only the so-called "dirty dozen" — 12 hazardous pesticides and industrial chemicals that are linked with human health impacts ranging from damage to the nervous and immune systems to cancer and reproductive disorders and the disruption of infant and child development.

"The risks posed by such chemicals are profound and these toxic substances leave chemical footprints around the globe. Farmers, pregnant women, young people, the unborn and certain remote communities such as those in the Arctic are particularly vul-

nerable," said Achim Steiner, chief executive of the UN Environment Programme, UNEP.

While the POPs risk level varies, all of these chemicals share four properties:

- They are highly toxic;
- They are stable and persistent, often lasting for decades before degrading into less dangerous forms;
- They evaporate and travel long distances through air and water; and
- They accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife.

A key issue for delegates at the conference is an evaluation of whether countries that use DDT to combat mosquitoes carrying the deadly malaria parasite need to continue doing so.

Delegates will consider the endorsement of a business plan to promote effective alternatives to DDT. While the Convention targets DDT for elimination, it recognizes that

some countries must still use this pesticide to protect their citizens' health.

The meeting will focus, too, on expanding support to developing countries to clean up POPs worldwide and safer alternatives for human health and the environment.

There are four separate challenges that delegates will consider:

- Moving away from the production and use of POPs towards safer alternatives and reaching the goal of eliminating the release of unintentionally produced POPs.
- Identifying new POPs that put human health and environment at risk.
- Ensuring that technical and financial resources are made available for all countries to meet their obligations under the Convention.
- Continuing to ensure the Convention meets its goal of protecting human health and the environment from POPs...

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# Saving Jekyll Island, Georgia From Destructive Development

One of the last remaining barrier island habitats in the U.S. for people and sea turtles is threatened.

By Sally Klein  
Bedford, Pennsylvania

The first in a series of articles written by a frequent visitor to Jekyll Island over the past 36 years. (All excerpts from IPJI files.)

## Who Said "You Can't Fight City Hall?"

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, at a gala affair in Atlanta, the Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island State Park (IPJI) was honored by Common Cause of Georgia for its work on behalf of protecting the traditional character and natural systems of Georgia's only barrier island state park in the face of private sector plans for expansive and inappropriate Park redevelopment.

The Common Cause Democracy Award, which "acknowledges outstanding citizens for their service to their local communities," marks the third time in the past year that the all-volunteer, grassroots group has been honored, the other two being the Open Government Award presented by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and the Nick Williams Award presented by the Center for a Sustainable Coast.

With free membership, more than 10,000 supporters and a cause that is near and dear to the hearts of so many people, the Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island State Park (IPJI) has become a "poster child" for successful grassroots action.

## The Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island State Park

The Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island State Park was founded in September 2006 as a means of sampling public opinion on Jekyll's redevelopment and of allowing the island's many friends to work together to help preserve the park and shape its future. The IPJI had a modest beginning and has always been committed to the preservation of Jekyll's unspoiled qualities and unique characteristics, the promotion of the island as a model of restrained development and the maintenance of the park as an affordable and family-friendly vacation destination.

## What Threatens Jekyll Island?

The Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) board approved a 25-year private-public partnership agreement between Linger Longer Jekyll and the JIA. The contract, which arguably is the most important agreement in the history of the Jekyll Island State Park, was approved at a special session of the JIA board without public review and without any opportunity for public comment.



Photo by Carla Cook Smith

Sea Turtle Advocates Rally on Jekyll Island, Georgia in their Call for a Model Lighting Ordinance to Protect Nesting Areas.

The following illustrates the tone of this partnership:

1. The Revitalization Partnering Agreement aims to have the private partner assume financial responsibility for some or all of the park's key assets. (As a *STATE PARK*, the island is supposed to benefit the State of Georgia and all its residents, not a private company!) This goal translates into Linger Longer being given the right to manage and operate whichever of the park's revenue-generating facilities it chooses to take on, including the golf course complex. The Agreement disregards the affordability requirement enshrined in Jekyll legislation, meaning there is nothing contractually that would prevent Linger Longer Jekyll from up-scaling these facilities to private resort status, which would price them beyond the reach of the "people of average income" for whose benefit the park was established.

2. The financial arrangements between the JIA and Linger Longer for the town center project lean to the advantage of the private partner. The JIA estimates that the project will generate more than \$40 million in direct revenue for the Authority over the Agreement's 25-year term. The \$40 million dollar figure does not take into account the cost of the project for the JIA, which includes paying back (with interest) \$25 million in bond debt and monthly 'revitalization partnering payments' to Linger Longer totaling \$1.3 million. Linger Longer has not revealed its estimated profits over the term of the contract but its profits should top \$100 million, thanks to a series of financial incentives and giveaways provided in the Agreement.

The point here is that the less revenue earned by the JIA from the town center project, the more the need for additional development to provide the funds necessary for the JIA to handle the backlog of capital improvement and infrastructure projects it says it must undertake.

3. Linger Longer's (LL) time-share complex (previously prohibited on Jekyll) will displace Jekyll's most widely-used beachfront parking area with its accompanying public facilities. The contract does not require LL to pay for the cost of replacing these facilities in the proposed "signature park" to be built by the JIA just north of the beach village site. It seems reasonable to insist that if a private development project leads to the destruction of a public facility within a state park, the developer must replace that facility in kind at an appropriate site within the park. (Environmental concerns were not even addressed when the "partnership" was engineered and approved.)

## What IPJI Stands For

- The promotion of Jekyll Island as a model of restrained development, a living laboratory of nature's wonders and a park blessed with a wealth of family recreational and environmental education opportunities.
- The identification of Jekyll's environmentally and historically sensitive areas and their protection from further development.
- The safeguarding of Jekyll's unique personality and characteristics, meaning that magical charm which has captivated generations of the island's visitors.
- The protection of Jekyll's

dune and sand-sharing system, the health of which is essential to the island's well-being.

- The preservation of Jekyll's maritime forest — a natural feature vital to migratory birds and native species, and a habitat that is fast disappearing up and down the east coast.
- The adoption of a model ordinance for sea turtle protection.
- The improvement of Jekyll's existing lodgings with the majority of the accommodations remaining affordable for mainstream citizens.
- The modernization of Jekyll's Convention Center, including the addition of an adjacent hotel, with affordability being a key planning consideration.
- The adoption of green building norms equal to or higher than those specified by the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's (LEED's) silver standard.
- Certification of Jekyll's golf complex by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which has established and sanctions environmentally responsible maintenance practices for golf course operation.
- The protection of Jekyll's recreational facilities from encroachment by development, including the maintenance of a condominium-free environment within the park's wildlife-rich and historic golf courses.
- The enhancement of nature-based tourism opportunities, particularly the provision of non-intrusive wetland walkways, nature trails, bird-viewing stations and additional signage educating the public about the island's flora and fauna.

## IPJI's Activities

- Survey public opinion on Jekyll's redevelopment and associated issues.
- Promote an "Open Beach Resolution" calling for the restriction of development along Jekyll's remaining open seaside land.
- Petition on behalf of keeping the majority of Jekyll's lodgings affordable for most citizens.
- Support for responsible improvement of Jekyll's accommodations, amenities and facilities.
- Conduct research on the impact of proposed development projects.
- Monitor developers' projects for compliance with the provisions of Georgia's Shore Protection Act and other environmental legislation.
- Disseminate information through press releases, op-ed pieces, a quarterly newsletter, e-mail alerts and a multi-faceted Web site.
- Speak to community, environmental, and civic groups.
- Encourage legislation that further secures accessibility to an affordable Jekyll and protects the island's environmentally-sensitive areas and fragile ecology.
- Attend monthly board meetings of the Jekyll Island Authority in order to represent the IPJI's views and raise questions on behalf of the park's advocates.

Sign the Petition  
at [www.savejekyllisland.org/AffPet.html](http://www.savejekyllisland.org/AffPet.html).

To find out more or to help the cause, please go to the IPJI website <http://savejekyllisland.org>. There you can find photos, contacts, studies and resources including:

## Jekyll Island Redevelopment: Issues and News in Chronological Order

- \*Development and Jekyll Island: A Brief Chronological Outline
- \*Jekyll Island Master Plan
- \*Jekyll's Decline in Visitation: A Scientific Analysis
- \*Linger Longer's Revised Town Center Plan
- \*AJC's Public Forum on the Future of Jekyll Island
- \*Bleakly Advisory Group Report: Forecast for Jekyll's Long Term Development
- \*Scholarly Analysis of the Bleakly Advisory Group Report
- \*Senator Jeff Chapman on the Bleakly Report
- \*Center for a Sustainable Coast on the Bleakly Report
- \*Revitalization Partnering Agreement: JIA and Linger Longer Contract
- \*Private Management of Jekyll's Key Amenities: A Good Deal for the Public?
- \*Bleakly Analysis of Long Term Development: Comparison of Jekyll Island to Comparable Southeastern U. S. Coastal Destinations
- \*State Senator, Jeff Chapman, Proposes Alternative Funding for Jekyll's Renovations
- \*"The Great Jekyll Island Giveaway": Opinion Piece in *The Flagpole*, Athens, Georgia
- \*Senator Chapman Questions the Jekyll Island Authority on the Linger Longer Contract
- \*Jekyll's Long Term "Build Out": Fact and Fiction
- \*Bleakly "Density" Study Reviewed by Expert in Public Land Planning
- \*Jekyll Density Study Debated in *Macon Daily Telegraph*
- \*Jekyll Island State Park Authority Visitor Analysis and Business Plan. Final Report, February 2009 — Bleakly Advisory Group

**Note from Sally:** Future articles will report more about Jekyll Island and its precious public beaches, endangered sea turtle nesting sites, one of the nicest State Park campgrounds in the east, full island bicycle trails, fishing, golfing and birding opportunities, picturesque sunrises and sunsets, historic sites and vital marsh environment as well as more details about the political maneuvering and back-room negotiating that has taken place.

*It is deeply painful to me and highly detrimental to all citizens of Georgia and visitors from around the world to see this pristine island slip into the hands of private developers. Having attended some of the meetings and signed all of the petitions, I know first hand that the developers would have long ago destroyed a very special spot on Earth had this group not intervened.*

I encourage support of the IPJI grassroots efforts.

Sally Klein currently resides and in Bedford, PA and travels to Jekyll Island whenever she can.

# Wetlands Protected on Uganda's Mountains of the Moon

GLAND, Switzerland, May 13, 2009 (ENS, excerpt) — A high altitude wetland area in Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains received international recognition on Wednesday as a protected site under the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, a conservation decision that could help protect the unique ecosystem from the demands of a growing population.

This unusual ecosystem has been known for nearly 2,000 years. In the first century AD, the Alexandrine geographer Claudius Ptolemy suggested that the Nile River had its source from snow peaks on the Equator, the "Lunis Montae" or Mountains of the Moon.

The Rwenzori in western Uganda is the highest mountain range in Africa, with six glacial peaks. The new Rwenzori Ramsar Site covers 99,500 hectares (245,865 acres) of the mountainous region — it is located within a national park and UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The new Ramsar site borders the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the mountains are part of Virunga National Park — also designated under the Ramsar Convention and recognized as a World Heritage Site . . .



Photo by Christian Boix, Tropical Birding  
L'Hoest's monkey is classed as Vulnerable to extinction on the IUCN Red List.

# Activist Wins Award

Continued from page 3

violent methods. Gunnoe also created neighborhood groups to monitor coal companies for illegal behavior and to report toxic spills. She has encouraged other residents to speak at hearings about their concerns over mountaintop removal. taintop removal.

In March 2007, OVEC and partner groups won a federal lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers that repealed mountaintop removal valley fills permits in southern West Virginia, granted without adequate environmental consideration, and banned issuance of new permits. In defiance of the federal judge's orders, the Corps granted permits to Jupiter Holdings to construct two new valley fills above Gunnoe's community at its Boone County mine. OVEC challenged the permits in federal court and a hearing was scheduled for September 2007. Days before the hearing, Gunnoe organized a media training for 20 local residents, some of whom were scheduled to testify with her.

However, at the community hall, more than 60 coal miners showed up and harassed Gunnoe and her neighbors, stopping the meeting and intimidating the group.

After the incident at the community hall, Gunnoe's neighbors decided not to testify in the hear-

ing challenging Jupiter Holdings' permits. Gunnoe was the sole community resident to do so. In October 2007, federal district court Judge Robert Chambers ruled in favor of Gunnoe and OVEC and issued an injunction ordering Jupiter Holdings to halt the construction of any new valley fills at its Boone County mine.

Gunnoe and a coalition of regional groups are now advocating for passage of the federal Clean Water Protection Act and the reinstatement of the buffer zone rule that would strengthen environmental laws regulating mountaintop removal. She is also working with Appalachian groups to promote viable renewable energy opportunities for the region.

Observers confirm that mine managers point to Gunnoe as an enemy of mine workers and their jobs and have encouraged acts of harassment. Gunnoe has received numerous verbal threats on her life and her children are frequently harassed at school. Gunnoe's neighbors recently overheard people planning an arson attack on her home. Her daughter's dog was shot dead and "wanted" posters of Gunnoe have appeared in local convenience stores. Gunnoe has recently taken serious measures to protect both her family and property.

# Learning About Nature While Vacationing

By Terry Darling, Warren PA



Photo by Terry Darling

An endangered Key deer poses in National Key Deer Refuge, Florida. A 10-point buck can be three feet tall. Because their population is low and remains under threat of extinction, the Key deer is listed as endangered. The current population is between 600 and 750. In one hour, the photographer saw 24 Key deer, most of them feeding in residents' lawns and along roadsides. Though it is illegal, some visitors to the refuge feed the deer fruit and vegetables, making the animals bolder and more likely to be hit by vehicles.



Photo by Terry Darling

A 10' alligator basks in the sun on a roadside in southern Florida. This photograph was taken from the safety of a car in late March, off Route 41 on the Loop Road. Due to a relentless drought in the area and the mating season, abundant alligators could be viewed as they searched for water and mates. Though rain was in the forecast the entire week the photographer visited, it never came to fruition.

## Ansel Adams Could He Fathom Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining?

By Cynthia S. Waugh  
Sykesville, Maryland

Art museums are one of my favorite places to be. I feel contented inspiration while visiting a good exhibit. Every year the Bellagio Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada hosts a traveling artist's show. A few years ago I had the pleasure of viewing an exemplary and eclectic selection of Ansel Adams' photography.

Upon entering the exhibit, most people rent their tour-style headphones in order to hear the pre-packaged audio tour, ponder a bit and then immediately leave the museum after a 40-minute tour.

Not me. I enjoy listening to a tour tape, stopping, returning, writing about the artist's message and then meandering some more. Sometimes I listen to a section more than once; oscillating between art selections as if I am a critic that must decide which single piece rivets me the most.

It was during one of these yearly Vegas trips that I really discovered and absorbed Ansel Adams' full life, his messages and creations in photography.

Adams loved and lived for the visual image photos offered. Compelling Adams to the lens were trees, fields, the moon, the night sky, natural light, the deserts, rivers, streams and mountains of all kinds — colossal ones, mountains in snow or ones obscured by fog and cumulous clouds. Adams loved



Image from Office Publisher

mountains. The mountains allowed him to study the daily patterns of light, shadow and perspective plus the colors and shapes each season had to offer.

If Adams were alive today, I know he would be horrified having to witness the sights of a socially irresponsible Mountaintop Removal 'Surface' Coal Mining project featuring lopped off mountains left to exist as gaunt, grey, stagnant carcasses that don't have the ability to support any habitat known to man.

Adams loved the beauty that a natural landscape provided as it lived in harmony and balance. Even if you and I can't visit Yellowstone, Yosemite or The Grand Tetons, his photos of these landmarks are for you and me to inspect, scrutinize and appreciate because these glorious sights are still currently alive.

Today, if the influential Adams were to visit Appalachia, the hub for truculent\* Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining, I'm certain he'd want and see the palpable need to regain his active footing in the Sierra Club that he once helped initiate.

Adams, the visionary would probably wonder why more folks weren't participating with environmentalists and then shake his head in bewilderment at man's passive and inattentive behavior towards our environment.

My questions regarding Ansel Adams and Mountaintop Removal are: Would he photograph these man-made malicious eyesores for others to see or would he turn away and look for beauty elsewhere? Would Mountaintop Removal have progressed to its present state, if his lens had turned to Appalachia for its exquisite, pre-surface-mining days? Does it always take an artist to remind us of the obvious sacredness in our surroundings?

As Adams' contemporary Grace H. Conkling (1878-1958) described in her poem "Mountains:"

**Mountains are good to look upon.  
But do not look too long.  
They are made of granite.  
They will break your heart.**

\*Truculent: savagely brutal, aggressively hostile

Dirt mound heavenward,  
purposeful perfection placed -  
Human greed supplants.

By Cynthia S. Waugh, Sykesville MD

## Freedom

By David C. Thomson, Warren PA

Grey haired men sit  
around great tables  
growing sweat rings  
on their shirts  
so they can stamp  
"FREEDOM"  
on the world.

(The wind blows  
while dark pines  
silently hold hands  
in sunshine.)

Loud voices argue  
the value of money  
as weak voices cry  
for their fair share  
so they can walk in  
"FREEDOM."

(The wind blows  
as daisies lift  
their smiling faces  
to sunshine.)

Stone churches echo  
holy vows recited  
by weary couples  
so they may love in  
"FREEDOM."

The wind blows  
softly whispering  
"freedom"

## Northwest Earth Institute presents Voluntary Simplicity A study guide for groups.

Call NWEI to get started and to order: 503.227.2807  
Email: [contact@nwei.org](mailto:contact@nwei.org) or visit [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org) for more information. Cost for the guide is \$20.

- Gain an understanding of the meaning of voluntary simplicity
- Explore the material and psychological distractions that prevent us from caring for the Earth and those we love
- Consider how life might be enriched through the practice of simplicity





Photo supplied by Al Fry

A few of the vehicles Al Fry uses for guests and travel.

## Live on Wheels — When All Else Fails?

By Al Fry  
Garden Valley, Idaho

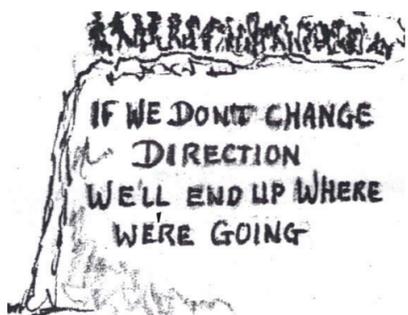
As millions of Americans wind up without a job and facing life without a shelter of their own, let's look at another alternative. Indians in my part of the country loved their tipis and nomadic lifestyle. To the East they still had housing that wasn't taxed by any parasitic leaders. Things have changed of course, but the recreation vehicle lifestyle is an easy way to get a taste of this lifestyle . . . and beat the high overhead problems as well.

I grew up with a family that headed south every winter. My grandfather started migrating back in 1914 when he got tired of the cold and snow of the Northwest. Some of my people are still 'snowbirding' almost a century later.

Anyone with an RV can do the same with very little outlay. Out West here, there are pieces of paradise hidden away . . . from the northern border to the sunny south. All it really takes is an adjustment in values and perspectives. Think about it. Our affluent lifestyles are going down the tube and anything we have left in the way of property is now the target of all manner of parasites with suits and ties on.

As I write this, some of the local subdivision homeowners are so strapped they can't even pay the bloated fees to keep their services. Their board members just squandered the money and now have no compassion. This scene is now happening at every level and none of our leaders with their self-interests will stop the collapse.

History is filled with civilizations that collapsed when the parasites and 'takers' grew more prolific than the producers.



Cartoon by Al Fry

Bureaucrats who thrive on fees and taxes are not happy with RVers and it is increasingly difficult to just spend time on the back streets of towns. I have never had any problems spending nights in the parking lots of larger 24-hour supermarkets and Wal Marts while in cities. In the country, there are never-ending back roads to find suitable squat spots or official camping spots in.

Locally, we need to move every 14 days at forest service campgrounds. Thousands of snowbirds in the Southwest get inexpensive yearly permits to camp on BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land. In the Eastern part of the country it is more difficult to escape the usual RV park fees. Sometimes it is best to just pull up to a suitable dwelling or business and frankly ask them if they would mind having you parked out in front.

This is where smaller, less conspicuous motor homes and vans have an advantage over the larger rigs. Few people with the larger rigs ever travel as much because of the poor mileage and lack of suitable squat spots.

My smaller motor homes get 20 miles per gallon and are easy to heat with small Mr. Heater propane units (crack a window). Now that we have LED lighting there is very little battery drain . . . and porta potties may be a little inconvenient . . . but hauling around a huge motor home is a lot more inconvenient — and expensive. Smaller, older, motor homes and RVs are not that hard to locate and I prefer the older fiberglass bodies. A little engine work and we can be in business with little more than what a used car would cost.

I usually keep several motor homes scattered around for visitors and guests to stay in. When a local bureaucrat once complained about lack of sufficient septic systems, I just bought an old portable john . . . that could be pumped periodically . . . and that made me legal.

Old step-vans and buses were great units to convert over some years ago. Now they are conspicuous and 'targeted.' Clean-looking motor homes just aren't that hard to find. For the larger rigs, it's easy to find them down in the Sun Belt as spring time comes along and widows want to head home . . . minus the rig and the memories.

At various times in my life I have just parked my small motor homes in back of the places I worked and hooked up to the owners' electric outlets. They were glad to have me more available and watching over their business sites. In such situations smaller is still better.

As our economy sinks, this line of thought can give you something to think about if your shelter should be in peril.

## The Examined Life On Recycling Doubts

By Marion Stuenkel  
Madison, Wisconsin

Is recycling good for the environment? Is recycling a positive strategy for coping with global warming? Perhaps I'm asking myself heretical questions but I have misgivings about the consequences of recycling programs.

ended up living with a Mexican couple with three young children. Every morning Tita and I went to the market. I purchased the fresh meat for the family for the day as our contribution to the living expenses. We had a drink of carrot juice and a churro (a sugared donut in stick shape) while selecting the meal. Our drink was served in the



Are we wastefully accepting consumer goods and packaging we could do without because the product is recycled and thus a panacea? Recently my friend visiting from New Mexico purchased a salad from the deli bar at our local food co-op, which she brought to my house to eat. I began washing the container, noting it was made from recycled bottles, then stopped — appalled all over again at all the plastic bottles which need never have been purchased in the first place.

I got to wondering how much energy was used to recycle that already-wasteful petroleum product from empty bottle in the recycle bin to container at the co-op and now here again to be recycled. I didn't need the container and was wasting water washing it up.

Which would be worse for the environment, which the lesser of two evils, sending it to the landfill now or having it recycled again to be transformed via an energy-intensive manufacturing process into another container? Why can't we take our own reusable container for a carry-out or to use as a doggy bag? I suppose there are health precautions against this but are the regulations really sensible? Why are we given so much food on a plate that we even need a doggy bag?

Questioning recycled paper seems more difficult. I could use e-mail exclusively and read *The Order of The Earth* online but I abhor nuclear- and coal-based electricity. I know recycling paper is energy-intensive and polluting. I find myself upset by all the paper eco-movements generate. Handouts, article reprints, newsletters, fund-raising letters and leaflets inundate me. I am off the junk mail lists but worthy causes cram my mailbox. Would we be so profligate were we the indigent whose forests are cut down? Is there a sustainable reusable form of writing surface? Or couldn't one paper on a kiosk still do? But how does one go statewide, national or international then? Should communication be local, like food?

Socrates wrote, "...The unexamined life is not worth living."

I spent the summer of 1970 in Guadalajara, Mexico. By serendipity my husband and I

kind of folded cup described in origami texts. The churro passed via tongs into your fingers from which you licked the sugar when you were done. Pasta, grains and spices were poured into a paper twist of just the right size, as was the meat though that was folded in butcher paper. We gathered purchases in a woven mesh bag into which the fruits and vegetables went naked.

Cooking for the main meal (served around midday) began as soon as we got home. There were no leftovers and no refrigerator. The family never went out to eat. This was the only shopping we did. Obviously, clothes or the material to make them and household goods were purchased as needed but none during the June to August weeks we were there.

I listen to people talk with recycling pride about "giving away to" and shopping only in second-hand and thrift stores. But how many articles of clothing, jewelry, serving dishes, books or whatnot do we need?

That something is recycled does not negate intrinsic lack of real necessity and may only postpone the day of deposit into a landfill of stuff we never need have made or purchased in the first place.

Being burned at the stake for heresy would add a bit to global warming.

How about recycling?

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

[Ed.: We are hoping for your comments to publish in our next issue of "The Order of the Earth." In the meantime, I'll make a few comments of my own. I've been recycling for over 40 years, when it was not at all popular or easy to do so. There are many conclusions I have come to, as Marion has. First, I absolutely hate plastics recycling because I hate plastic. Period. I think plastics recycling is a fraud perpetrated by the chemical industry to make us think something good is happening when in fact the substance ought to be banned. Stick to glass containers or bring your own back to be refilled. Who buys all that STUFF? We do!]

## How Do You See Things?



Clearing the Throat

Excuse me. Time there was a place called PA  
Under these signs, water towers, seed trees

A home life on track, fox tracks, deer  
Big antlers on forest tracts. Time with a trail

Now called rabble, my PA riding down the bent arc  
Of a mean summer dream, so hot, who can say

Where the birds have flown? Looking up is like  
Staring sun in the eye. It only takes once

They say. Once there was a country girl's time in trust  
Tales told about insects, air, and the world we breathe

And break. Long-winded words spoken by wise men  
Dark about the deep edges before they fall

Hard, without a sound. You've heard the one  
About whether a tree really makes a noise

When no man is there to hear it? There's a divided sense,  
Blood-red double-talk dazzling. Tray of tools like a surgeon

Stubbled beard of a land. Never mind, now. Pay attention.  
Look in the mirror, PA, lathered and ready for the blade,

Chin up and humming  
These hills were made for shaving.

By Terry Darling  
Warren, Pennsylvania



Photo by Tracy Martin, Cartwright, Labrador, Canada

when the moon is embraced  
by dark spruces  
in that imperilled moment  
though i sit with my head  
in my hands  
there is help coming from the wings  
and watches of the forest  
from the sharp eyes of eagles  
and owls, finches and wrens  
the vigilance of nations

By Sandy Chilcote  
Newfoundland, Canada

# Blue Whales Resume West Coast Migrations

OLYMPIA, Washington, May 11, 2009 (ENS) — The first known migration of giant blue whales from the coast of California to areas off British Columbia and the Gulf of Alaska since commercial whaling ended in 1965 has been documented by marine mammal scientists.

In the scientific journal "Marine Mammal Science," researchers from Cascadia Research Collective in Washington state, NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center in California and Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans identified 15 separate cases where blue whales were seen off British Columbia and the Gulf of Alaska.

Four of the whales were identified as animals previously observed off the coast of California, suggesting a re-establishment of their historical migration pattern.

Researchers made this identification by comparing photographs of blue whales taken in the North Pacific Ocean since 1997 with a library of nearly 2,000 photographs of blue whales off the West Coast.

A positive match was determined based on pigmentation patterns in skin color and shape of the dorsal fin.

Reaching lengths of nearly 100 feet, the blue whale is the largest animal on Earth today and the largest known to have ever existed.

They were nearly hunted to extinction throughout the world and are currently listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, the Canadian Species at Risk Act and on the authoritative IUCN Red List.

During the early 1900s in the North Pacific and along the West Coast as far south as Baja California, blue whales were nearly wiped out during commercial whaling activities. Because they were the largest whales, blue whales were a prime target for whalers.

Formerly large populations of blue whales in the North Pacific never rebounded after commercial whaling ended, while those animals off southern Cali-



Photo by John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research Collective  
A blue whale spouts off Moresby Island, British Columbia, Canada.



Photo by John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research Collective  
Researchers identified individual blue whales by the shapes of their small dorsal fins.

ornia have apparently fared much better, researchers say.

Large concentrations of blue whales have been documented off California and Baja California and in the eastern tropical Pacific since the 1970s but it was not known if these animals were part of the same population that previously ranged into Alaskan waters.

John Calambokidis of the Cascadia Research Collective, who has a long history of blue whale research, said of this study, "We document 15 blue whale sightings off British Columbia and in the Gulf of Alaska made since 1997 and use identification photographs to show that whales in these areas are currently part of the California feeding population."

"We speculate that this may represent a return to a migration

pattern that has existed for earlier periods for eastern North Pacific blue whale population," he said.

"The recent sightings and photographic matches that we report here have changed our view of blue whale population structure in the eastern North Pacific," the authors state in the study.

"We had previously considered the population of blue whales that feed off California to be separate from the population of whales that had historically inhabited the waters off British Columbia and in the Gulf of Alaska," they explain.

"Although the sample size is small, the number of matches does indicate that blue whales seen off British Columbia and at least in the eastern Gulf of Alaska are likely part of the same population that is seen off Califor-

nia," the authors say.

The scientists are still not certain why blue whales are now beginning to migrate from southern California to the North Pacific Ocean, although changing ocean conditions may have shifted their primary food source of krill further north.

"One possible explanation for a shift in blue whale use is changes in prey driven by changes in oceanographic conditions, including the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, which coincides with some of the observed shifts in blue whale occurrence," the authors say.

Living between 70 and 80 years, blue whales reproduce every two or three years. There are an estimated 5,000 to 12,000 animals surviving today, with the largest population of approximately 2,000 off the U.S. West Coast.

## EPA Stops Coal Plant on Navajo Land

By Marjorie Childress  
New Mexico Independent via DailyClimate

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico, April 28, 2009 — In a dramatic move yesterday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdrew the air quality permit it issued last summer for the Desert Rock coal-fired power plant, which is slated to be built on the Navajo Nation in the Four Corners region just southwest of Farmington, New Mexico. The action drew praise from critics of the plant and blistering commentary from its proponents.

Assistant New Mexico Attorney General Seth Cohen, who has been one of the primary litigators working on the state's appeal of the original permit, said the decision by the new administration at the EPA marked "a huge victory."

"The EPA was supposed to file their final brief today in opposition to our arguments but had asked for an extension, so we were hopeful," Cohen told NMI. "Today, in effect, they agreed with us that EPA had cut corners in issuing the permit last summer.



It's a huge victory for public health and the environment in New Mexico."

But Jeff Holmstead, former head of the air program at EPA and now head of the Environmental Strategies Group at Bracewell & Giuliani, the law firm representing the plant's developer, Sithe Global, said in a statement that he has "never seen anything like it."

"I don't think anyone ever imagined that the new team at EPA would seem to have such little regard for due process or basic notions of fairness," Holmstead said. "Everyone understands

that a new Administration has discretion to change rules and policies prospectively. But I've never seen any Administration try to change policies and rules retroactively."

While a lot of attention has been paid in the last week to the EPA's recent finding that carbon dioxide — the greenhouse gas that is belched from coal-burning power plants — poses a danger to human health and the environment, the decision to withdraw the Desert Rock permit yesterday rested on other issues put forward by the state of New Mexico . . .



Photo by Iona

Squirrel eating lunch in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

## Lunch With a Squirrel

By Sunny War Eagle  
Marianna, Florida

As i (sic) came into my lodge after a bus trip to the post office, i smelled dinner cooking in the slow cooker. YUM! It smelled sooo good. The weather was finally breaking so maybe Jasper Too and i could go out again. We had days and weeks of intermittent rain, floods, wind, tornadoes and hail. It was time now to open the kitchen door that overlooks the woods out back.

i have a table on that patio where i feed squirrels, birds and whatever so i put today's ration of peanuts and corn seeds out for them and dished up my meal, too.

The patio is very small and is caged in with a four-foot chain-link fence for them to perch and climb on so i can see them very well. The tree branches from the woods overhang this area so it makes a great jump-off spot for them to land on the table.

My table is about ten feet from theirs so i can watch them eat as i have my meal.

Handicap housing has extra wide doors and no screens so i hang a sheer see-through curtain there which slides on a

rod. i can watch them and they can't see me.

My friends have dinner at the same time i have mine. Couldn't ask for better companionship for my meal.

A small plaque sits on my table in front of my sunflower place-mat. It says: "The small simple things in life bring so much happiness."

It is so very true and i am grateful.

### LATER

Well, it was a few weeks ago that i wrote "Lunch With a Squirrel." It wasn't a week later that i came home to find all the tree branches, vines and bushes i spoke of that overhung the fence to the neighbor's woods all lying down in the flood ditch.

The tears began to flow. It was like a battlefield with dead bodies all over in the flood ditch. i opened the back door to find branches and leaves all over the patio, so i got the broom and began to clean.

Then i set out the food and wondered how many would come for dinner that day?

Also wondered if the squirrels would climb down the chain link fence, cross down through the flood ditch and

then up the fence to their feeding area?

The birds flew over the space easily but probably didn't feel as safe being so exposed.

The squirrels were a little slower in finding a way but i should have remembered that they are determined little creatures when they want something (smile).

It tears my heart to see all the brown ends where it was cut off and the honeysuckle isn't as strong but it will all grow back (if they let it?).

Makes one wonder why anyone would prefer to see a chain-link fence rather than greenery and flowers, eh?

Well, Good People, i leave you with a quote by K. Heaver:

**"A friend is one who knows you and loves you anyway."**

A Ho!! to that!!!

Sunny War Eagle publishes a monthly bulletin called "The Voice of the Red Tail," for the People of the Red Tail. Her newsletter comes out each Solstice and Equinox. Both are filled with native wisdom and art. Contact Sunny at Earthbridge, Inc., POB 5786, Marianna, Florida 32447.

*The notion that a radical is one who hates his country is naive and usually idiotic. He is more likely one who likes his country more than the rest of us and is, thus, more disturbed than the rest when he sees it debauched. He is not a bad citizen turning to crime; he is a good citizen driven to despair.*

H.L. Mencken (1880-1956)

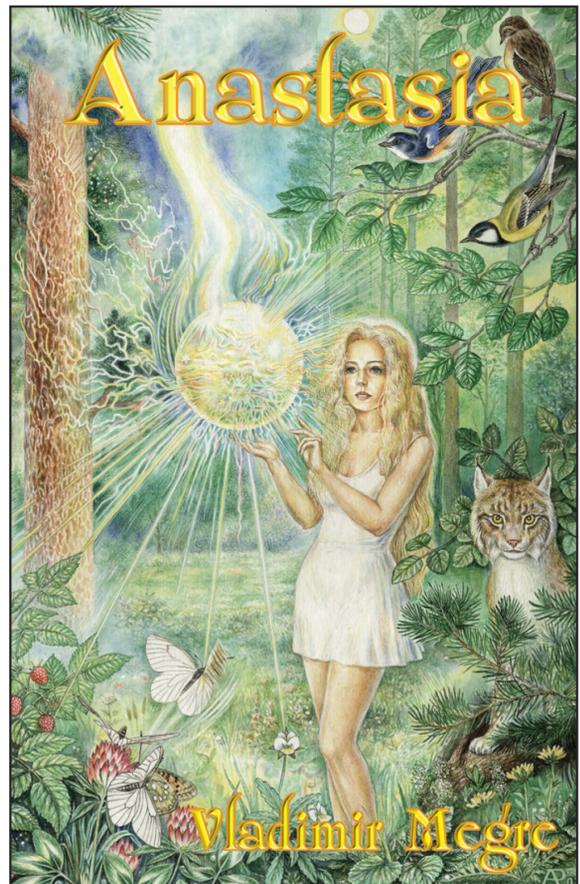
## Anastasia Editor's Notes

by Dr. Leonid Sharashkin

*How many times have I heard personal examples of this instant recognition: people who have been searching for years or decades for meaningful answers to questions on the purpose of life, on Man's place in Nature, have finally found them in this book! . . .*

*But should it be surprising that the image of a way of life founded on the ideals of love, beauty and non-violence, as presented by Anastasia, would resonate so strongly with our inner self? After all, does not every one of us want to live in a free society of kind and happy people, in a world without wars, crime or oppression? In a world where not a single tear need run down a child's cheek and where families live in love and prosperity?*

*Do we not want to live without monstrous industries destroying and polluting both Nature and Man? Do we not want to enjoy creative labor for the benefit of both our families and our communities, instead of suffering through boring jobs merely to enrich faceless corporations? Do we not want a society based on mutual help and cooperation rather than competition? . . .*



**NOTE:** Dear Reader — I love this book so much that I decided it would be the only book I would sell through our newspaper: \$14.95 plus \$3.05 book-rate shipping. Send a check for \$18 payable to The Order of the Earth to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Write "Anastasia" on the memo line. If you love the first one as much as I did, you may order the rest of them directly from RingingCedars.com or 800-365-6367. For the Earth, Jena

# Butterflies Vanishing

*Continued from page 1*

Conservation. Climate change, he says, is a particular problem for our butterflies because our countryside is so fragmented. Decades of plowing up grassland and ripping out hedgerows means that more than half our butterfly species are now confined to small islands of land. When the climate makes the current sites unsuitable, butterflies will no longer be able to fly elsewhere and find new sites. "If you had an intact countryside, butterflies should be going through the roof but the species can't move through the countryside like they once would have done," says Brereton. "Habitats are too fragmented. There are vacant suitable habitats in parts of the countryside but the butterflies won't necessarily find them."

Our largest and most charismatic native butterfly, the swallowtail, was once found across the fens of East Anglia and beyond until the draining of these wetlands for arable agriculture caused its extinction. It is now confined to the Norfolk Broads. When global warming causes the Broads to be inundated with sea water — widely expected within 100 years — the swallowtail will die unless it is relocated by humans to suitable inland sites. These new sites will have to be meticulously created to cultivate a single, rather neurotic wetland plant used by this notoriously picky species.

Conservationists playing God like this has already happened. The last species to become extinct in Britain was the large blue in 1979. Despite heroic scientific endeavor, the full complexity of this butterfly's weird lifecycle was not understood until it was too late. When tiny, the large blue caterpillar throws itself onto the ground and secretes a tantalizing scent which tricks ants into carefully taking it into their underground nests, whereupon the nasty caterpillar devours ant grubs until it is fully grown. Its dependence on ants was known but not that it relied on a very particular species, which in turn needed a very specific kind of rough grassland to survive. So, in the 1980s, conservationists brought stock from Sweden and successfully re-established the butterfly on a small field on the edge of Dartmoor. Dad and I were ticked off by a warden when we found this secret meadow, still known only as Site X. The large blue has since been successfully reintroduced into other areas.

With this kind of ingenuity, could we turn the whole country into a giant butterfly farm? Could we save every species by reintroducing them to tailor-made nature reserves or boosting populations with specimens from abroad? "We might do it for a few species, but it's not the basis for a conservation strategy," says Warren. "What about all the other insects? We want to get the habitats right and butterflies will tell us if we are getting it right and then we'll be getting it right for biodiversity as a whole."

Amazingly, despite all our knowledge, we still get it wrong. The pearl-bordered fritillary was known as "the woodman's friend" because it would faithfully follow foresters around broadleaved woods as they coppiced [*cut back*] or cut down patches of trees, attracted to the flowers that blossomed in the freshly cut glades in subsequent years. Like many butterflies, it became inextricably linked to the way we managed our landscape but has undergone a dramatic decline in numbers since this traditional way of "harvesting" our wood died out.

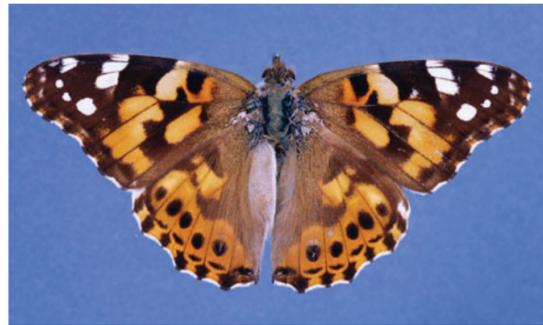
While conservation management has reintroduced coppicing — which is rarely economically viable because of the falling demand for wood fuel and is now often carried out by volunteers on nature reserves — pearl-bordered fritillaries have continued to die out, often because the work has not been carried out on a big enough scale. Even Monks' Wood, a national nature reserve and the site of a celebrated government research station that has been the source of much of our scientific wisdom about butterflies, has lost 12 of its 40 species of butterfly since 1954, including the pearl-bordered fritillary.

The decline of butterflies is "not all farmers and climate change," as Brereton puts it. Some of our rarest butterflies have been inadvertently decimated by conservation efforts. Matthew Oates, the National Trust's advisor on nature, takes me to the beautiful Rodborough Common in the Cotswolds, to see the first Duke of Burgundy butterflies of the year. The delicate beauty of this small, fritillary-like butterfly belies its pugnacious urge to scrap with every other insect that comes near as it suns itself on the steep sides of the common. "The Oates motto is 'never underestimate a butterfly,'" says Oates, a jovial polymath who brings his scholarly training in poetry to bear on butterfly conservation. If climate change brings better summers, he points out that some species will become more capable of travelling across our decimated landscape to look for new sites. "But I am seriously worried for burgundies. The figures are very alarming. What's messed it up in the last 20 years is conservation management."

Before climate change, another man-made event, the introduction of the rabbit-killing disease myxomatosis in the 1950s caused the decline of many grassland butterflies which relied on large rabbit populations to keep the grass short and full of flowers. Conservation plans saw a widespread reintroduction of grazing to help



Swallowtail butterfly.



Painted Lady butterfly. Photo by Alamy

rare plant species and butterflies such as the Adonis blue. But the Duke of Burgundy requires longer, rougher grassland and a certain size of cowslip plants; overgrazing has caused its population to plummet. Now it exists in such tiny colonies it could easily disappear. "The track record of conservation management on this butterfly is bloody awful," says Oates. "I really think we could lose it."

We are belatedly getting better at conserving the right kind of land for fragile, complex and, frankly, contrary butterfly species. Butterfly Conservation had one conservation adviser a decade ago; today, 30 advisers help landowners manage 1,000 precious sites. Once the *bête noire* of conservationists, the Common Agricultural Policy now offers some funding — although not enough — to encourage farmers to manage their land for conservation. "It's by no means all doom and gloom but getting enough done in enough areas is the problem," says Warren. New demand for eco-friendly wood fuel from the sustainable harvesting of broad-leaved woods would help too, recreating our traditional woodland system in which flowers and butterflies could thrive.

Climate change, however, makes it all much more complicated. As well as new predators, new diseases may destroy native trees, flowers and insects that butterflies depend on. Invasive weeds could crowd out butterfly food plants. Grass and bracken — with which many rare fritillaries have a delicate relationship — are already growing back more vigorously than in the past. Tangled woodland will need clearing more regularly. "A lot of conservation management won't necessarily work in the future," says Brereton. "With climate change, species are changing their habitats and their requirements are changing as well. It can be fatal to manage for what a butterfly needed 20 years ago. We need to keep on the ball with understanding what species need because their requirements are changing as the Earth warms up."

Just as I kept my passion for butterflies hidden for fear of ridicule at school, so the butterfly hunters of old were often derided for such a whimsical, frivolous pursuit. Butterflies may be pretty but they seem inconsequential ornaments when compared with majestic eagles or pragmatically functional insects such as worms or bees. Every century, butterflies have become extinct in Britain. Why should we care if we lose a few more?

For a start, butterflies are an excellent indicator species: if butterflies are suffering then so too are thousands of less-well-monitored insects. (Thanks to the scientists who set up butterfly monitoring in the 1970s and the 1,500 volunteer butterfly recorders who count numbers every summer, we have excellent data showing their decline.) It is insects that pollinate many flowers, help matter decompose and protect other species by preying on pests. Plants, birds, rodents and big, greedy mammals — such as human beings — depend on them. "There is a good moral case for conservation but there is a pretty good selfish, economic case as well," says Warren. "With the economic downturn, people think saving butterflies is pretty low down on our list of priorities but human beings and the natural world are linked very closely. If the natural world goes to pot, sooner or later we will go to pot. Butterflies' decline probably indicates a rapid decline in invertebrates in general. If the British situation is true across the world, we are heading for a sixth great extinction event. There have been five in the history of the planet and this one will be man-made."

Oates has another reason for saving our butterflies. Each species, in its own way, is part of the cultural identity of our landscape. Butterflies are a "conduit into natural beauty," he explains. "They take us on voyages of dis-

## How You Can Help

### Gardening

Butterflies visit gardens to drink nectar from flowers. Many good nectar plants are hardy perennials and easy to grow. The best for butterflies are buddleia, ice-plant (sedum), lavender, michaelmas daisy and origanum (marjoram). But butterfly caterpillars need feeding too: plant holly and ivy in sunny positions where they can grow tall and flower for the holly blue. Don't pull up all your stinging nettles: leave a patch for comma, small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterflies.

### Shopping

Buy produce from farmers who manage their land to support wildlife. Farmland is the main habitat for more than three-quarters of British butterflies but the flower-rich grassland and hedges where they breed have been lost to modern intensive farming methods. Some producers, and those with the Leaf Marque, source food from farmers who take special care of wildlife.

### Recording

Take a walk in the countryside and join Butterfly Conservation's army of volunteers, who record butterflies for the important scientific databases which track the health of populations. You can do it yourself and send in casual records or join their surveying system: your sightings can help your countryside and butterfly-rich areas receive funding and better conservation management. Recording and monitoring details at butterfly-conservation.org.

### Volunteering

If you fancy getting fit, you can join working parties on nature reserves to help cut back weeds, trees and scrub and manage sites for butterflies. Your local wildlife trust will have details of how you can help. You can also support conservation efforts by becoming a member of Butterfly Conservation, which has more details of how you can help.

covery to some of the most beautiful landscapes in this country." Many of our earliest memories of summer involve a vivid image of a butterfly. If we seek out butterflies, they can lead us into a natural world from which we are increasingly estranged by our material, technological and suburban existences. "We underestimate the importance of beauty and wonder in our lives at our peril," says Oates. "As much as I love football, it's no substitute for the real thing."

After a day of failing to see a single small tortoiseshell in the land where thousands once roamed — chased by the nets of obsessives such as Walter Rothschild — I head to a cool stone cupboard in Harrow School where a fraction of the 2.25 million butterflies and moths gathered by Rothschild are stored in mahogany cabinets. This amazing collection of foreign butterflies with iridescent wings of purple, green and gold will be auctioned by Bonhams at the end of May. Beautifully preserved, they look as if they could have been flying last week. This glittering hoard is a melancholy reminder that we are only a hundred butterfly generations from summers of plenty. In time, these dried, dead beauties may be the only butterflies we can gaze upon in wonder.

*A Butterfly Year, Patrick Barkham's journey in search of British butterflies, will be published by Granta.*

# Ecuador Declares Nature's Rights

*Continued from page 1*

ments from mining operations, and there is an on-going battle over the contamination of large swathes of the Amazon through oil spills in the past as well as present.

It's important to mention that Ecuador is recognized as one of 17 mega-diverse countries, which concentrate more than half of all the planet's biodiversity within their boundaries. I have personally lived and worked the last 17 years in Ecuador trying to do my part to help protect a small part of the country's natural heritage.

I began my journey in 1988 when I worked as a consultant in environmental education for the Charles Darwin Research Station in The Galapagos Islands. While Galapagos is indeed worthy of its designation as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations and faces many problems, especially destructive fishing practices such as shark finning and the impacts of a burgeoning population on four inhabited islands, mainland Ecuador protects many unique and endangered ecosystems that also deserve attention.

A case in point is the Ecuadorian Dry Forest, which has been the focus of my work. I began as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1990 in the 14,826-acre Cerro Blanco Protected Forest. Located in the foothills a mere 15 minutes from the port city of Guayaquil, Cerro Blanco protects a remnant area of the critically endangered Ecuadorian Dry Forest, along with magnificent ceibo or kapok trees, howler monkeys, collared peccaries, great green macaws and even jaguars!

Our work has focused on educating more than 5,000 visitors a year, mostly Ecuadorians, about the importance of protecting at least some of the country's incomparable natural heritage through dry forest restoration with more than 225,000 native trees grown in our nursery and then planted in enrichment parcels in cut-over areas before the area was declared a protected

forest in 1988.

We also carry out anti-poaching patrols in conjunction with the environmental unit of the National Police; forest-fire prevention, detection and control; scientific investigations focusing on threatened species such as the great green macaw (the conservation symbol of Cerro Blanco) and amphibians, which are now threatened worldwide. Finally, the close proximity of more than 1.9 million inhabitants in the city of Guayaquil requires us to engage with our neighbors through various initiatives, including the creation of honorary park warden groups and support of community-based eco-tourism by a youth ecological club in a nearby mangrove estuary. For more information, please consult our Web site: [www.bosquecerroblanco.com](http://www.bosquecerroblanco.com).

**Note from Eric:** *Last year I had the opportunity to attend a course at Genesis Farm (in Blairstown, New Jersey) called Immersion in the New Cosmology. I had a wonderful time in the course and have set my intention to do my part to help spread the word about the Universe Story and how we can move forward in the Ecozoic Era. To this end, we are beginning to give workshops on the New Cosmology and Earth Charter and adapting our environmental education program so that it includes the Universe Story and practical steps to take to lighten our ecological footprint such as recycling, tree planting and community gardens.*

*Despite all the obstacles Ecuadorians face, especially global warming, which on a local scale is already affecting our forest restoration program and agricultural production, with changed weather patterns, I remain an optimist that more people will recognize the importance of the Rights of Nature and begin to take measures in their own lives to be more in synch with the interconnected community of life we are all a part of and to pressure authorities to do their part also.*

## Exxon Killing Goes On

*Continued from page 4*

shore drilling leases, companies already hold up to 70 million acres of leases on which they are not yet drilling, the majority in the Gulf of Mexico. Much of this area, far offshore, is expensive to explore and drill; hence, companies were holding out for more attractive leases closer to shore.

With oil prices currently low, interest in offshore drilling has also flagged. But unless the U.S. and major developing countries swiftly transition to cleaner fuel sources, higher oil prices and more pressure for increased drilling are only a matter of time.

That will mean more drilling and likely more spills in on- and offshore facilities, not to mention the increased exploitation of Canada's oil sands, known for significant contamination of groundwater and rivers.

Chad Nelsen, environmental director of the Surfrider Foundation, said oil spills are just one reason out of many for the U.S. to switch away from a petroleum-based energy economy.

"The 'drill baby, drill' crowd, with this whole 'drill here, drill

now, pay less' slogan has really sold a pack of lies," he said. "New drilling off the coasts is not going to affect gas prices dramatically. They tried to capitalize on the \$5 (per gallon) gas last summer, now it's down to \$2 and there wasn't any new drilling."

He said the oil industry has perpetuated the myth that the country can "drill our way out of our need for foreign oil," along with the myth that technology has made oil a "safe" industry. He thinks companies are doing the best they can in terms of preventing spills but the nature of the industry makes ongoing small, and occasional catastrophic, spills inevitable.

"It is true the oil industry has improved their safety record; it's true they're spilling less oil than before but they're still spilling oil," he said. "The answer is to get off the stuff."

**Kari Lydersen, a regular contributor to AlterNet, also writes for the Washington Post and is an instructor for the Urban Youth International Journalism Program in Chicago.**



Who needs an amusement park with a zillion lights and a gazillion motors to enjoy summertime? Not him! Image by Royalty-Free Corbis

# MAKING A 'SACRED ZONE' IN APPALACHIA

It's not enough to stop mountaintop removal coal mining; the goal is to build a new Appalachia.

By Bob Kincaid  
Daily Yonder, May 4, 2009

It is April 4, 2009, as I write. A year ago a handful of community residents gathered on a mountain here in Fayette County, West Virginia, to pray for a mountain that has stood sentinel over our homes for generations. We prayed because, like so many other mountains in Appalachia, it, and we, are under attack.

That attack is prosecuted by a coal company willing to sacrifice us for a load of coal. A day more than forty-one years ago, Dr. King said, "It's all right to talk about the new Jerusalem, but one day, God's preacher must talk about the new New York, the new Atlanta, the new Philadelphia, the new Los Angeles, the new Memphis, Tennessee. This is what we have to do."

In the last speech of his life, made in Memphis at the confluence of civil rights and labor rights, Dr. King staked out new ground that took his movement beyond the struggle for basic civil rights. He said he had been to the mountaintop; that he had looked over Jordan.

The *New York Times* recently describes mountaintop removal as "Appalachia's Agony." Understanding the destruction that comes when mountaintops are sliced away to get to the coal below is important. But I believe Dr. King would have called us to talk about a New Appalachia.

We must begin the building of the New Appalachia while we still have mountaintops worth climbing.

On that April morning of last year, we were surrounded by employees of the coal company. They had come to demand that the sacrifice already underway be completed — the sacrifice of our community to Mammon.

They swore. They cursed. They screamed at the priest as he tried to deliver his sermon on the flank of that hill. Determined, they shut down our public prayer and the sacrifice of Gauley Mountain continues to this day, as it does on mountains across Appalachia.

As the mining continues, our homes rock from blasting. Toxins leach into our water. We see the end of our community coming, as so many other Appalachian communities have seen the end of theirs. The sacrifice continues, as it continues all over central Appalachia, from Gauley Mountain to Cherry Pond Mountain, Kayford Mountain and five hundred others. The smoke of the sacrifice is sharp with the sting of blasted ammonium nitrate, diesel fuel and silica but, to the distant agent of Mountain Removal, the Appalachian peoples' sacrifice has the sweet smell of success: "There is no god but Coal and Mountain Removal is its Profit."

Long in the making and long in the tireless efforts of coalfield natives like Larry Gibson, Judy Bonds and Maria Gunnoe, a light is finally shining on the dirty secret Coal has kept hidden in the deep folds of Appalachia's ancient mountains. Millions now know what is being done to their fellow Americans in the name of "energy."

They know that Mountain Removal is a scourge not just upon Appalachia but upon the nation and the world. Millions of people across America and around the world are demanding an end to the nightmare. Some are asking even deeper questions about how we heal an Appalachia that is seeing the end of the coal reserves.

Chief among those visionaries is Van Jones. Twice recently I have heard Mr. Jones address large groups of people, sharing his vision. Van Jones founded Green For All. He describes an environmental movement that includes social and economic justice in the bargain.

Jones said something that spoke loudly to me: "We're going to turn Appalachia from a Sacrifice Zone to a Sacred Zone."

Ever since then, I've considered what that means. Truly, Appalachia has been a "Sacrifice Zone." Our lives, our homes, our health and our future have all been sacrificed on Coal's altar. Thousands upon thousands of miners have died in the mines and outside of them. They have died for want of basic safety measures and for want of basic human rights. They have died from disease. They have died from slate falls, explosions and gunshots. They have died from flooding. The widows of the nearly 500 miners killed at Monongah in 1907 received as little as forty dollars to support them and their children the rest of their days. Even our graves get no respect from the Mountain Removers, as our cemeteries are pushed over the hill and into the valleys.

Appalachia is a Sacrifice Zone and the ashes lay on the altar everywhere we look.

Mary Harris Jones taught working people how to stand up for themselves as she witnessed coal company brutality in the heart of West Virginia's coalfield conflicts. Mother Jones saw the sacrifices and promised, "When I get to heaven, I will tell God Almighty about West Virginia." Kathryn Hoffman, a neighbor of mine, recently put a fine point on these well-known words. "I think Mother Jones must've gone to hell," she said in a meeting with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, "because nothing here has changed."

The very economy of the region, and particularly West Virginia, is held captive by a coal industry that wants to keep other business out to maintain the region and this state as its personal fiefdom. Poverty has been the handmaiden of the coal industry. The West Virginia counties that produce the most coal are the same counties that have the most grinding levels of poverty. It's no coincidence. Our landscapes are dotted with ghost towns, left in the wake of coal companies on the "bust" side of the boom-and-bust cycle of the "free" market's ups-and-downs.

How then, do we create that Sacred Zone? It starts, as it must, with the end of Mountain Removal. That is the *sine qua non* of any attempt. Ending Mountain Removal, in turn, means people losing the jobs they've had doing that work. Mountain Removal workers are constantly told that "environmentalists want to take away your jobs." Mountain Removal workers have been so emotionally abused by their employers over the years (remember: the vast



Ansted WV seen from atop Gauley Mountain in early autumn 2008 near the home of the author, Bob Kincaid.

majority of them don't have the protection of a union) that they have been conditioned to believe that they lack the skills to work in an economy not predicated on the ruin of everything around them. This is one of the most hateful lies in the whole process, alongside the cynical insistence that Coal is all that West Virginia has.

The jobs question has been answered. The Coal River Wind Project proposes an industrial wind farm on Coal River Mountain, a series of peaks suited to capturing winds of sufficient force for industrial electricity generation. This community-led project envisions a wind farm that provides more jobs in perpetuity than the Mountain Removal work that is now slated to destroy Coal River Mountain. Its revenues would outpace the tax revenues from coal. Its jobs are equal to those who are hired to demolish the mountain. The Coal River Wind Project is a lamp to Appalachia in Mountain Removal's endless night. It refutes Big Coal's insulting premise that Appalachian people are good for nothing more than destroying their own homes and communities.

Since last year's financial collapse and government bailout, we've grown accustomed to monumental dollar figures. The word "trillion" is losing its meaning. For the New Appalachia, however, we don't need that much.

The coal industry estimates there are fewer than 5,000 people employed removing West Virginia's mountains. Let's assume that they earn \$70,000 each, or a total of \$350 million a year. That's tiny by comparison to what we've already thrown down rat holes like AIG. West Virginia's cut of the "stimulus" has been figured at \$1.8 billion.

How long would it take to get a green economy started and self-sustaining in Appalachia? Five years? Ten? Five years of retraining and guaranteed income replacement for Mountain Removers would cost \$1.75 billion. That's less than the amount of money being thrown away on the "clean coal" boondoggle. Even ten years of income replacement is a bargain at \$3.5 billion.

Is long-suffering Appalachia worth

as little as even one percent of what the rest of the nation is getting? If we aren't, then we will know that we are less-than-American in the eyes of our government and fellow citizens.

Part of making Appalachia a "Sacred Zone" lies in making Appalachia whole. That would require us to fix the land that has already been stripped. We can keep people working by doing the reclamation work the scofflaw coal companies evade once they've extracted the coal and the profit from these hills.

In the meantime, while we're putting Mountain Removal's wrongs to right, we can be installing the components of the new, green economy in Appalachia. Solar panel factories, lithium battery factories and wind turbine factories in the heart of Appalachia will put miners and others to work on good, stable jobs. Tax incentives and public spending can green low-income homes. The AFL-CIO has recently initiated a Green Workplace Certificate program at its National Labor College. These skills could be taught at our local community colleges. Imagine the potential for change such a program presents for the rank and file of the building trades. I can see homes on hill-sides and in hollows where solar panels and ridge-line wind turbines generate ample electricity to meet every need.

There is a vision. There is a dream. We need the minds and hands to make that dream concrete. We need economists and accountants and finance specialists to make this dream reality. We need labor organizers to speak directly to the people who will build with their own hands the economy of the New Appalachia. We need musicians, painters, writers, photographers and poets to carry our sacred heritage into the coming century. We need agriculturalists and biologists to rethink how we use this precious, well-watered soil.

We have an opportunity to re-imagine Appalachian life and culture, to take the best of our past and reinterpret it for the coming centuries. From music, to visual art, to written and spoken words to the very nature of how our communities exist civily, how they exist socially, we have here, now, a

chance to make Appalachian culture in our own image and of our own spirit. We have a chance to define what "community" means in the Digital Age.

I am an Appalachian. Generations of my kin have lived in this region. My wife and I are helping to raise members of the next two generations of Appalachian children. We have a vested interest in the New Appalachia. The long history of deprivation in this region has made Appalachian folk some of the most hard-working, inventive, creative people in the country. Our music circles the planet. Our lore is the lore of a nation. Our homespun wisdom bears truths that have withstood the test of time.

Generations of Appalachian folk have survived in nigh unsurvivable circumstances. We have made a virtue of making bricks without straw. Imagine what we could build with even a little bit of straw! Those new bricks, strong with the sacred energy of community, will be the foundation of the New Appalachia and our anguished sacrifices will finally give way to victory.

*Bob Kincaid has, for the last five years, tried to redefine the American civic conversation. Broadcasting five nights a week at [www.headonradionetwork.com](http://www.headonradionetwork.com), he has whispered, shouted, screamed, implored and cajoled in favor of an America more focused on working people and their world than the current focus on the moneyed elite.*

*Living in West Virginia, and raising a family there, he and his wife know the full measure of the sacrifices Appalachians make to keep the rest of the country running its numerous extra televisions, well-lit, empty rooms and third refrigerators. Bob and Agnes have four children, two grandchildren, three dogs and a hope born of hard work that the next generation will see the Appalachian Renaissance whose foundation they're trying to build.*

*"I live in a little unincorporated community about two miles from Ansted. We hear and feel the blasting when it happens. The coal trucks roar over our roads and menace us as we travel about our daily lives. My children's schools belch coal filth into the air for heat.*

*"That's our world."*

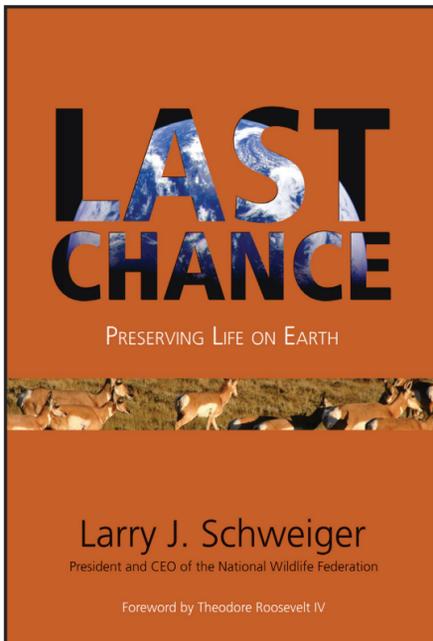
## Coal Reality: A Dirty Little Secret

The following text is excerpted from Larry Schweiger's new book, *Last Chance: Preserving Life on Earth*, to be released in September by Fulcrum Publishing.

LISTEN TO TELEVISION ADS — 1,000 times over — promoting "clean coal" and you begin to believe that clean coal actually exists. At least that is the aim of the \$45 million propaganda campaign paid for by about 40 coal and power companies euphemistically called the "American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity." Ubiquitous ads are camouflaging a morally outrageous situation where continued coal burning is harming our children's health and jeopardizing the future of much of life on Earth.

The truth is that coal is one of the dirtiest energy sources on the planet. When it is burned, nearby populations are exposed to dangerous levels of pollution and radiation. In one study published in the journal *Science*, researchers concluded that Americans living near coal-fired power plants are exposed to higher radiation doses than those living near nuclear power plants that meet government regulations. Another study by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements found that the "effective dose" equivalent exposure from coal plants may be 100 times that from coming nuclear plants.

Coal is a high-carbon fossil fuel that pumps dangerous volumes of global warming pollution into our atmosphere and alarming quantities of toxics such as mercury into our air, land and water. Dangerous mercury exposures from coal-fired



power plants are well documented in the scientific literature but the polluters have fought against stringent mercury control technologies for years while ignoring the mounting evidence that children and developing fetuses are highly susceptible to mercury's neurobiological effects.

Direct exposure to mercury from coal burning is causing an alarming increase in autism rates in children. A recent study by scientists at the University

of Texas Health Science Center and Our Lady of the Lake University looked at mercury releases from 39 coal-fired power plants and 56 industrial facilities and compared the mercury emissions to autism rates in 1,040 Texas school districts. Among its findings: Autism prevalence is linked to mercury emissions and is reduced by 1 percent to 2 percent with each 10 miles of distance from the pollution source and for every 1,000 pounds of mercury released by power plants in 1998, there was a corresponding 3.7 percent increase in autism rates in Texas school districts in 2002.

This is no small matter. One to 1.5 million Americans suffer from autism, which is now occurring once in every 150 births and costs Americans \$90 billion annually. In 10 years, the Autism Society of America projects annual costs to be \$200 to \$400 billion. With increases in coal burning and mercury in the human environment, there should be little wonder why autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability, increasing annually by 10 to 17 percent.

Wastes from coal burning are another threat. According to a 2006 National Research Council report, coal-fired U.S. power plants alone produce about 129 million tons of combustion residues every year. Most of this highly toxic waste is stored in unstable lagoons like the one that ruptured recently in Tennessee, destroying homes and disrupting a community.

So much for the Orwellian "clean coal" the ads claim now exists. Coal interests spend millions misleading Americans, while scarcely spending a nickel to advance the technologies that would

eliminate mercury, carbon and other toxic emissions that spew across our lands and waters from coal-fired boilers.

Carbon capture and sequestration technology does not exist in a single coal-fired power plant in America and it will never be created without an aggressive climate cap and invest law. The coal industry and its allies have vehemently opposed both of these potential solutions. Mercury pollution will not be controlled without proper enforcement of the Clean Air Act.

Because of the disinformation campaign blitzing our nation's airwaves, the public is failing to understand the urgency of the looming climate crisis or the outrageous dangers mercury may pose to innocent children and fetuses. To counter the dishonesty on the airwaves, the Alliance for Climate Protection and several organizations including National Wildlife Federation formed a "reality campaign" to debunk the misleading clean coal ads.

It is time we all unite to confront this propaganda, build a clean energy future and restore our nation's faltering economy. **The next time you see one of these manipulative ads, go online and complain to the networks and cable channels that run this dangerous misinformation. (bold added)** Let us also tell Congress that it is time to clean up our energy supplies.

Read more essays and observations by Larry J. Schweiger and post your opinions at [www.nwf.org/view](http://www.nwf.org/view).

Submitted by Terry Darling, Warren, PA

# Val's Column Vegetarian Activism 101

## My Slow Route to Vegetarianism and How to Speed That Route For Others

By Valerie Stanley  
Laurel, Maryland

In April 2009 I celebrated my thirtieth year as a vegetarian. I was raised as a carnivore. In fact, I think that my family over-consumed meat and animal products. I first thought about what I was eating when I was in the fourth grade. It was right around Thanksgiving and I had been busy drawing and coloring a turkey. My mother called us to dinner and there on my plate sat two lamb chops. Somehow I made the connection between the magnificent bird I was drawing and the two body parts on my plate. I refused to eat them and told my parents why.

Of course, when I was growing up, Shari Lewis was always on TV with her puppet, Lamb-chop, (<http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Tower/7873/shari.html>) and this may have laid the groundwork for my first act of civil disobedience at the dinner table. It was many years after that that I became a vegetarian — 17 to be exact. I took the “scenic route” as they say.

While I greatly admire those people who decide one day to give up meat and become vegetarian the next day, I relate my experiences so they might give someone hope! I regret that it took me so long to become a vegetarian; the reason is partially mine and partially cultural. Even though I continued to think that there was a disconnect between loving animals and eating them, my parents would take me to get hamburgers and ice cream and I concentrated on the taste of the food, rather than the animals behind it. There were virtually no vegetarian options at restaurants and none at fast food joints so it wasn't easy to forsake meat.

If there were more vegetarian options, would I have become a vegetarian sooner? There is no doubt. Even many years later, the concept of what to eat if you weren't eating meat was still foreign to some. My husband and I laugh at the time we went to a seafood restaurant with family and asked for a vegetable plate. What we got showed how the staff, and people in general, struggled with the concept — they prepared us applesauce, coleslaw and beets! A fulfilling meal? No.

This is how I became a vegetarian: Growing up, my mother used to cook roast beef almost every Sunday. Each week, I'd take a smaller and smaller portion until it got to the point that it really wasn't worth it to eat it any more. I still ate chicken; I convinced myself that the birds didn't really know what was going on. Although I am embar-

### Val's Four Steps for Promoting Vegetarianism

#### 1. Request vegetarian options at every restaurant you go to.

Asking, “What is on the menu that is suitable for vegetarians?” gets the wait staff and the restaurant thinking along these lines. Do not be satisfied if you are offered iceberg lettuce and some Thousand Island dressing. Politely, ask if you can speak with the manager, who will often be able to communicate with the chef to prepare you a satisfying meal. Express gratitude and even hand write a thank-you note. If the item prepared was good, suggest that the restaurant add it to their menu and tell friends and family to ask for the same item the next time they go to that restaurant. A little work on your part can make eating at that establishment more enjoyable for another vegetarian, or someone contemplating a vegetarian diet, in the future.

#### 2. Ask your grocery store to stock vegetarian foods.

Be prepared with the names of some really delicious items and the names of the companies preparing the items. Call the company and see if they might be willing to provide a free sampling of some of their items at your grocery store.

#### 3. Support establishments that offer vegetarian options.

Let the management know that you are eating there because of their vegetarian items. Tell restaurants not serving vegetarian options that you will be eating at ones that offer vegetarians satisfying meals.

#### 4. Support other vegetarians and persons interested in a vegetarian diet.

Free literature is available in print and online from the following organizations:

Compassion Over Killing: [www.cok.net](http://www.cok.net).  
Physicians' Committee for Responsible Medicine: [www.pcrm.org](http://www.pcrm.org).  
Vegetarian Resource Group: [www.vrg.org](http://www.vrg.org).  
Vegetarian Recipes: [www.VegRecipes.org](http://www.VegRecipes.org).  
[www.VeganCooking.com](http://www.VeganCooking.com)  
[www.VeganChef.com](http://www.VeganChef.com)

assed now to say I thought this way, I do so to acknowledge that our society teaches us to trivialize animals that are least like us. At an Easter Sunday dinner in April 1979, my young cousin, Christine Bramhall, who had long before become a vegetarian said, “Valerie, don't you think they feel pain too?”

I had to agree. Jeremy Betham's famous quote comes to mind: “The question is not, ‘Can they reason?’ nor, ‘Can they talk?’ but rather, ‘Can they suffer?’” I can still remember where I was standing in the kitchen of my parents' house and how I felt. That was the last piece of chicken I ate. The last hold-out was shrimp; I gave that up shortly thereafter.

One of the obstacles to becoming a vegetarian is viewing what we have to give up as opposed to all the benefits we gain. To name a few, we gain a wonderful world of glorious food that doesn't involve taking the life of an animal whose life is as important to them as ours is to us, we are healthier and we benefit the planet by doing so.

### Common Questions About Becoming a Vegetarian

Two questions people considering a vegetarian diet usually have are: “How do you get enough protein?” and “Don't you need to combine the right foods to get enough protein?”

The truth is that the average

American diet contains an “over-dose of protein . . . eating an adequate number of calories per day made up of any normal variety of plant foods gives us all the protein our body needs.”

You can order a copy of Vegetarian Starter Guide: The Whys and Hows of Vegetarian Eating,” by Compassion Over Killing at [www.cok.net](http://www.cok.net). Another great resource is [www.TryVeg.com](http://www.TryVeg.com).

According to nine-time Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis, “Can a world-class athlete get enough protein from a vegetarian diet to compete? [M]y best year of track competition was the first year I ate a vegan diet.”

Good sources of protein for vegetarians include: almonds, black beans, brown rice, cashews, chickpeas, kidney beans, lentils, lima beans, peanut butter, pinto beans, seitan (wheat gluten), soybeans, soymilk, sunflower seeds, textured vegetable protein (TVP), tofu, vegetarian hot dogs and burgers.

### Once You Adopt a Vegetarian Diet, How Can You Help Others Do So?

I'm a firm believer that lecturing, prodding and berating individuals don't work. In fact, if you think about it, these methods are the antithesis of the caring attitude that convinced most people to adopt a vegetarian diet in the first place. See insert for my Four Steps.



Dan Murphy's composting project in Moscow, Idaho.

## COMPOSTING BASICS

By Dan Murphy  
Moscow, Idaho

Lots of things are compostable but there are some things you should probably avoid adding to your compost pile like fats, oils, dairy, meat, bones, used kitty litter, etc. If you're a composting novice, you should probably start by composting mainly plant material, then branch out and see what other things you can add to the pile. Your compost pile should be a manageable size. You can decide what that might be on your own but just know that a pile that is too small may be difficult to keep hot and moist and a pile that is too large may be difficult to turn and move. To help get you started, here are lists of some of the green and brown materials that you can add:

### Greens (Nitrogen)

- grass clippings
- fruit/vegetable waste
- weeds
- manure
- coffee/tea grounds
- spent plants

### Browns (Carbon)

- dry leaves
- pine needles
- straw
- sawdust/wood chips
- newspaper
- hay

Your pile should be kept wet but not soggy. A good comparison is a moist sponge. If you can squeeze a few drops of water out of it, it's good. If your pile is too wet, it will start to stink due to lack of oxygen. If that's the case, turn your pile and add some brown material. Finished compost should look like dark brown, crumbly soil and smell like the good earth. The materials in the compost should be indiscernible. This process can take anywhere from several weeks to several months or years depending on what ingredients are involved and how intensively the pile is managed.

## A Rotten Reality

### Philosophy of Composting 101

Also by Dan Murphy

Lately, there is a lot of talk about things being broken. Broken health care. Broken economy. Broken military. Broken government. It's a universal breakdown and it appears as though we are on a clear path to a complete collapse. With the dimwits we have in power now, some might say that a collapse is inevitable, even necessary in order to clean the slate and start anew. Something has to change and it has to be more than just rhetorical, political pandering.

Rot, ruin, decay. These words typically have a negative connotation. They are used when referring to things that are used up and falling apart, things that no longer have vitality or purpose. But there are certain things that benefit from breaking down, things that become advantageous and more useful as they disintegrate.

When plants, animals and other organisms die and deteriorate, they replenish the soil with nutrients. They feed the flora and fauna that find life in the earth. They break down to build up. Farmers and gardeners rely on decomposing organic

matter to feed their crops and ornamentals.

Compost piles consist mainly of death and decay for the purpose of supplying natural fertilizer to plants and for improving the quality of soil. It seems appropriate to say that if it wasn't for death, there could be no life.

Thus, in some ways, broken things can be a cause for celebration, knowing that a guaranteed renewal is forthcoming.

Celebration isn't the first thing that comes to mind when we think of our broken social and political systems. Resentment, fear and hardship seem to be more fitting terms. The longer things stay broken and the more broken they become, the harder they will be to fix.

And conditions will surely worsen, especially for those in the lower classes. As democratic processes deteriorate and our freedoms and liberties are chipped away, even the ability to change things begins to seem remote. Certainly there are better options than armed militias, martial law and guerilla warfare but if things don't turn around soon, the possibility of such drastic measures being taken seems terrifyingly realistic.

But let's not dwell on that. Instead, we should learn a lesson from the compost pile. Amidst the decay lies the fuel

for new life. If we are not happy with our surroundings, if we feel encroached upon or suffocated, if our elected officials are not speaking our language and looking out for our best interests, if corporate dominance is ruining our lives or, if we feel ignored or out of the loop, it is up to us to change that.

We can do this first by educating ourselves and then by helping to educate others. Sharing our thoughts and opinions. Putting our words into action. Creating community. Localizing our lives. Building back up what has been broken down. Becoming involved in the processes that dictate our lives.

If we feel like we are being taken advantage of by a corrupt and filthy government and its flawed economic counterpart, it is partly our own fault if we haven't first made the effort to understand the issues and voice our opinions.

Things don't have to fall apart and then stay that way.

New life emerges from death; we just have to see to it that it happens for the best.

Dan Murphy produces a wonderful little "zine" called *The Juniper, A Passion for Simplicity*. It is available for postage or a small donation sent to: Dan Murphy, POB 3154, Moscow, Idaho 83843.

## PAVEMENT SEALCOAT CONTRIBUTES TOXINS TO STORMWATER RUNOFF

Sealcoating applied to part of a parking lot at the University of New Hampshire. Photo courtesy UNH



DURHAM, New Hampshire, April 29, 2009 (ENS, excerpt) — Driveways and parking lots may look blacker and shinier with a layer of sealcoating applied to the pavement but the rainwater running off the surface into nearby streams will be carrying more than oxygen and hydrogen atoms.

New research conducted at the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center shows that sealcoating contributes to the amount of polyaromatic hydrocarbons entering waterways from stormwater runoff.

More commonly known as PAHs, polyaromatic hydrocarbons are found in diesel and crude oil. The Department of

Health and Human Services has determined that some PAHs may reasonably be expected to be carcinogens.

Although small amounts of PAHs are typically found in the waters around the New Hampshire Seacoast, the sudden spike in the hydrocarbon concentrations in water draining from a university parking lot used for research caused Tom Ballester, UNH associate professor of civil engineering, to be concerned about unknown impacts.

“Our society has been sealcoating pavement for decades and there are things we've never asked about,” he says. “Now we're starting to probe and ask these questions.”

Although it is intended to remain on the pavement surface, much of the sealcoating eventually washes or scrapes off and ends up in nearby streams and rivers, says Alison Watts, affiliate faculty member at the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center.

Most PAHs do not dissolve easily in water but stick to solid particles and settle to the bottoms of lakes or rivers. Microorganisms can break down PAHs in soil or water after a period of weeks to months, according to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances.

For the study, one-quarter acre of a parking lot located near the Stormwater Center was cov-

ered with coal tar-based sealcoat and one-third acre was covered with asphalt-based sealcoat. The remainder of the nine-acre lot was left unsealed.

On-site stormwater drains off the parking lot and into a nearby swale. The PAH concentration was measured in the water and sediments coming from the sealcoated and unsealed parking lot sections.

Both types of sealcoating led to a rapid increase in PAH concentrations in the initial runoff — up to 5,000 parts per billion (ppb), much higher than the 10 ppb levels released from the unsealed lot, although concentrations decreased after several rainstorms.



Photo by Iona

Surprise! While walking to hear Bill McKibben speak at Gettysburg College last month, I stumbled upon a group of students who had set up a three-day Tent City in solidarity with displaced persons everywhere — from the homeless in Pennsylvania to refugees in Africa's Congo. Sally Quinn, left, of Flemington, New Jersey, was the main organizer through the college's Amnesty International.

## College Students Act on Behalf of Displaced People

By Iona

A spirit of compassion penetrated the quad at Gettysburg College as my husband and I tried to find the place where Bill McKibben was going to speak. Tents circled a small group of chairs, also in a circle, where about a dozen students were obviously up to something.

What on Earth was going on here? Naturally, they were delighted to talk with me and let me take their pictures; they were also glad to see *The Order of the Earth*, a truly alternative newspaper. Sally Quinn organized Tent City to show solidarity for displaced people everywhere, with a special focus on

refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Students occupied the open space quad from Thursday, April 16 to Saturday the 18th, setting up tents and displays to educate others on campus. Sally is a member of Amnesty International and a sophomore studio art major with a minor in Peace and

Justice. Students for a Democratic Society also participated. The students invited all other groups at the college to focus on one particular aspect of displaced people in the world. They also had speakers (mostly professors) visit Tent City to share their knowledge, especially of social activism in Latin America.

## Pulpwood and Paper Wreck Forests

Continued from page 3

the lion's share, some 88 percent of the world's timber harvest comes from natural forest stands. Projections of future growth show that plantations can sometimes be profitably established on already deforested, often degraded, land but they can also come at the expense of existing forests.

There is competition with agriculture as well, since land that is suitable for crops is also good for growing trees. Water scarcity is yet another constraint, as fast-growing plantations require abundant moisture. Nonetheless, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) projects that as plantation area expands and yields rise, the harvest could more than double during the next three decades. It is entirely conceivable that plantations could one day satisfy most of the world's demand for industrial wood, thus helping to protect the world's remaining forests.

South Korea is in many ways a reforestation model for the rest of the world. When the Korean War ended, half a century ago, the mountainous country was largely deforested. Beginning around 1960, under the dedicated leadership of President Park

Chung Hee, the South Korean government launched a national reforestation effort. Relying on the formation of village cooperatives, hundreds of thousands of people were mobilized to dig trenches and to create terraces for supporting trees on barren mountains. Today forests cover 65 percent of the country, an area of roughly 6 million hectares (12.83 million acres).

In Niger, farmers faced with severe drought and desertification in the 1980s began leaving some emerging acacia tree seedlings in their fields as they prepared the land for crops. As these trees matured they slowed wind speeds, thus reducing soil erosion.

The acacia, a legume, fixes nitrogen, enriching the soil and helping to raise crop yields. During the dry season the leaves and pods provide fodder for livestock. The trees also supply firewood. This approach of leaving 20 to 150 seedlings per hectare (up to 370 seedlings per acre) to mature on some 3 million hectares (7.4 million acres) has revitalized farming communities in Niger.

Shifting subsidies from building logging roads to planting trees would help protect forest cover

worldwide. The World Bank has the administrative capacity to lead an international program that would emulate South Korea's success in blanketing mountains and hills with trees. In addition, FAO and the bilateral aid agencies can work with individual farmers in national agro-forestry programs to integrate trees wherever possible into agricultural operations.

Reducing wood use by developing more efficient wood stoves and alternative cooking fuels, systematically recycling paper and banning the use of throw-away paper products all lighten pressure on the Earth's forests.

But a global reforestation effort cannot succeed unless it is accompanied by the stabilization of population. With such an integrated plan, coordinated country by country, the Earth's forests can be restored.

*Lester Brown is president of the Earth Policy Institute. This article is adapted from Chapter 8, "Restoring the Earth", of Brown's Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2008), available for free downloading and purchase at [www.earthpolicy.org/Books/PB3/index](http://www.earthpolicy.org/Books/PB3/index).*

## News Submitted by Our Readers (excerpts)

Submitted by Ryan Talbott, Kane, Pennsylvania

### Schreiner Oil and Gas Co. Deemed Responsible for Harming at Least Seven Wells

MEADVILLE, Pennsylvania, May 4, 2009 — Ohio-based Schreiner Oil and Gas Co. has been deemed responsible for harming at least seven water wells on Hedgehog Lane in Bradford Township, the state Department of Environmental Protection announced Monday.

The state agency has notified the oil company of its responsibilities to the impacted residents. Schreiner officials did not immediately return calls from *The Era* seeking comment on Monday night.

After taking samples from water supplies at 17 homes over the past several months, the DEP determined that two of the water supplies were affected by methane and five supplies have iron and manganese above established drinking water standards. Schreiner has been actively drilling combination oil and gas wells in the area since last fall and did not establish background water quality in the area prior to drilling. Therefore, Schreiner is presumed responsible for restoring water supplies within 1,000 feet of the drill sites.

Last week, DEP also issued a Notice of Violation to Schreiner for failure to submit well records in a timely manner, the second Notice of Violation that the company has received regarding this issue.

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle, Marianna, Florida:

### Winds Blow Hope to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

By Tanya Lee

Indian Country Today, April 15, 2009

EAGLE BUTTE, South Dakota — Home to four bands of Lakota Sioux, the 2.4 million-acre Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation in north central South Dakota has tremendous potential for the development of renewable energy generation. The wind blows strong and steady here; the tribe is committed to developing its resources to provide revenues and jobs and the Obama administration is committed to supporting green energy projects.

Eileen Briggs is president of the board of directors for Ta-tè Tops (Four Winds) Energy, a tribally-owned corporation established to develop wind resources. "Revenues from the sale of our energy, from leases and from our ownership percentage in this project will help create another revenue source for our tribe and also provide increased services and resources for us to offer our members," she said.

The tribe has partnered with Citizens Energy Corporation of Boston to develop the proposed 100 to 125 Megawatt wind farm. The nonprofit, explained spokesman Brian O'Connor, has a social as well as an economic mission.

## Letters to the Editor

### Seasons Gone Haywire

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

May is called a queen of seasons in Korea. Beautiful flowers boast of their beauty and bees and butterflies are busy visiting flowers to collect honey. The temperature is normally comfortable and people enjoy this highlight of spring. But the temperature shot up to 93.2 Fahrenheit two days ago. It was the highest temperature in the early May since the temperature has been recorded for 100 years.

I am not going to jump to the gun. But I am afraid that we will have only three seasons in Korea: sprummer, suautumn and winter. It is already very hot in Korea. And less precipitation. Even plants and insects are confused, I believe. Of course farmers and urban people are also confused.

Pyong Roh

Reporting from Daegu, Korea

### Reflections: Politics and Adirondacks

Hello, Iona.

I think with Congress and many of the politicians . . . they don't want to do too much to empower the masses . . . they are afraid we won't need them anymore (which we wouldn't). They also have their own agendas and self-interests which take precedent over what the people they represent want.

And there is such a vast difference in beliefs and consciousness in our country . . . there are those who love nature and animals and Mother Earth and our health . . . and then there are those who want to destroy anything of beauty and spirit.

Yes, I'd like to do an article on the Adirondacks and environmental issues there, including acid rain. I can't promise it for the next issue, though, as I will need to do some reading and research to get myself updated. The Adirondacks has always been one of my favorite places in the world . . . and I lived there for two years in the early 90s.

Blessings,

Douglas Joshua Davis, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

### Revolution and a Question for Al Gore

Hello Iona,

Wow, some kinda week . . . I can hear the growl of revolution more and more every day.

Glad you understand where I come from on this about Air Permits and the Chemtrails debacle. With that subject, I'd like to present to you, knowing of your inputs and paper that directly heralds all that is pertinent with Global Warm-

ing/Climate Change. In a fast-forward fashion, where is the entry point of the subject termed, Geo-Engineering into the ranks of those who promote Global Warming mitigation strategies? Those who promote and solidly back "Cap-and-Trade" Taxes? The Carbon Tax, etc.?

Hence, my question: Maybe this can be transmitted through to Al Gore: Mr. Gore, what is your position on the Geo-Engineering that is occurring currently and the vast portion of those techniques including what we refer to as Chemtrails?

We have evidence of the absolute toxic atmosphere they cause . . . I would appreciate knowing first-hand what your official position is on these highly suspect chemical-based aerosols.

I decided that this would be my question to him and that cabal.

These are the types of questions swirling through my mind in view of these new proposed bills (again) that will legalize these chemical spray-and-release operations.

Talk about insanity!

Blessings,

Michael Castle, Columbus, Ohio

### Chemtrails and Swine Flu?

Dear Iona,

Where I live here in Belize we don't have jet trails in the sky but two days ago there was one that persisted from horizon to horizon gradually being pushed toward Mexico by Gulf winds.

Today the border is closed with Mexico due to the swine flu epidemic just across the river.

Is there a connection?

Rod Rylander, Belize ([www.rrylander.com](http://www.rrylander.com))

### Drilling Requires Too Much Water

"The Hemlock" is an online newsletter about the environment and culture of central Pennsylvania published by Bob Myers, professor of English & Chair of the Department of English at Lock Haven University. Below is a snippet from it.

The vast amount of water required for "hydrofracking" operations is of particular concern. Some drilling operations are near the headwaters of streams with low volume but exceptional water quality. Organizations such as Trout Unlimited have documented the unauthorized withdrawal by drilling companies of water from low-volume streams, which endangers fish and their food sources. The inconsistency of water withdrawal standards between the various river basins or watersheds in Pennsylvania adds to this problem.

Ryan Talbott, Kane, Pennsylvania

## Free Film in McConnellsburg PA to Raise Funds for "The Order of the Earth"

### June 12: King Corn & The True Cost of Food

(Learn more about what you eat these days.)  
Film will be held at 7 p.m. in the Old Fulton Theater (rear entrance) at the corner of Routes 30 and 522.  
Complimentary refreshments will be served.

## Perils and Promise: Report Back from Afghanistan

A Presentation by Fahima Vorgetts of Women for Afghan Women

Tuesday, June 9th, 6 – 9 p.m.  
Frederick, Maryland — Free Refreshments Provided

Fahima Vorgetts travels to Afghanistan regularly in her role as Director of the Afghan Women's Fund. She will have just returned from Afghanistan with news and images of current "on-the-ground" conditions there. Fahima travels even into the far rural areas of Afghanistan and meets and works with people from all walks and levels . . . from government representatives to tribal elders to village women. Get the "behind the headlines" scoop. What's working, what's not? How is reconstruction progressing? What about safety and security conditions? Are more troops the answer?

Learn about the history and struggles of the people of Afghanistan, the rise of the Taliban and women's struggle for equal rights. Learn about projects the Afghan Women's Fund undertakes to improve the lives of women and children such as schools, literacy and empowerment classes, clinics, income producing projects, wells, etc.

Hear how you and/or your group or organization can participate. Handicrafts and other items will be available for purchase. All proceeds to benefit projects of the Afghan Women's Fund.

Location: Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, 15 W. Church Street, Frederick  
Sponsored by: Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ and Women In Black Frederick

For more info: Call 301/834-7581 or email [info@wibfrederick.org](mailto:info@wibfrederick.org).

## FREE GIFT for Subscribers or Donations!

A FREE Earth Elements Necklace from Life Align Arts will be awarded to the first person purchasing a new or renewed subscription beginning June 1, 2009 or to anyone making a donation of \$100 or more during June! The first subscription purchased in each of the remaining months of 2009 will also qualify to receive this gift!



**PURCHASE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION NOW!**  
Show support for **The Order of the Earth (OE)** and receive a unique locally made earth gift in return!

As a fund raiser for OE, Life Align Arts of Bedford, Pennsylvania is donating seven hand-made, unique Earth Elements necklaces as gifts to the first paid subscription received by OE each month starting June 2009 through December 2009. Every necklace is unique with the elements of earth, air, fire, water and spirit represented by 8 to 10 semi-precious stone beads. Each necklace will be individually sized by Sally Klein of Life Align Arts to suit the wearer with a gold or silver chain in a length of 16" to 20." Be sure to include a phone number and/or email address with your subscription!

Your new or renewed annual subscription will support the continued publication of *The Order of the Earth News* (and you can look and feel good doing it!). Note: In the event that more than one paid subscription is received on the same date nearest the first day of the each month, a random drawing will be made by the editor. Winners will be contacted directly by Sally from Life Align Arts in order to select chain color and length.

A PERSONALIZED EARTH ELEMENTS NECKLACE WITH MATCHING EARRINGS will also be offered as a free gift to anyone who makes a tax-deductible DONATION OF \$100 OR MORE DURING JUNE 2009, with a check or money order made out to the 501(3)(c) non-profit, Grassroots Coalition. Be sure to include your name, address, email address and phone number and make a note "OE" on the memo line! It would be helpful to include a note about whether you are interested in receiving the free gift.

**Thanks for your continued support.**

**SUBSCRIBE OR SEND A  
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION SOON!**

*The Order of the Earth*  
HCR 83, Box 881  
Shade Gap, PA 17255



## Stop . . . to Honor Earth

Today, I STOP . . . to honor Earth,  
From whom all life evolves.  
I feel the power enter my heart  
From roots run deep below.  
Heat from the fire ignites the spark  
Of passion, art and song.  
So I may dance the flow and move along.

Earth's creatures know the way,  
To sustaining nature's balance.  
Only humans cannot hear  
Her heartbeat getting weak.  
We have lost the ancient wisdom.  
Now we flounder to survive.  
We must STOP . . . to honor Earth again.

The few who hear her calling  
Commune with stones to listen,  
Near the last remaining virgins  
Under dark skies, stars and awe.  
Will we stop our wasteful plunder?  
Is there time to live in peace?  
Today, I dream a deep awakening.

Reaching out in perfect trust,  
May we light the way with love,  
Release destruction, greed and war,  
Find ways to share all that remains.  
Embracing universal truth  
Today, I STOP . . . to honor Earth!

By Sally Klein, Bedford, Pennsylvania

Art: "How Flowers Changed the World" by Mary Southard, CSJ. Courtesy of [www.MinistryOfTheArts.org](http://www.MinistryOfTheArts.org)

## ELIMINATE DEBT

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We are a Debt Relief Agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy Code.

To learn more about All Our Relations Sacred Gardening, Mare is posting on how to approach gardening from a Sacred place with her Cherokee teacher on a weekly basis on Mare's blog. To follow the evolution of a Medicine Garden in Mare's teacher's backyard and get some good giggles, go to <http://mare-cromwell.wordpress.com>.

We're calling it the "Scooby-Doo Garden."



## All My Relations Sacred Gardening Workshop

**Sunday, June 14, 2009. 10am – 5pm**  
**Blueberry Gardens Center, Ashton (south of Clarksville), MD**  
**Cost: Sliding Scale - \$40 - \$60 (Pay what you want or can)**  
(Original fee was \$70)

In these changing times Earth Mother is calling us to heal ourselves and our relationship to nature. Our gardens are where we can intimately rekindle a deeper relationship and reverence for the life around us to promote healing. Come join us at this workshop to learn Native American practices and worldviews that will encourage deeper gardening practices honoring nature energies, garden health and planetary healing. The workshop will commence with a plant and seed swap.

The workshop will cover:

- \* How to bless your garden in early spring and late fall
- \* Claiming your relationship with the Creator and Earth Mother to honor your sacred place in the world and garden
- \* Your garden as an altar
- \* Intuitive gardening
- \* Deepening your relationship and awareness of life around you
- \* Nature as teacher and healer

### Workshop Leader:

**Mare Cromwell** is a professional gardener, author and speaker. She has apprenticed with a Cherokee Medicine Woman for 13 years. With a Masters in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, she has worked in the environmental field for 28 years both internationally and locally in the Baltimore-Washington region. Her book, *If I gave you God's phone number....Searching for Spirituality in America* was published in 2002. Mare also occasionally speaks on eco-philosophy and eco-spirituality topics such as Environmental Hope, Living Simplicity, Deep Ecology and "Right Relationship". But most of the time, she can be found weeding someone's garden.

Call Mare at: 410-448-3679 for more information.  
Register at [www.sacreddogllc.com](http://www.sacreddogllc.com)

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For the most comprehensive offering of earth-cooling, green products for the office and home call 800-641-1117 to receive our free, full-color products catalog. Or, you can e-mail your request to [info@greenlinepaper.com](mailto:info@greenlinepaper.com).



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