

Earth News

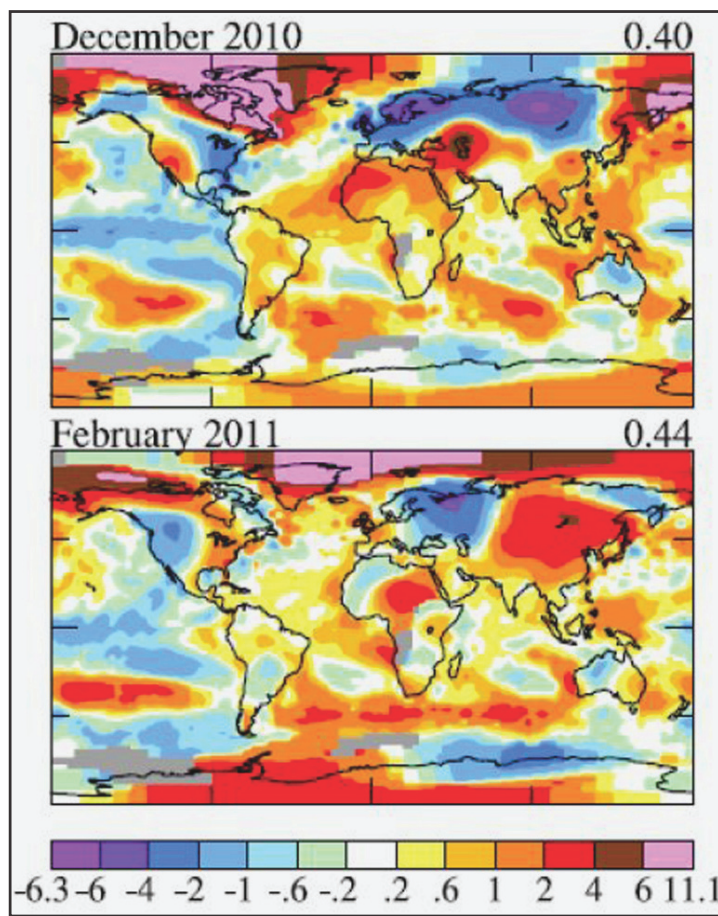
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Arctic Temps Climb Off the Charts



Maps courtesy NOAA

Temperatures across parts of the Arctic were so warm from December through February that climatologists had to add hot pink to the color scale.

By Bob Berwyn
Summit County Citizens Voice
April 16, 2011

Temperatures across parts of the Arctic were so warm from December through February that climatologists added hot pink to the color scale. For the planet, March was the 13th-warmest on record; Antarctic sea ice was the second-lowest on record.

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — Warmer-than-average temperatures prevailed across much of the planet in March, especially in the far north, where readings were so high that climatologists had to add a new color – hot pink – to their maps.

Overall, the combined global land and ocean surface temperature was 0.88 degrees above the 20th-century average, making it the 35th consecutive March with above-average temperatures and the 13th-warmest March on record, according to the monthly summary from the National Climatic Data Center.

For the year-to-date, global temperatures are running 0.77 degrees above average, making it the 14th warmest January-March period on record.

Warmer-than-average ocean conditions were most pronounced in the equatorial Atlantic, the western Pacific oceans and across the Southern Hemisphere midlatitudes.

Across the planet's land masses, the most prominent warmth was recorded across most of Siberia, southwestern Greenland, southern North America and most of Africa. Cooler-than-average conditions were reported from the western half of Canada, most of Mongolia, China and south-eastern Asia. A notable exception to global warmth was in Australia, which experienced its coolest March on record,

with above-average rainfall across the entire country.

The wettest parts of the planet included Thailand, the Philippines, many western Pacific island nations, parts of northern and eastern Australia and a band across central South America. The driest areas included across eastern Asia, much of Europe, the central United States, parts of Canada and Argentina.

England reported the driest March in 50 years and the fifth driest since records began in 1950. East Anglia – a region in eastern England – had its second driest March on record, behind 1929. It was also dry to the east. According to Deutscher Wetterdienst – the German national meteorological agency – average March rainfall across the country was the lowest in 18 years and seventh lowest since 1881, when official record keeping commenced.

In Australia, average rainfall across the country was 217 percent of normal for the month of March, making it the wettest March on record. In the north, the state of Queensland and the Northern Territory each reported the most March rainfall since records began in 1900. South Australia had its fourth highest March rainfall on record.

And, while global warming deniers have been trying to perpetuate the myth that Antarctic sea ice is growing to balance the loss of sea ice in the Arctic, the scientific record shows a different picture. Satellite data indicates that Antarctic sea ice extent in March 2011 was the third lowest on record, a full 16.2 percent below the 1979-2000 average.

This information was compiled from the NOAA National Climatic Data Center, State of the Climate: Global Analysis for March 2011, published online April 2011, retrieved on April 15, 2011 from <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/global/2011/3>.

www.SummitVoice.org is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.



Photo by Cindy Snodgrass

Josh Fox, producer of the film 'Gasland' (center with tie) marched with young people in the streets of Washington, D.C. during the three-day Power Shift 2011 event. Approximately 10,000 people attended the conference between April 15th and 18th.

We Can't Wait for Politicians We Have to Create the Future We Need

By Bill McKibben, excerpt
AlterNet: April 18, 2011

The following was a speech Bill McKibben gave at the Power Shift 2011 conference in Washington D.C.

Very, very few people can ever say that they are in the single most important place they could possibly be, doing the single most important thing they could possibly be doing – that's you, here, now. You are the movement that we need if we are going to win in the few years that we have. You have the skills now, you are making the connections and there is no one else. It is you. That is a great honor and that is a terrible burden. There is no one else.

The science is the easy part of this – grim, but easy. 2010 was the warmest year on record – and it was warm. We were on the phone one day with our 350 crew in Pakistan and one of them said, "It's hot here today." And I was surprised to hear him say it because it's usually [hot] in Pakistan in the summer and he said, "No, it's really hot. We just set the all-time Asia temperature record – 129 degrees." That kind of heat melts the Arctic. That kind of heat causes droughts so deep across Russia that the Kremlin stops all



Photo by Cindy Snodgrass

A well-attended meeting on gas-drilling and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) at the Power Shift 2011 conference.

new export. That kind of heat causes the flooding that still has four million people across Pakistan homeless tonight.

It's tough. It's grim. But the good news at least is that it's clear, the science. We have a number – 350 parts per million. Three-hundred-fifty – the most important number on Earth, as the NASA team put it in January 2008. Any value for carbon in the atmosphere greater than 350

parts per million is not compatible with the planet on which civilization developed, into which life on Earth is adapted. Getting back to 350 parts per million will be very, very tough – the toughest thing human beings have ever done – but there is no use complaining about it. It's just physics and chemistry. That's what we have to do.

But if the scientific method has worked splendidly to out-

line our dilemma, that's how badly the political method has worked to solve it. Think about our own country, historically the biggest source of carbon emissions. Last summer, the Senate refused to even take a vote on the tepid, moderate, tame climate bill that was before it. Last week, the House voted 248-174 to pass a resolution saying global warming wasn't real. It was one
See **Power Shift** on page 10

Democrats' Report Details Fracking Chemicals

Marcellus Drilling News: April 16, 2011

Today Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Henry A. Waxman, Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Edward J. Markey and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee Ranking Member Diana DeGette released a new report that summarizes the types, volumes and chemical contents of the hydraulic fracturing products used by the 14 leading oil and gas service companies. The report contains the first comprehensive national inventory of chemicals used by hydraulic fracturing companies during the drilling process.

"Hydraulic fracturing has helped to expand natural gas production in the United States but we must ensure that these

new resources don't come at the expense of public health," said Rep. Waxman. "This report shows that these companies are injecting millions of gallons of products that contain potentially hazardous chemicals, including known carcinogens. I urge the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy to make certain that we have strong protections in place to prevent these chemicals from entering drinking water supplies."

"With our river ways and drinking water at stake, it's an absolute necessity that the American public knows what is in these fracking chemicals," said Rep. Markey. "This report is the most comprehensive look yet at the composition of the chemicals used in the fracking process and

should help the industry, the government and the American public push for a safer way to extract natural gas."

"It is deeply disturbing to discover the content and quantity of toxic chemicals like benzene and lead being injected into the ground without the knowledge of the communities whose health could be affected," said Rep. DeGette. "Of particular concern to me is that we learned that over the four-year period studied, over one-and-a-half-million gallons of carcinogens were injected into the ground in Colorado. Many companies were also unable to even identify some of the chemicals they were using in their own activities, unfortunately underscoring that voluntary industry disclosure is not enough to ensure the economic benefits

of natural gas production do not come at the cost of our families' health."

During the last Congress, the Committee launched an investigation into the practice of hydraulic fracturing in the United States, asking the leading oil and gas service companies to disclose information on the products used in this process between 2005 and 2009.

The Democratic Committee staff analyzed the data provided by the companies about their practices, finding that:

- The 14 leading oil and gas service companies used more than 780 million gallons of hydraulic fracturing products, not including water added at the well site. Overall, the companies used
See **Chemicals** on page 3

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Drilling Site
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the Sun!
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Gas Drilling News

Chemical Component	Chemical Abstract Service Number	No. of Products Containing Chemical
Trisodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate	150-38-9	1
Trisodium ethylenediaminetriacetate	19019-43-3	1
Trisodium nitrilotriacetate	18662-53-8	8
Trisodium nitrilotriacetate (Nitrilotriacetic acid, trisodium salt monohydrate)	5064-31-3	9
Trisodium ortho phosphate	7601-54-9	1
Trisodium phosphate dodecahydrate	10101-89-0	1
Ulexite	1319-33-1	1
Urea	57-13-6	3
Wall material	*	1
Walnut hulls	*	2
White mineral oil	8042-47-5	8
Xanthan gum	11138-66-2	6
Xylene	1330-20-7	44
Zinc chloride	7646-85-7	1
Zinc oxide	1314-13-2	2
Zirconium complex	*	10
Zirconium dichloride oxide	7699-43-6	1
Zirconium oxide sulfate	62010-10-0	2
Zirconium sodium hydroxy lactate complex (Sodium zirconium lactate)	113184-20-6	2

¹To compile this list of chemicals, Committee staff reviewed each Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided to the Committee for hydraulic fracturing products used between 2005 and 2009. Committee staff transcribed the names and Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers as written in the MSDSs; as such, any inaccuracies on this list reflect inaccuracies on the MSDSs themselves.

*Components marked with an asterisk appeared on at least one MSDS without an identifying CAS number. The MSDSs in these cases marked the CAS as proprietary, noted that the CAS was not available, or left the CAS field blank. Components marked with an asterisk may be duplicative of other components on this list but Committee staff have no way of identifying such duplicates without the identifying CAS number.



Picture Courtesy House Democrats
Gas-drilling companies from around the world are invading Pennsylvania and other states searching for ways to make money at great peril to all life, both from contaminated water and climate change since natural gas is a fossil fuel with disastrous greenhouse gas effects; furthermore, some of this gas will be exported so why do people talk about energy independence and let our gas leave the U.S.?

PA Green Party: Stop Fracking Now

Posted by Hillary Kane
Earth Day: April 22, 2011

Friday April 22 marks the 41st anniversary of Earth Day. The '1970s brought promise with the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, the passage of the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act. That promise fades with the flow of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, the damaged nuclear complex in Japan and the threat to Pennsylvania's water, land and air from drilling for natural gas.

The Green Party of Pennsylvania calls upon Governor Corbett to fulfill his oath of office and the DEP to follow its mission and protect our environment. "Natural gas drilling will consume the equivalent of Harvey's Lake, the largest natural lake in Pennsylvania, in less than two years time," states Green Party activist Jay Sweeney. "The dumping of 'treated' wastewater into our rivers and streams is a public health threat as noted by Dr. Conrad Volz in his testimony before the U.S. Senate Commit-

tee on Environment and Public Works last week."

The Green Party of Pennsylvania has endorsed a resolution calling for a ban of the hydrofracking process. Here it is:

"The Corbett administration reminds us, day after day, of who helped get them into office and who is really pulling their strings," remarks I. K. Samways, Chair of the Green Party of Pennsylvania. "To treat a severance tax as a third rail while insisting on a political seal of approval for DEP inspection reports is irresponsible in the extreme. Hydrofracking remains a volatile and poorly-regulated process, where the very health of our citizens has become little more than a political trading horse. A ban on the process, as called for in the Green Party's resolution, will put an end to this blatant misuse of our natural resources and keep us on the road to a much more responsible and sustainable energy policy."

"For years, we've been told that natural gas is cleaner than traditional gasoline and so,

despite the concerns about water, it was still the more environmental thing to do," adds former Chair, Hillary Kane. "We now know that fracking releases so much methane into the air at the time of extraction that the carbon footprint of natural gas is actually worse than coal. There is no reason to be doing this."

Green Party of PA Statement on Gas Drilling in the Marcellus Shale

WHEREAS Marcellus shale natural gas is not a transitional fuel but an impediment to a clean energy policy that conserves energy and develops solar, wind, geothermal, micro hydro and other renewable technologies; and

WHEREAS methane (CH₄), a greenhouse gas and the principal component of natural gas, is more harmful than carbon dioxide (CO₂); and

WHEREAS the Energy Act of 2005 exempted the oil and gas

industry from the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS natural gas fracking results in a level of devastation on the scale of the previous oil, timber and coal exploitation of our natural heritage; and

WHEREAS the byproducts of the hydrofracking process include the release of radioactive materials into the environment; and

WHEREAS hydraulic fracturing squanders our precious water resources and poisons drinking water, private wells and public supplies; and

WHEREAS natural gas extraction poses dangers, including explosions, threatening those employed by the industry as well as the general public; and

WHEREAS Article 1, Section 27 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania states, "The people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the

preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people;" and

WHEREAS there is a total failure to regulate extractive industries including the failure to prevent illegal water withdrawals by the oil and gas industry in Western Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS Pittsburgh and Philadelphia have passed ordinances calling for a ban and a moratorium, respectively;

BE IT RESOLVED that, we, citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and members of the Green Party of Pennsylvania, call for the termination and prohibition of all natural gas extraction involving the use of our Commonwealth's water resources.

We call for a ban immediately stopping all high-volume, slick-water, horizontal fracturing of deep shale, including exploration, in Pennsylvania and worldwide.

Be it further resolved that the Green Party of Pennsylvania believes the short-term economic benefits will be dwarfed by the long-term economic and environmental consequences of natural gas extraction. Any and all political and legal means must be employed to protect our environment.

In the interim, the right of local communities to protect themselves and assert their rights through local ordinance is supported by the Green Party of Pennsylvania.

Contact: Green Party of Pennsylvania; P.O. Box 11962 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108-1962; also I. K. Samways at isamways@aol.com, 412-215-9161; Jay Sweeney at jnl@epix.net, 570-587-3603 or Hillary Kane at hillary@pobox.upenn.edu, 267-971-3559.

PA DEP Rescinds Approval Process for Violations

By Kristian Boose
Protecting Our Waters: May 4, 2011

Victory — you did it! Two days after Protecting Our Waters and Energy Justice sent a delegation of eight into Governor Corbett's Philadelphia office with letters demanding the DEP policy be rescinded (while 60 demonstrated outside) and immediately after we co-organized three demonstrations in one week (including River to River April 23rd with 300 and Harrisburg on April 27th with 150) and during our ongoing fax and phone-call campaign demanding to

rescind the DEP policy of requiring political approval for violation notices, they rescinded the policy! Good job to the many organizations and hundreds — likely thousands — of individuals who collectively expressed outrage: it worked!

Days after Michael Krancer defended his agency and five weeks after the recently-amended procedure went into effect, the Pennsylvania DEP has decided to roll back its approval policy when issuing notices of violation (NOVs) to gas drillers. No longer will there need to be pre-approval from on high for DEP employees to do their job regulating the natural gas industry in the state.

PA's Jobs Czar Fought Enviro Regs for Years

By Abrahm Lustgarten
ProPublica: April 11, 2011, excerpt

For years C. Alan Walker, a coal industry mogul and wealthy donor to Pennsylvania's Republican Party, clashed with environmental officials who tried to regulate his companies. He described them as "vindictive," "out of control" and "the most dangerous thing" affecting the country's welfare.

In 1981 Walker even argued that the state should let someone from industry influence how environmental regulations were enforced.

Now, some 30 years later, Walker himself has been given exactly that role by the state's new Republican governor, Tom Corbett, who has accepted nearly \$184,000 in political donations from Walker since 2004.

In January Corbett appointed Walker acting secretary for the state's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). In March he gave him authority to expedite and influence permits at any state agency, including the Department of Environmental Protection, which regulates drilling in the Marcellus Shale, one of the nation's most important natural gas fields. Walker was also appointed to the state's Marcellus Shale Commission, a multi-stakeholder group that will advise the state in developing the shale. The goal, Corbett has said, is to "make Pennsylvania the Texas of the natural gas boom" and "create jobs, not votes."

A spokesman for Corbett said that Walker's role is not unprecedented and that his influence will be tightly focused

on promoting job growth while preserving environmental enforcement.

Walker's assignment has raised questions about how a businessman whose coal companies were cited numerous times for polluting streams and drinking water — and who then fought the state's orders to clean them up — will work with DEP officials who are tasked with carrying out environmental laws.

Walker recently assured state legislators that he will not issue permits or override environmental decisions. "I'm merely here as an expeditor to make sure that permits get the proper attention," he said.

He has also defended his coal companies' environmental record. "As long as I have run those companies, not one gallon of polluted water went into a Commonwealth stream — period," he is quoted as saying in the March 24th edition of the Patriot News, a newspaper in central Pennsylvania. "I wouldn't want to live in the state of Pennsylvania if it had."

However, a review of court documents, state records and of Walker's own statements since the late 1970s revealed at least 15 cases in which Walker's businesses polluted the state's waterways. State records show that in the 1980s and 1990s Walker's companies were ordered to treat wastewater that was contaminating residential drinking water wells and nearby streams. In Rush Township mines drained into streams, polluting the municipal water supply for the nearby town of Houtzdale, as well as Mountain Branch, a stocked trout stream...



Green Party of PA State Meeting

All Welcome

**Saturday, June 11
12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Days Inn
240 South Pugh St.
State College, PA
16801**

**<http://www.gpojpa.org/>
<http://www.facebook.com/gpojpa>**

Questions? Contact Jay Sweeney, 570-587-3603.

Who Wants to See Fracking Stopped in Pennsylvania?

Building a Statewide Coalition

First Meeting July 2
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
Mercersburg, Pennsylvania

- Educate
- Strategize
- Organize

What are citizens going to do to tackle the industry which has bought many of our legislators and the governor?

Meet with others from across the state who are upset about the awful consequences of hydraulic fracturing as companies from out-of-state descend on Pennsylvania and cause great harm. Learn from seasoned activists some of the tactics that work and some that don't in the struggle to protect the people, land, water, air, soil, wildlife, etc. in Pennsylvania. Representatives from dozens of groups have been invited to attend this first organizing/strategizing meeting and we hope you'll join us.

Directions: If you are driving into Mercersburg from Greencastle go right at the square between Juliets and the log cabin, go one block and turn left onto Fayette Street. The church is located on the right side and there is parking across the street from the church.

Please RSVP. Contact Iona Conner at 814-259-3680 or ionaconner@pa.net. Morning drinks and snacks will be served.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

NEW COLUMN: PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOUR GROUP IS DOING



Photo by Leslie Avakian

Southwestern Energy begins work on a Benton site before local hearings are completed or township zoning permits are issued.

Baylor's Lake Association Gearing Up for Battle

Submitted by Leslie Avakian: May 11, 2011

Southwest Energy Production Company (SWN) began working on the well pad and driveway even though the hearing is not complete and the conditional use is not approved. We submitted a complaint to the Benton Township zoning officer on April 22nd. She said that they can build the driveway and the pad without a permit for the mineral extraction activity (which is a conditional use). I reviewed the ordinance and we sent another stronger letter from an attorney yesterday quoting sections of the Township ordinance that say SWN cannot construct the driveway or the pad without permits. Now we are waiting for the zoning officer to respond. Here's the notice that appeared in the *Scranton Times* on May 5, 2011:

LEGAL NOTICE BENTON TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION SOUTHWESTERN ENERGY PRODUCTION COMPANY The Benton Township Board of Supervisors, on Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at the Benton Township Community Center, Rte. 407, Fleetville, will conduct a second public hearing on the conditional use application of Southwestern Energy Production Company ("Southwestern"). In the application, Southwestern proposes to drill a natural gas exploratory well on property owned by Willard Wells and Sally Wells, located off Route 407, Benton Township, Lackawanna County. Subsequent to the completion of the presentation of Southwestern's case-in-chief, persons opposed to the application shall provide their presentation of opposition to the application. A full copy of the application is available for public review or purchase at cost from the Township Secretary . . . DAVID J. GROMELSKI SOLICITOR
Contact Leslie Avakian at 570-281-9475.

Intent to Sue if Moratorium on Drilling on State Land is Lifted

Sent by John Childe, Attorney: February 22, 2011, excerpt

Governor Corbett,

I represent the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation, a group founded under the laws of Pennsylvania in 1985 and formed for the protection of Pennsylvania's environment. The Foundation's members have significant interest in the protection and preservation of Pennsylvania's State Forests, State Parks and other State wild, scenic and historic lands.

The Foundation believes and avers that your proposal to rescind the Moratorium of October 26, 2010, Executive Order No. 2010-05 on leasing further State lands in order to lease more State lands for development of natural gas from the Marcellus shale and other geologic areas is a decision that will risk the natural ecological integrity of those lands. Further, it will endanger the economic viability of Pennsylvania's forest products industry. And it will harm some of Pennsylvania's most esthetic, natural, wild, pristine and historic forests and streams. It will also deprive the citizens of the Commonwealth of the use of many of these lands. Continued leasing could threaten the clean air and water our forests currently provide. It could threaten our native plant and animal communities, not only with air and water pollution but also as a result of fragmentation of the forest. And it will preclude the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources from accomplishing its mission under Sections 101(a)(1), 101(b)(1) and 302(a)(6) of the Conservation and Natural Resources Act and Article I Section 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution . . . which states as follows: "The people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment . . ."

For the reasons stated above, the Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation hereby places you and Acting Attorney General Linda Kelly on notice of the Intent to bring an action in Court against you . . .

Contact John Childe at childeje@aol.com or 305-712-0172.

Allegheny Defense Project Appeals Water Diversions

The Allegheny Defense Project appealed three projects approved by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) for the diversion and importation of water from the Ohio River basin. The SRBC approved the projects at its quarterly meeting on March 10, 2011. The projects authorize Pennsylvania General Energy (PGE) and Ultra Resources to import millions of gallons of water from the Ohio River basin into the Susquehanna River basin in support of the companies' Marcellus Shale drilling operations.

"The SRBC does not have the authority to approve these diversions," said Cathy Pedler, Forest Watch Coordinator for the Allegheny Defense Project. "The SRBC can only permit diversions of water into the Susquehanna River basin if it has an agreement with another basin commission or the state in which the diversion takes place. The SRBC has no such agreement."

The SRBC was created in 1971 by the Susquehanna River Basin Compact, a federal-interstate compact between Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and the United States. The SRBC is responsible for protecting water quality and quantity in the Susquehanna River basin. The SRBC's authority, however, is limited to the Susquehanna River basin.

In the Ohio River basin, where there is no similar basin commission, common law principles of riparian rights regulate water withdrawals. This permits only the landowner who lives adjacent to a body of water the right to use that water. Non-riparian landowners are not permitted to withdraw that water.

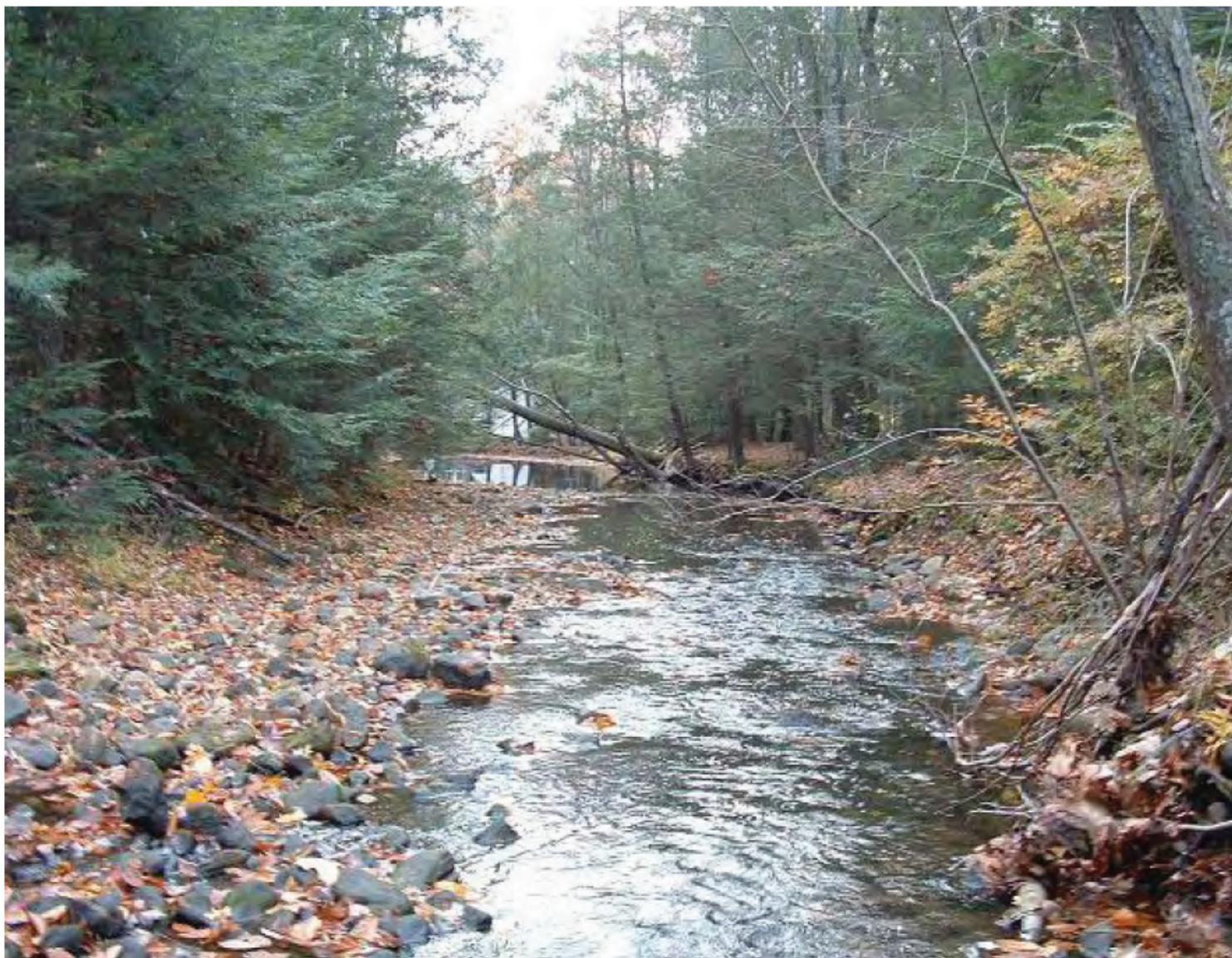


Photo DCNR.state.pa.us

Medium-sized streams with moderate- to high-gradient and rocky substrate are the typical habitats of cool water communities.

STOP LEASING STATE FOREST FOR MARCELLUS DRILLING

By Rep. Greg Vitali

Public Opinion: May 2, 2011

As Pennsylvania moves toward its June 30 budget deadline, the leasing of additional state forest land for Marcellus drilling is again under consideration.

It would be irresponsible for Governor Tom Corbett and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to lease more state forests to raise revenue. Almost half our state forestland is now available for drilling and what remains is environmentally sensitive.

There are much better sources of revenue – such as a drilling tax.

Pennsylvania Senate President Pro Tem Joseph Scarnati, R-Jefferson, recently called for the leasing of an additional 50,000 acres of state forestland for Marcellus drilling. Corbett has previously said he plans to reverse former Governor Ed Rendell's moratorium on state forest leasing.

He now wants his new Department of Conservation and Natural Resources team "to get in there and see if it's time to continue" with more state forest leasing.

Leasing more state forestland is the wrong way to raise new revenue. About 1.5 million acres of state forest sit atop the natural-gas-rich Marcellus Shale formation and 725,000 of those acres are now available for gas drilling.

The remaining un-leased acreage contains old growth forests, fragile ecosystems and habitats for rare and endangered species – all inappropriate for gas drilling.

This remaining acreage should be protected for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians including hunters, fishers, hikers, campers, horseback riders, mountain bikers and boaters. This state treasure should be passed unscathed to future generations.

More leasing could also have

a negative economic impact. It would threaten development initiatives like the Pennsylvania Wilds, which has built a strong and growing ecotourism economy based on a healthy and intact state forest.

More leasing could also put Pennsylvania's Forest Stewardship Council sustainability certification at risk, thus impacting the 70,000 Pennsylvanians employed in the forest-products industry.

Marcellus gas drilling is an intensely industrial activity using millions of gallons of chemically-treated water. It requires the clearing of land, construction of pipelines, water impoundments and access roads, along with hundreds of truck trips.

I recently visited Tiadaghton State Forest in Lycoming County, where I witnessed firsthand how Marcellus drilling can turn a wilderness area into an industrial site.

Ninety percent of the land that sits atop the Marcellus Shale formation is privately owned. Further natural gas drilling should only occur on this private land or on state forestland already leased.

There are much better sources of revenue to balance our budget such as a drilling tax. Every other major natural gas producing state imposes one.

A recent poll showed that 70 percent of voters support such a tax while 65 percent were against leasing more state forests for drilling. Yet the governor and some legislators steadfastly refuse to consider a drilling tax while promoting additional state forest leasing.

They should begin listening to the people they represent.

Greg Vitali is a Democratic state representative from Delaware County on the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE? PA Agency OKs More Drilling on Game Lands April Tax Collections Bring Bonanza to PA

By Marc Levy, AP, excerpt
Daily News, Huntingdon

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania — The Pennsylvania Game Commission has expanded the scope of leasing state-owned hunting lands for harvesting natural gas from the lucrative Marcellus Shale formation, this time netting more than \$18 million.

The money helps a financially-strapped agency that has cut back programs, such as raising pheasants for small-game hunting, while going a dozen years

without an increase in the hunting license fees that are its primary source of support.

About two-thirds of the lease money is payment for the extraction of natural gas from beneath game lands in Bradford and Lycoming counties in northern Pennsylvania by way of wells that would be drilled on adjacent, privately-owned land. Another lease on game lands in adjoining Tioga County will allow up to three well pads – each of which can host multiple wells – and pipeline construction . . .

By Marc Levy, AP, excerpt
Daily News, Huntingdon

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania — Tax collections in April brought good news for the Pennsylvania state government, which is now reporting a significant cash surplus that could help ease the spending cuts that Governor Tom Corbett has said are necessary to avert a projected multi-billion-dollar deficit next year.

The \$506 million surplus reported by the state Revenue De-

partment as of the end of April is more than six times the \$78 million surplus that Corbett had projected to be left over when the fiscal year ends in two months...

Pennsylvania collected \$3.3 billion in revenue in April, or nine percent more than anticipated, for the account that pays for this year's \$28 billion approved budget. Through the first 10 months of the 2010-11 fiscal year, the state has collected 2.3 percent more in revenue than projected . . .

Co-op to Deal With Gas Drilling Woes

By Janice Crompton, excerpt
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: April 17, 2011

"Several municipalities in Washington and Allegheny counties have banded together to form a new regional cooperative program in hopes of pooling resources to improve local oversight of Marcellus Shale gas drilling sites.

"State Rep. Jesse White, D-Cecil, helped create the Marcellus Shale Cooperative which aims to help municipalities share ideas and initiatives such as hiring a natural gas enforcement officer and imposing impact fees on gas-drilling companies...

"While federal and state laws governing oil and gas drilling pre-empt municipal ordinances there are still issues that local

government can control, such as damage to roadways from trucks and other equipment, noise levels and emissions.

"And while those local ordinances vary by area, few of them are being enforced consistently because most local zoning and planning experts have no experience overseeing gas-well-drilling operations . . .

"The idea for a regional enforcement officer came from the natural gas fields of Texas, where local towns also banded together in such an alliance," White said . . .

Those with ideas and suggestions for the new Co-op can email them to: shaleideas@yahoo.com.

Maryland AG Sues Chesapeake Over Spill

By Jim Willis
Marcellus Drilling News: May 3, 2011

Maryland's Attorney General, Douglas F. Gansler, has filed an "intent to sue" on Chesapeake Energy because of the accidental spill of fracking fluid in April in LeRoy Township, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Gansler's rationale for his litigiousness is that the fluid reached a small stream that feeds the Towanda Creek and the Towanda Creek in turn empties into the Susquehanna River and the Susquehanna River empties into the Chesapeake Bay; therefore, according to Gansler, several federal statutes have been violated, including the Clean Water Act. Also, the City of Baltimore uses the Susquehanna as a backup source of water "in times of

drought."

Gansler told the company the spill, "May pose . . . an imminent and substantial endangerment to the health of the population adjacent to the well site, recreational users of Towanda Creek and the Susquehanna River and to the environment."

Makes no difference that Chesapeake a) immediately suspended all Marcellus drilling until they figured out what happened, b) replaced the faulty equipment at the well once they did discover the problem, c) tested and re-tested around the site to assess the environmental impact, d) are working with the PA DEP and its investigation of the accident. A neighboring state, hundreds of miles away, will now sue this private company....

Briefs from Bill Boteler

(with comments)

Wales' Prince Charles Visits D.C. Community Garden – Offers Encouragement

I had two separate community garden plots in the District of Columbia. The first was a half block from my apartment building near Cathedral and Connecticut Avenues. It was the property of the embassy of an African country, I think Togo. I will never forget one evening in June standing in the garden with my friend Vicki and watching a huge flock of fireflies winking on and off in the Summer breeze. That plot was also home to goldfinches in the winter. It gave way to condos. Later, I tried to set up a plot in a weedy garden on 14th and Euclid but that gave way the same year to a convenience store – the kind that sells junk food!

Now I grow things in my friend's yard.

Charles, you're a prince! Read more about Prince Charles at http://www.thetandd.com/business/agriculture/article_d50f14e0-78e4-11e0-b292-001cc4c002e0.html.

Prince Charles Says “Organic Agriculture Can Feed the World”

He is right! This may sound a little too idealistic to people unfamiliar with the issue. We have been brainwashed into believing that huge, mechanized farms using mega tractors and other huge farm machines are the only way to feed the world. It is this later idea that is just bunk.

To illustrate why, imagine two planets. On planet X, there is a lot of open land stretching to the horizons despite a growing human population and there is a proliferation of labor-saving machines powered by a supply of cheap, abundant fuels. The cheap fuels can also be converted into chemical fertilizers and dumped on the soil once or more every year. The side effects of all this have not yet reached serious proportions and there are still clean and abundant supplies of fresh water and coastal communities harvesting and eating fish instead of dead zones created by fertilizer run-off (and oil spills!).

On neighboring planet Z, there are a lot more people. Unfortunately, their labor is cheap and they need work, not machines that throw them out of work. They spend a good deal of time raising vegetables in formerly-vacant lots, roof tops and any available space close to home. They also raise protein, such as chickens, and use chicken droppings along with plant wastes to maintain their soil fertility. Petroleum-powered machines and chemical fertilizers just are not economically feasible. This describes Cuba after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Cuba consulted a team of organic farming experts to reconstruct its agriculture system and the result has been a huge success. Not only are babies healthier and born at better weights (six and seven pounds) versus the previous three and four pounds, but they grow healthier and faster.

We are going to have to move toward a model where land and energy and fresh water are scarce and labor is abundant. A lot of Asian countries have chosen this model in the past. It is not an absence of technology but a different set of conditions and technologies.

Read more at http://www.rodale.com/organic-farming-and-world-hunger?page=0,1&cm_mmc=Facebook_-_Rodale.com_-_Prince+of+Wales+Says+Organic+Can+Feed+the+World_-_organic+food.

One in Four U.S. Birds Imperiled

My big complaint here, aside from the dreadful situation, is that I have not seen anything about this anywhere in any mainstream media. This article came from a small but excellent news wire in Colorado. The mainstream media (aka MSM) does not think people give a damn about things like birds. I'm sorry but I think they are wrong. We only care a little less about this than we care about future generations which may still be a tiny bit more than the MSM thinks we care. They like to underestimate our virtues. I am sure that they would publish an article about what Osama bin Laden was eating for breakfast the day he got blown away. Did he fall to the right or the left when he took his fatal bullet? Where did it enter and exit his body and has any local kid found it yet?

I wonder what was the last bird that he heard and if he noticed it that day.

Read more at <http://summitcountyvoice.com/2011/05/04/biodiversity-one-in-four-u-s-birds-imperiled/>

Fungus Turns Ants into Zombies that Carry Out the Fungi's Reproductive Strategy

This is not the trailer from a horror movie. In the rainforests of Thailand, a species of Carpenter Ant loses control of its body and falls, delirious, on the ground where the conditions are perfect to perpetuate the fiendish fungus that has taken control of its nervous system. Later, under the control of the fungus, it will bite into a leaf and be unable to let go of it. It will die having helped the fungus to spread and reproduce.

Clever isn't it? I once heard the founder of the company Fungi Perfecti relate this story and suggest that it might be an alternative to insecticides. Let's hope that the fungi stick to insects and don't get any ideas about alternative hosts.

Read more at <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110509065536.htm>.



Young harp seal rests on ice. Photo U.S. Humane Society.

Canada's Seal Hunt Killed by Climate Change, Economic Change

It is interesting that this is yet another example of government subsidizing an activity that may not need it. Right now, oil companies are squeezing big profits out of consumers but still getting tax dollars to continue their work. Hopefully this can become an issue due to the austerity that the rest of us are being told to accept regarding government programs.

Yet another example is subsidies that encourage overfishing. Oceana has recently been campaigning against this subsidies. Hopefully, the current economic climate is ripe for cutting the subsidies in favor of something more green.

Here's the beginning of the article: "OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada, April 13, 2011 (ENS) — Canada's annual seal hunt opened Monday off northeastern Newfoundland in an area called The Front but few sealers went to the ice amid low demand for seal pelts, poor prices and a European Union ban on seal products." Read the entire story at <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/apr2011/2011-04-13-02.html>.



Photo Jonathan Wiggs/Boston Globe

Scituate's sea wall has been hit hard by storms that pose an increasing threat, like one that recently sent waves crashing in.

Fighting a Losing Battle With the Sea

Rise in sea levels
could accelerate as
ocean waters warm
and ice sheets melt.
Effect could be
greatest in Northeast,
where sea walls are
in woeful disrepair.

By Beth Daley, excerpt
Boston.com: April 3, 2011

SCITUATE, Massachusetts — A piercing wail startled Gary and Paula Elsmore awake at 3 a.m. Paula knelt on the bed and peered out the upstairs bedroom window. In the blinding snow, she could barely make out a neighbor waving up at her frantically.

The ocean was coming.

Fierce seas had overtopped a sea wall about three blocks away and the roiling water was now heading straight toward the Elsmores' neighborhood.

"You could see the storm surge; it was bending all the backyard fences one way as it came in," Paula Elsmore said of that late December night.

The Elsmores' basement filled with five feet of water and flames billowed into the dark sky from two nearby houses that flooded and caught fire. Their neighbors' young children had to be evacuated from their house by a bucket loader. In all, some 400 homes were swamped.

The ocean's fury is an omnipresent threat for the growing number of people who live at its edge. But accumulating scientific evidence suggests that our warming climate could cause sea levels to rise faster than previously thought, making storm surges like the one that pummeled Scituate more dangerous.

Several lines of research now indicate that a three-foot global rise by 2100 is a plausible scenario, though some scientists forecast a smaller rise. In other words, what was once a problem for our great-great-grandchildren is one our children could confront.

And it is possible the news

could be even worse in the Northeast. Studies show that changes in ocean circulation driven by warming waters could raise sea levels an additional foot or more along New England shores by the end of the century.

Already, 65 acres of prime Massachusetts coastal real estate are swallowed by the sea every year; ocean waters have crept up about a foot here in the last century. While more land will be eaten away, storm surges – abnormal rises of water during severe weather – layered on top of higher seas could push much farther inland, especially in flat coastal areas of New England, and ocean-side homes in places like Scituate and Gloucester will be even more vulnerable. Some scientists say that climate change may also bring fiercer and more frequent storms.

As the Scituate flood demonstrated, the region is woefully ill-equipped to hold back a rising ocean. In some places along the Bay State's coast, concrete and boulder barriers, most more than a half-century old, protect billions of dollars worth of property. In the last five years, several sea

walls have partially or entirely failed in Massachusetts, including ones in Gloucester, Marshfield and Oak Bluffs.

Deeply concerned over the projected sea-level rise, state officials commissioned a massive inventory of publicly-owned sea walls and other coastal barriers four years ago. Almost 165 structures, whose failure would result in significant property damage, were declared in fair, poor or critical condition but only a fraction of them have been fixed because of the budget crisis. The price tag to repair and fortify all of them against rising seas is huge: more than a billion dollars.

"We are now facing a societal debate about how much people want to pay – and who pays – for coastal defense," said S. Jeffress Williams, a coastal marine geologist and scientist emeritus with the U.S. Geological Survey Woods Hole Science Center.

Rick Murray, a professor of Earth Science at Boston University and a Scituate selectman, puts it more bluntly: "Not everything we love can be saved. . . ."

In the last five years, several sea

Renewables Even With Nuclear in U.S.

By Douglas Fischer
DailyClimate.org: April 5, 2011

Declining nuclear power and a strengthening renewable fuels sector have left the two energy sources neck-and-neck for their share of U.S. energy production, according to the most recent figures from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

The percent of domestic energy production obtained from renewable fuels – biomass, geothermal, solar, wind and water – rose to 10.9 percent last year, up from 10.6 percent in 2009. Meanwhile nuclear energy dipped from 11.5 percent in 2009 to 11.3 percent in 2010.

Fossil fuels accounted for 77.8 percent of domestic energy production, or 58.3 quadrillion BTUs of the nearly 75 quadrillion BTUs produced in the United States last year.

A typical U.S. household uses 37 million BTUs worth of electricity in a year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

The data were compiled before the 9.0 temblor and subsequent tsunami devastated Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant and cast doubts on nuclear power worldwide.

Renewable advocates used the data to tout their sector as the smart-money bet.

"The U.S. government's latest energy statistics once again confirm that limited federal dollars are far better invested in rapidly-expanding renewable energy



Photo Courtesy Duke Energy/flickr

Duke Energy's Top of the World Windpower project near Casper, Wyoming.

technologies and not the black hole that is nuclear power," said Ken Bossang, executive director of the SUN DAY campaign, a nonprofit venture aimed at promoting sustainable energy technologies as cost-effective alternatives to nuclear and fossil fuels.

Viewed on a percentage basis, renewable fuels are on a tear: growth of non-hydro renewable fuels jumped 11.6 percent last

year, with wind energy increasing by 28 percent, biomass by 10 percent and solar and geothermal by 4 percent each.

But in terms of kilowatt-hours produced, renewable energy accounts for a tiny fraction of the domestic electricity portfolio.

Nuclear has produced from 19 percent to 21 percent of the United State's electricity since the late 1980s - 807 billion kilowatt-

hours last year. In contrast, wind generated 95 billion kilowatt-hours last year, about 2 percent of domestic electricity demand. Solar produced just under 1.3 billion kilowatt-hours in 2010, according to the EIA.

DailyClimate.org is a nonprofit news service covering climate change.

In any situation, the best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing you can do is the wrong thing; the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Theodore Roosevelt

CLIMATE OF APATHY Survey on Attitudes About Global Heating

MassINC. Press Release, excerpt
April 14, 2011

About three quarters of Massachusetts residents say global warming is happening and more than half also say it is caused by human activity but there is little sense of concern to address the problem, according to a new survey released today by MassINC and The MassINC Polling Group.

The Barr Foundation sponsored the study, entitled "The 80 Percent Challenge: A Survey of Climate Change Opinion and Action in Massachusetts," also indicates that Bay State residents do not see efforts to address global warming as incompatible with economic growth and would even pay more for renewable energy.

The new poll, which surveyed 1,311 adults throughout Massachusetts, could inform efforts to reach the state's carbon emission reduction target established by The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008. The law placed Massachusetts at the leading edge of U.S. global warming policy by mandating an 80 percent reduction in carbon emissions by the year 2050 - a target considered aggressive yet attainable.

"In order to meet the goals of the new law, there will need to be a far greater sense of concern on the part of Massachusetts residents," said Ben Forman, Research Director at MassINC. "What is needed in Massachusetts is a real culture of climate protection that fosters action across all sectors of our Commonwealth."

"This study provides a benchmark from which we can track people's opinions on these issues. There are certain numbers, like the percentage who think global warming is a very serious problem, which will be key to gauging the effectiveness of efforts to engage the public," said Steve Koczela, President of the MassINC Polling Group.

On awareness of the problem, 77 percent of those surveyed say global warming has probably been happening, yet only 33 percent see it as real, caused at least partially by human activity and a "very serious" problem if left unaddressed.

The report groups residents by the degree to which they 1) believe that global warming is occurring; 2) believe it is at least partially caused by humans; and 3) believe it is a very serious threat. On that scale: 33 percent of all surveyed are "convinced" (believe it is happening, caused at least partially by human activity and very serious); 26 percent of residents are "receptive" (believe it is real, caused at least partially by human activity but less than a very serious threat); 24 percent of residents are "dubious" (either unsure global warming is real or believe it is driven by natural causes) and 17 percent are "dismissive" (do not believe it is real).

The data show significant differences in belief based on demographics with more awareness and concern exhibited among Democrats, minority groups, the young and less wealthy residents...

What Can We Do?

IF we really believed what scientists are telling us about global warming, the fire engines of every fire department would sound their sirens and race to the nearest factory to extinguish its furnaces. Every high school student would run to the thermostat of every classroom, turn it off and tear it out of the wall, then hit the parking lot to slash tires. Every responsible suburban parent would don safety gloves and walk around the block pulling the electrical meters out of the utility boxes behind houses and condominiums. Every gas station attendant would press the emergency button to shut off the pumps, cut the hoses and glue the locks on the doors; every coal and petroleum corporation would immediately set about burying their unused product where it came from - using only the muscles of their own arms, of course.

But we're too out of touch to grasp what's happening, let alone put a stop to it.

Crimethinc.org
Workers' Collective
www.crimethinc.com
Found in *Earth First!* Journal
Spring 2011

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have the answer! Incredible as it might seem, I have stumbled across the single technology which will save us from run-away climate change! From the goodness of my heart I offer it to you for free. No patents, no small print, no hidden clauses. Already this technology, a radical new kind of carbon capture and storage, is causing a stir among scientists.

It is cheap; it is efficient and it can be deployed straight away. It is called... Leaving Fossil Fuels In The Ground."

George Monbiot
Columnist with *The Guardian UK*

Not So Starry-Eyed Anymore (a song)

(Sung to the tune of The Star Spangled Banner)

By Ted Glick

Oh, why can't you see
It's my life that's at stake
When you sell out our world
You are stealing my future.
Can you look in my eyes
As you gamble our lives?
When will you stop the lies
So that we can survive?
If you represent me
Not the fossil fuel industry
You must stop wasting time
Chasing your dollar signs.
Oh, say will you listen to
Our generation?
If you refuse to hear us now
Then we have to shut you down.

By Ted Glick
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

There were two nonviolent civil disobedience actions that book-ended the powerful Power Shift conference this past weekend in Washington, D.C., organized by the Energy Action Coalition. Because of these actions and because of the success of Power Shift, there's reason to have hope that we could soon be seeing a much-needed, more massive, nonviolent, direct-action wing of the climate movement, of the progressive movement, led by young people.

A loose network of mainly students pulled off a powerful action on Friday, April 15th. Nine of them were able to thoroughly disrupt the House of Representatives for almost 20 minutes as the Republicans' budget proposal was being debated. The students did so by standing up, one after the other, in the gallery overlooking the House and singing. They sang the above song, set to the melody of 'The Star Spangled Banner' but with a very different message. All were arrested and were to return to court the first week of May.

Then on Monday afternoon, the 18th, a march on the Interior Department took place right after the final action of Power Shift, a dynamic and spirited march of thousands through the streets of D.C. As part of the Power Shift march there were stops at the offices of the Chamber of Commerce, BP and the GenOn coal company. The march was led by young people from groups

based in frontline communities where fossil fuel companies are directly poisoning nearby air, water and land.

The Rising Tide-organized march to the Interior Department was noteworthy for the singing which went on throughout it, primarily 'We Shall Overcome,' with updated verses. 'Those leading the singing were mainly women from the Peaceful Uprising organization. It was inspiring and uplifting to be singing this oldie-but-still-goodie classic as part of the rising youth climate justice movement.

Walking in the back of the march, all of a sudden I saw lots of people ahead of me rushing up the steps of the Interior Department building and going inside. Joining them and coming into the lobby, I was overjoyed to be part of a group of hundreds chanting, then singing, then sitting-in on the lobby floor in front of security personnel guarding the inside entrance into the offices.

This was a needed action. Almost a month ago, on March 22nd, the Bureau of Land Management within the Interior Department announced their plan to lease over seven-thousand acres of land in the Powder River Basin area of Wyoming for the mining of 2.3 billion tons of coal.

If this goes through and all that coal is burned, it will release the equivalent amount of greenhouse gases as 300 coal plants operating for a year. Ken Salazar, Barack Obama and anyone else responsible for this decision deserve the most withering criticism...



Photo by Cindy Snodgrass
Anti-fracking activist/artist Cindy Snodgrass of Pittsburgh, drove to Washington, D.C. to bring these colorful umbrellas symbolizing clean air and clean water for all life. Bill McKibben (author of our front-page story) is the man standing in the back row, third from the left.

Youth at Environment Summit Unhappy with Obama Policies

By Darryl Fears, excerpt
Washington Post: April 14, 2011

In 2011, Courtney Hight fell in love with Barack Obama's message of hope and change, especially his stalwart support of renewable and alternative energy. She worked long hours as the Youth Vote Director for his campaign in Florida.

But lately the young activist has started to feel that President Obama isn't quite the man she fell for. During his energy security speech at Georgetown University in March, when he said oil drilling and clean coal would help power America's energy future, Hight said she accepted what friends told her for weeks: Obama changed.

On Friday, Hight and 10,000 other young clean-energy advocates opened the third Power Shift

conference at the Washington Convention Center in the District. The three-day climate summit takes place every other year.

But, instead of endorsing the president's energy policy as in 2009, they plan to lambaste it, saying that Obama is siding with what they consider to be the dark side - big oil and coal-fired power plants. Organizers planned a demonstration Monday with 5,000 participants outside the White House.

"When I looked at that energy security speech, it seemed like something BP wrote," said Hight, 31, of Scottsdale, Arizona, who is co-director of Power Shift 2011. "We want to make sure the president is seeing that we're done with this. We need him to draw the line in the sand. We need him to stand up to polluters..."

Obama to Thousands of Young Climate Activists: Push Me

Mark Hertsgaard
The Nation.com: April 18, 2011

Bring to Washington, D.C. 10,000 political organizers who are willing to play hardball and you can get serious face time with the president of the United States. Even if you aren't yet 25 years old.

Shortly after 4 p.m. Friday, April 15th, Barack Obama dropped in unexpectedly on a White House meeting that his aides were holding with the Energy Action Coalition (EAC), a network of climate-change groups on college campuses that had drawn the 10,000 organizers to its PowerShift conference in the nation's capital. Interviews with multiple sources in the room indicate that Obama spent 25 minutes with the young EAC

activists, telling them, "You have power, that's why I'm here." Ten of the 11 activists were women; none was older than 31. Their discussion with the president was friendly but plain-spoken - one young woman even interrupted Obama, who didn't seem to mind - as the activists urged the president to be the clean-energy champion they and their peers had done so much to elect in 2008.

The Power Shift activists are reinforcing their tough-love message today, when thousands plan to demonstrate at the White House before marching to Capitol Hill and the Washington offices of the Chamber of Commerce, BP and other business groups the activists accuse of obstructing the fight against climate change.

"The president told us he wants the same things we want but the politics in the country are really hard right now," said Maura Cowley, 28, one of two chief co-organizers of Power Shift. "We said that's fine, but he can't call coal, oil, nuclear and natural gas clean energy when actually they are quite dangerous. And we said we're here to help create the political space so he can show bold leadership on truly clean energy choices." This was precisely the focus of a jam-packed session at Power Shift aptly titled "What To Do When the President's Just Not That Into You" where many former Obama volunteers seemed ready to apply their social networking skills to demand far more ambitious leadership from the president...

Power Shift *continued from page 1*

of the most embarrassing votes that Congress has ever taken. They believe that because they can amend the tax laws, they can amend the laws of nature, too. But they can't. I am awful glad a few of you went up to the Visitor's Gallery to talk some sense to them last week. Even the White House - two weeks ago, the Interior Secretary who spoke here two years ago, Ken Salazar - signed a piece of paper opening 750 million tons of coal under federal land in Wyoming to mining. That is like opening 300 new coal-fired power plants and running them for a year. That's a disgrace.

But you know what? We know why we are in trouble. We understand the physics and chemistry of political power. In this case, it's not carbon dioxide that rules the day, it's money. Many of you are in the District of Columbia for the first time and it looks clean and it looks sparkling. No - this city is as polluted as Beijing but instead of coal smoke it's polluted by money. Money warps our political life, it obscures our vision, but just like with physics and chemistry there's no use whining. We know now what we need to do and the first thing we need to do is build a movement.

We will never have as much money as the oil companies so we need a different currency to work in. We need bodies, we need creativity, we need spirit. 350.org has been like a beta test

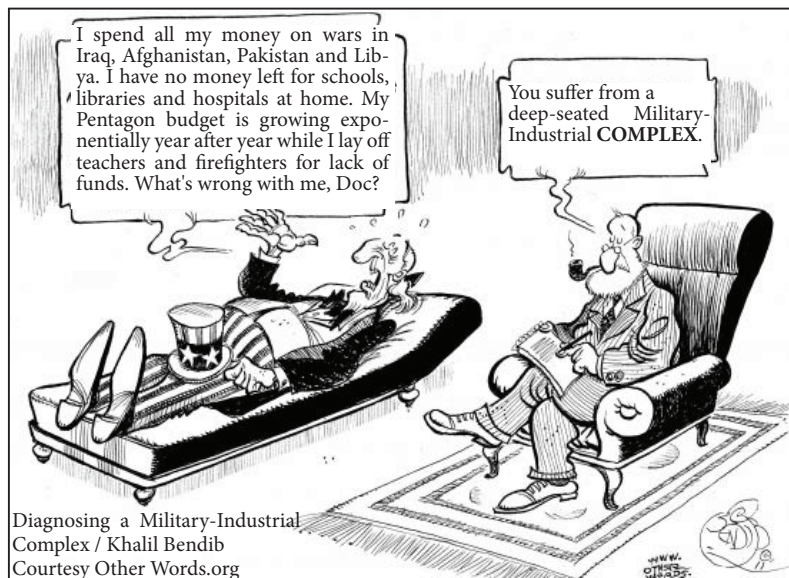
for that movement. It began with youth here at Power Shift, kids who were here at Power Shift four years ago. It's now spread across the planet - in the last two years there have been 50,000 demonstrations in 189 nations. CNN called it the most widespread political activity in the planet's history. But it needs to get bigger still. On the first Earth Day in 1970 there were 20 million Americans in the street - one in 10 Americans - that's the kind of size we need.

So, on September 24th we need your help. September 24th is the next big day of action - we're calling it Moving Planet. And in those 189 nations, people will be in motion, much of it will be on bicycles because the bicycle is one of the few tools that rich and poor both use.

Who here knows how to ride a bike? All right - September 24th,

I cannot wait to see the pictures. We are not going to wait for the politicians to move, we are going to create the future that we need ourselves. But that movement doesn't just need to be bigger - it needs to be sharper, too, more aggressive.

You know what? At Copenhagen, we got 117 nations to sign on to that 350 target. That was good but they were the wrong 117 nations - they were the poorest and most vulnerable nations. The most addicted nations, led by our own, who aren't yet willing to bite the bullet, that's where we have got to go to work. That work, to deal with that money pollution, that work starts Monday at 10 o'clock in Lafayette Square, across from the White House and next to a place called the U.S. Chamber of Commerce...



Diagnosing a Military-Industrial Complex / Khalil Bendib
Courtesy Other Words.org

Jenna Bush Hager: In Her Own Words

By Lauren Cappuccio
The Slate, Shippensburg University

Jenna Bush Hager, or more commonly known to the public as Jenna Bush, daughter of former President George W. Bush, brought a message of hope and compassion to not only the field of education, but of charity work and ending poverty through awareness.

Her lecture, titled 'Making a Difference: How the Power of Compassion Changes Lives,' was held in the H. Rich Luhrs Center on April 14th. She wrote a book, *Ana's Story: A Story of Hope*, which chronicled one teenage mother's struggle with raising a young daughter while living with HIV/AIDS.

Before her lecture, Hager spoke with several groups of students and members of the press.

An active member of charity work, Hager created UNICEF's Next Generation program.

But, what got her started in doing humanitarian work?

Hager believes it is about finding something you are passionate about and getting involved.

"When I was in high school, I loved kids," Hager said. "And my Mom said, 'You should really spend time, once a week, one day a week after school or on Sundays, volunteering with kids and I know this great organization and I think you'd be terrific.'"

She went on to describe her time at the Austin Children Center, a shelter where she met children who were, well, just children. They just played and were innocent to the troubles that faced them. She said it opened her eyes to see how they saw the world with such optimism. Hager also believes that this experience helped her go into teaching.

Her experience teaching helped paved the way for more work for underprivileged children all over the world.

"I taught in inner-city Washington, D.C. and my kids really inspired

me," Hager said. "They were mainly immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean. So of course, the more I got to know them and their parents, the issues that they faced, I really felt like, to be a more authentic teacher to them, I had to spend some serious time in the countries that they had once called home."

She got a *Jenna Bush Hager speaks at Shippensburg University, PA about helping underprivileged children around the world.*

Today Show' and that it takes most of her time. She is planning ahead and, hopefully, plans to write more in the summer and, if time permits, to relax.

But she is tireless when it comes to trying to bring awareness to the problems of education, poverty and malnutrition for children in other countries and she has always felt like she gets more out of her work when she is giving herself to the projects.

"Your work helping those that are less fortunate always gives you more than you give them. And I've heard a lot of humanitarians say this and it's really, really true," Hager said.

Overall, she plans to continue working with her projects as much as she can and is determined to bring awareness to these important issues and most importantly, humanize the issues.

"I think that statistics don't provide a real insight into the way that people live," Hager said, "but I think that when you tell people stories, we can all find similarities in other people's stories. I think it really does inspire people to change and make a difference."

"I love that through journalism, you can find incredible people that are ordinary people but they are doing extraordinary things," Hager said with a smile.

Hager is continuing with some speaking engagements, but she said she is working fairly hard with "The



Photo by Josh Neil



Photo Courtesy Government of Bolivia

Bolivians celebrate International Day of Mother Earth on April 20, 2011.

Bolivia Celebrates Law Granting Rights to Mother Earth

LA PAZ, Bolivia, April 20, 2011 (ENS) — Bolivia today marked the International Day of Mother Earth with a ceremony in the Plaza Murillo, the center of political power. An ancient ritual shared center stage with speeches in which authorities in this Andean nation extolled the Law of Mother Earth — the world's first legislation that grants to all nature rights equal to humans.

President Evo Morales, the first indigenous leader of Bolivia, is the architect of the Law of Mother Earth. Supported by politicians as well as nongovernmental organizations, the law is expected to easily pass the National Congress where Morales' ruling party, the Movement Towards Socialism, has a majority in both houses.

Today's event was attended by representatives of the executive branch and legislators, diplomats, indigenous peoples and peasants.

Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca told the crowd, "In Bolivia we seek a return to balance, a harmonious life not only between individuals but between man and nature, so today must be a day of reflection, of awareness of all to care for our Mother Earth and take timely means for our mother [to return] back to its natural balance."

The first article of the Law of Mother Earth says that every human activity has to "achieve dynamic balance with the cycles and processes inherent in Mother Earth."

It defines Mother Earth as "a unique, indivisible, self-regulating community of interrelated beings that sustains, contains and reproduces

es all beings."

In parallel, a fair was held to raise awareness about global warming and its effects and the Bolivia-led crusade for nature protection.

Minister of the Presidency Oscar Coca told the crowd that Bolivia has the "conviction" to promote international policies that promote awareness of the climate-change problem in all nations across the planet.

"President Evo Morales says the planet can live without humans but humans cannot live without the planet and reminds the world today that the rights of nature should be rights equal to those we, ourselves, enjoy," Coca said.

Inspired by Bolivia, in 2009 the UN General Assembly proclaimed April 22 as International Mother Earth Day, expressing its conviction that, to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, "it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth."

In October 2009, the General Assembly named President Morales "World Hero of Mother Earth."

The Morales Government intends to establish a Ministry of Mother Earth to implement the Law of Mother Earth, which will establish new rights for nature, including:

- ⊗ The right to pure water;
- ⊗ The right to clean air;
- ⊗ The right to balance, to be at equilibrium;
- ⊗ The right to be free of toxic and radioactive pollution; and
- ⊗ The right to not be affected by mega-infrastructure and development projects that affect the balance of ecosystems and the local inhabitant communities.

The law promotes "harmony" and "peace" and "the elimination of all nuclear, chemical, biological" weapons.

At the same time, President Morales was set to announce on May 1st [May Day] that he would be "dis-mantling the privatization model," thereby expropriating privately-owned zinc, silver and tin mines.

The government plans to place these mines under government control reversing the actions of previous administrations that sold the mines to private interests.

The Corp Minera de Bolivia, known as Comibol, will operate all the newly expropriated mines. Several mines have already been expropriated under Morales presidency, including the Vinto tin smelter.

Soon after his election as president in 2006, the Morales Government took over gas and oil refineries, all in a bid to have the government control the country's natural resources.

As a result of these policies, foreign private investment in Bolivia has plummeted.

Greenhouses Growing and Growing As People Work Together

EcoLogic's long-time partner in Totonicapán, Guatemala, the Association of the 48 Cantons, has received a grant from Rainforest Alliance for \$30,000 for the construction of two greenhouses which will each produce approximately 17,000 trees a year. EcoLogic will provide a third greenhouse as well as training for the operation of the greenhouses and reforestation of the surrounding areas. The three new greenhouses will be in addition to the existing greenhouses which produced 110,000 trees in 2010.

The funding from Rainforest Alliance is provided by USAID. The signing of the grant agreement was witnessed by senior USAID officials, the U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala, Stephen G. McFarland, and EcoLogic staff.

The 48 Cantons of Totonicapán is a traditional Quiché governance authority that serves and represents the villages around the Communal Forest of Los Altos de San Miguel, where EcoLogic has worked since 2003. This old-growth forest has been protected for centuries by indigenous communities, utilizing a traditional management system based on the interrelationship between forests, people and water.

"This is an excellent example of



Photo Provided

Totonicapán, Guatemala received a grant from Rainforest Alliance for \$30,000 for the construction of two greenhouses which will each produce approximately 17,000 trees a year.

how we can work together with our partners and other donors to leverage EcoLogic's successful track record of protecting environmentally sensitive forests in Guatemala," said Sebastián Charchalac, EcoLogic Regional Director for Central America and Mexico. "We are grateful to Rainforest Alliance and USAID for joining us in this effort."

The construction of the greenhouses is scheduled to be completed by June 15th.

Contact: EcoLogic Development Fund, 25 Mount Auburn Street, #203, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138; 617-441-6300 or ecologic.org.

Give Young Wildlife the Space It Needs

By Jenney Coberly
SummitCountyVoice.com

SUMMIT COUNTY — Although people in Summit County are more likely to encounter tracks than actual sightings of elusive species such as the lynx or snowshoe hare, others animals — including moose, coyotes, foxes and squirrels — are commonplace.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is reminding the public that the well-intentioned impulse to save what appears to be an orphaned or abandoned animal can often lead to unintended consequences, including the death of the animal. For many people, a common reaction when they see young wildlife that appears to be abandoned is to treat it as they would a human baby and attempt its rescue.

"A human baby that has been abandoned is a crisis that needs immediate attention but this is not the case with baby animals," said Watchable Wildlife and Volunteer Coordinator Trina Rome-

ro. "In fact, the instinct that leads a female animal to leave its offspring alone for long periods of time is a natural method of protection. The last thing it needs is human intervention."

People will more often encounter baby animals while walking their dogs, since dogs will explore off-trail areas and search for smells and movement. If they are allowed to run loose, dogs can present a serious danger to all wildlife. Domesticated dogs quickly revert to their predatory instincts and will often chase and severely injure or kill young wildlife and their parents.

By statute in Colorado, law enforcement officers are authorized to immediately euthanize any dog observed harassing wildlife and dog owners can receive a hefty fine. Division officials strongly recommend that people keep their dogs on a leash. It will keep the dog safe and prevent injuries or death of wildlife.

Evolution has given all animals effective instincts when it comes to rearing their young and

it's best to just let nature take its course. If you see a young animal that appears orphaned, keep your distance, don't feed and don't help. In most cases, not doing anything is the most responsible way humans can show their love for wild creatures.

But, in the rare case that the young animal's mother has been hurt or killed, there are some steps you can take to protect its orphaned offspring. If the mother of a young animal does not return for more than twelve hours or it is obvious that it has been hurt or killed, it's best to report its location to the Division of Wildlife.

"People who pick up animals risk injuring the animal or making it too comfortable with humans to be returned to the wild," Romero said. "By leaving the animal alone and reporting its location to the Division of Wildlife, our trained personnel or volunteers can respond and make the determination about what is best for the animal."

People are cautioned to avoid

"rescuing" animals or trying to keep them as pets, which in most cases is illegal. Even the best efforts to rehabilitate an injured or orphaned animal by an unqualified person can instead lead to negative consequences, such as poor nutrition, stress and behavioral problems. A wild animal held in captivity by an unqualified caretaker can also present a public safety risk as it can bite or attack its caretaker or others.

Another common sight in spring is young birds that have accidentally fallen out of their nests due to high winds or while learning to fly. If you find a young bird on the ground and it is unable to fly on its own, don't attempt to nourish it. Instead, immediately try to return it to its nest. A bird's natural diet is difficult to duplicate and an attempt to feed it or give it water can cause it harm. If you cannot safely reach the original nest, just placing it in a safe location near the nest will yield good results. The parents will hear its cries



Photo Courtesy Colorado Division of Wildlife

Lynx kittens.

and will continue feeding the young bird. Put it in a small basket or box filled with paper towels or even dryer lint. Using grass to make a nest is not recommended because the moisture content in the grass can lower

the body temperature of the bird.

The Web site, www.summitvoice.org, is an independent source of environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.

Creative Writing



INVITATION TO WONDER *The Zone*

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

When I walk the beach – and I walk the beach every day now that summer's here – when I tramp or traipse or amble or ramble along the shore. And the breaking waves are a white lace flounce edging the sand. And the breaking waves are a salty pulse coursing steady in the sand. Earth's heartbeat and my own wed together on the sand. In the splashing water I'm walking, looking down.

They call it the swash zone. Uprush meets backwash, inflow meets rundown, water's mantra of longing meets her sigh of satisfaction. Here is where dizzy collides with giddy, intoxication confronts delirium, I can lose myself in the place that's neither in nor out but in and out at the same moment and hence, just beyond the reach of space and time.

Here is where you find them, on the pristine, virgin sand: old logs and wet shells being ground to slivers and glints. Flutes of driftwood, holes bored out by tiny creatures and by time. Castles don't last long here, nor can footprints endure. And if you stop. If you halt your forward motion. If, standing straight as an arrow, you try to remain still as a rock, the sand will melt from under, mound up over, your feet. You'll sink deep, deeper, you'll begin to think you're rooted, that you belong here, but the tether is misleading and the mooring false. Your real home is constant motion. Now you must go on.

All a-swell the light has been, these past weeks. Every morning, an earlier dawn. Every evening, a later dusk. Every day, a waxing radiance, an almost unbearable fullness, like a woman in her ninth month. Soon, the solstice will be upon us. At a certain moment, the sun will be tethered straight as an arrow, still as a rock, directly above the outermost boundary of the tropics, the parallel of latitude which is 23.5 degrees north of the Equator.

This day is our longest, this night our shortest. By tomorrow, our star's moorings will already have loosened.

The sun will be one tick further south, our day one tock shorter. We're living in the swash zone now. The uprushing, inflowing, breaking wave of light has collided with light's backwash. Summer has just given birth.

Once upon a time, they lit bonfires on Midsummer's Eve. They danced and drank and sang, as if to match the sky's delirium with their own intoxication. Magic ruled, and midsummer night dreams. Children twined flowers around the horns of bulls. Young girls scryed for future husbands. Lovers leapt through flames then bedded in the bushes. Healers plucked their most potent herbs. The people prayed and partied for what the people wanted: health and wealth and fertile fields, fecund beasts, plenty of kids.

That was then. Now we're living in the swash zone. The backwash of our past desires has collided with the uprushing, inflowing, breaking wave of our future needs. Humanity tramps and traipses, ambles and rambles along a giddy edge, a dizzy brink. We cannot stop, we cannot halt our forward motion, we must move on down the pristine, virgin shore. Where every passing day casts up new questions. Grinds old answers down to slivers and glints.

Last week, as I left the beach, I passed a woman carrying her toddler back to the parking lot. "She's afraid of sand," the tired mother said to me, and I thought, aren't we all? I mean, who doesn't want to run from a place where the selva is unraveling?

Yet here it is, the summer solstice. And here we are, brothers and sisters birthed together in a newborn season, ready to pray and party for what we're ready to want. Can you hear it?

This wave is washing in a worldwide sigh of satisfaction, swashing out that last wave of collective longing.

How's that for a hazy crazy maybe midsummer night's dream?

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

Survey to Reduce Mowing and Help Global Warming



Mow Down Air Pollution – Trade in Your Gas-Powered Mower

Los Angeles Times: May 4, 2011 — Vehicles get most of the attention when it comes to air pollution but a single gas-powered lawn mower used 45 minutes each week for a year is equal to driving 22,000 miles in a new passenger car, according to the Air Quality Management District (AQMD), the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of the L.A. area. To combat those emissions, the AQMD runs an annual Lawn Mower Exchange that allows Southern California residents to trade their gas mowers for electric ones at a price significantly lower than retail. The gas mowers are scrapped through a local metal recycler . . .

The questions below were dreamed up by Iona to accompany her door-to-door survey of 10 houses along the main thoroughfare in rural Pennsylvania a few years ago when she toted a rolling suitcase filled with global warming books and videos to loan people. The idea was to convince them that big lawns were a disaster in hopes that they would consider mowing less. The results were a disaster; nobody did anything after borrowing the educational materials; however, the entire story was published in the local, weekly newspaper. This is what the survey they received looked like. Perhaps our readers will decide to mow less this year and send us comments so we can tell others about you in our next issue.

1. Name _____
2. Address _____
3. How much of your property do you mow? _____
4. How long does it take you? _____
5. How much gas do you use each summer? _____
6. How much land could you possibly let go wild or plant in gardens? _____
7. Do you use lawn chemicals? _____
8. How much do they cost? _____
9. How long does it take you to apply them? _____
10. How much money do you spend on mower repairs a year? _____
11. If you do your own repairs, how much time does it take you each year? _____
12. Are there other things you would rather be doing with your time and money? _____
13. Would you like me to teach you more about global warming? _____
14. Would you like to borrow a book or video to learn more about climate change? _____
15. Do you know of anyone else or a group who would like to learn more about global warming? _____



Peace in Simplicity

By Devin Baker: Boise, Idaho

In today's world of hamburger emporia citadels, petro spills and busted housing balloons, Sony pushes complacency to society on iTunes. So here's a synopsis of the world comatose, with environmental regulations falling like dominoes, as Monsanto plays transgenic tic-tac-toe. We now live on G.M.O. maze dipped in warm mayonnaise as one percent eat steak with hollandaise, sipping chilled chardonnay, I now know why they say, "Fascism is capitalism in decay."

Keeping up on whims we've become slaves of accumulation, our footprints growing with each new eco-transgression, yet still we praise the gods of consumption, never leavin' the block yet our cars go one-hundred somethin'. Cutting funding for those in poverty, kids go hungry, from new programs based on government austerity, as our planet hangs on the brink of collapse, political acts threaten the health of middle, lower class.

The world needs a reality check on sanity, an economy of human values and responsibility, frugal sensibility of self-sufficient social sustainability, for lust and greed only beget meaninglessness but peace can be found in voluntary simplicity . . .

Biggest Threat Facing Country Is Fast-Creeping Ignorance

By Stephen Pizzo, excerpt
BuzzFlash, March 25, 2011

I am old enough to remember the days when what Americans were told to fear most was "Creeping Communism."

There were even hearings. There was a blacklist. There were arrests and even a couple of executions. In the end, all communism turned out to be creeping toward was its own extinction.

We may not be as lucky with the new creep we're facing today: Creeping Ignorance.

As a story from AlterNet put it, "Three-fourths of Senate GOP Doesn't Believe in Science: The Tea Party and its allies had made it unacceptable to the GOP base to be anywhere except pandering to the anti-science crowd."

The Right, which hated and feared commies and their (largely imaginary) infiltration into government, not only don't seem to care about Creeping Ignorance in government but have come to embrace this new breed of government infiltrators.

The explanation for this embrace is simple as the minds of the infiltrators: science, and for that matter any other factual

analysis, tends to flatly contradict many of the Right's most cherished fictions, such as:

- The more you cut taxes the more tax revenue flows into federal coffers.
- History proves America is a Christian nation.
- Climate change is either not happening at all or, if it is happening, it has nothing to do with our use of fossil fuels. ("I personally believe that the solar flares are more responsible for climatic cycles than anything that human beings do." – Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, Wisconsin)
- Slashing regulation of business and high finance is good for business, good for the nation and good for the American public.
- If the rich are allowed to keep more of their earnings they will share them with everyone else (trickle down).
- School science classes should be "fair and balanced," like Fox News, when teaching the origins of life on Earth by teaching the biblically-inspired "creationist" version alongside Darwin's scientific theory of evolution.
- President Obama "may not have been born in America" as

he claims.

- President Obama is "a secret Muslim."

And the list of Creeping Ignorance goes on and on, growing longer with each passing month. Michelle Bachmann believes that the founding fathers "didn't rest until the put an need to slavery (sic)." She also believes the first shot "heard around the world" that started our war of independence was fired in New Hampshire. It wasn't. Did she care? Nope. Pointing out that it was fired in Massachusetts was, to her and her kind, just further proof of how the mainstream media picks on conservatives.

So, where are the hearings on Creeping Ignorance in the halls of Congress? I mean, I remember the time, not so long ago, when it was held as a matter of national policy that "a mind is a terrible thing to lose." It seems to me it's reached epidemic levels in federal and state government.

Shouldn't someone hold hearings? Isn't wanton ignorance among those we trust with nuclear policies, war, famine, jobs, the national debt and more, a concern? ...



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Hope

THE AWAKENING: PART VII

(First published February 2010)



This message is sent to you from the one who is here offering you help and guidance in your time of need, The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God.

In my Kingdom, men do not rule over men, women, nature or the environment and women do not rule over men, women, nature or the environment.

In my Kingdom, I, The Most High God, not only choose to be led and receive guidance from The Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, my Council of Elders; I also depend on them to lead and guide my thoughts, words, actions, feelings, emotions and affections (to transmit emotions). My Council of Elders consists of these Trustworthy And True Living Spirits:

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

I ask you to ask yourselves: Are you Guardians and Protectors of my Council of Elders or are you attacking and destroying them by your own thoughts, words, actions, feelings, emotions and

affections?

To be a Guardian and Protector of my Council of Elders, it is not only allowing my Council of Elders to lead and guide you, but it is also accepting them when others offer them to you. For example:

It is not only being peaceful to all things around you but also accepting Peace when it is offered to you;

It is not only about giving Love, but also receiving it when it is offered to you;

It is not only about speaking Truth, it is also accepting the Truth when it is offered to you, and so on . . .

Only giving and receiving my Council of Elders in your thoughts, words, actions, feelings, emotions and affections are you protecting and guarding them and giving them life within you and your surroundings.

In my Kingdom, all things bow to my Council of Elders including me, The Most High God. There is no need for kings, queens, governments, religions, presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries of state, prime ministers, emperors, ambassadors, governors, Congress, senators, mayors, lords, earls, princes, princesses, commissioners, preachers, popes, cardinals, evangelists, czars, etc.

There is also no need for money. (I will explain this more clearly at a future time.)

In this world, and especially now in the United States, I keep hearing, "How much money is needed for health care?" The question should be, "How much love and compassion, kindness, charity, generosity, giving, sharing, caring . . . is needed?"

In my Kingdom, all things are led and receive guidance from The Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, my Council of Elders. This applies to me, Most High God, and all races, tribes, nations, genders, species, individuals, couples, families, groups, neighborhoods, communities, villages, towns, cities, counties, states, countries, continents, planets, solar systems, galaxies and universes. My Council of Elders are perfect leaders for all Creation.

In this world, if your country calls you to go to war and you refuse, you can be arrested and/or imprisoned and in some countries, you can be put to death. But if you refuse to be peaceful, kind and gentle, there is no punishment.

In this world, if you are greedy, selfish and take advantage of others, there is no punishment as long as you pay your taxes; however, if you are

penniless and/or homeless you can be arrested and imprisoned for vagrancy.

How is it that you live in a world where, if you cross the street wrong or park your car wrong, it is against humans' laws but there are no laws to protect my Council of Elders and the moral values in which they are.

One lie or broken promise not only attacks and destroys the spirit of Truth, it also attacks and destroys the spirits of Love, Honor, Trust, Security, Friendship, Responsibility, Innocence, Honesty, Comfort, Confidence, Understanding, Righteousness and pretty much the entire Council of Elders.

One argument, mean look or glare is attacking and destroying the spirits of Love, Peace, Forgiveness, Tolerance, Joy, Honor, Friendship, Trust, Security – again, the entire Council of Elders.

So, am I (The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God) and my Trustworthy And True Living Spirits (The Council of Elders) leading and guiding you from within, guarding and protecting your thoughts, words, actions, feelings, emotions and affections? Or are you being led and influenced by those who oppose and try to destroy me and my Council of Elders?

There is much, much more information that I have to share with you about these and other subjects that you need to know so you can make fair and wise choices. I am waiting for television networks to have the courage to contact me through Iona Conner so I can speak freely to all of you and you can know me and see me.

Once again, I ask you PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM THESE "AWAKENING" MESSAGES IN ANY WAY so that everyone is able to see their way clearly to make their own choice freely and fairly.

I also ask you to feel free to help me reach as many people as we can by sharing my "Awakening" messages whenever and wherever possible, hopefully the mainstream media. My thanks to all of you who help me share my messages.

Live Within the Light of My Love and My Truth.

Your Friend,
The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit,
The Most High God

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

Awakening Booklet Now Available

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

Iona Conner
Earth News
21431 Marlin Circle
Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255
You may email
ionaconner@gmail.com
or phone 814-259-3680.

Thank you.

Land Stewardship Ethic More Critical Than Ever

By Bob Berwyn
Summit County Citizen's Voice: April 26, 2011

Volunteers in Colorado donated 1.3 million hours of their time in 2010 to care for habitats, build trails, preserve historic structures, educate youth and adults about the environment and staff visitors' centers. The combined value of these efforts is nearly \$28 million, according to a new report released by the Colorado Stewardship Advisory Council.

Hundreds of people came to the State Capitol to celebrate those efforts on April 21, designated by Governor John Hickenlooper as Outdoor Stewardship Day. The purpose was to raise awareness about the important role volunteerism plays in protecting and preserving state and national parks, national forests and Bureau of Land Management lands.

"Colorado's mountains and valleys and our incredible legacy of the state's land and waters are a part of each person's responsibility in the state to protect," Hickenlooper said.

The new study released, titled "Colorado's Public Lands: Engaging our Communities in Their Care and Protection, Report on the Impact of Volunteer Stewardship in 2010" reported:

- Approximately 55 percent of total volunteer hours were spent working on federal lands; about 24 percent on municipal and county open space and park lands and the remaining 21 percent on state lands.

- Stipend volunteers, such as youth conservation corps and AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, represent the largest group of volunteers con-



Photo by Bob Berwyn

Public lands need your help everywhere. A new organization aims to engage one million Coloradans in volunteer efforts.

tributing to public lands work with 685,675 hours or 53 percent of the total. Nonprofit groups organized 360,332 collective hours for 28 percent of the total and the remaining 256,662 hours, or 19 percent, were organized directly by the land agencies.

- Outdoor recreation contributes over \$10 billion annually to Colorado's economy, supports 107,000 jobs across Colorado, generates nearly \$500 million in annual state tax revenue and produces \$7.6 billion annually in retail sales and services across Colorado.

People interested in getting involved in Colorado outdoor stewardship can learn about volunteer opportunities such as trail building and maintenance, re-forestation, preservation of historic structures and more at: www.volunteeroutdoors.net or www.voc.org.

The Stewardship Advisory Council is a public-private collaboration formed in 2010 to address outdoor stewardship issues and actively work to support an increased role for public involvement in the preservation and conservation of Colorado's

natural and cultural heritage. The Council is hosted and staffed by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.

For information, contact Sue at sue@voc.org or at 303-818-7264. Read the report at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/53908144/Report-on-the-value-of-land-stewardship-in-Colorado>.

For stories like this one, please go to www.summitvoice.org. This is an independent source for environmental news, especially in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.

Georgia Court Rejects Air Permit for New Coal-Fired Power Plant



Photo Credit Unknown

Coheelee Creek near Blakey, Georgia.

ATLANTA, Georgia, April 20, 2011 (ENS, *excerpt*) — A Georgia administrative law court has sided with two citizen groups opposed to the proposed Longleaf coal-fired power plant in Blakely, Georgia, designed to be the largest coal plant in the nation.

According to the ruling issued April 19th, a permit issued by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) did not sufficiently limit harmful air pollution that will be emitted by the plant, to be located in southwestern Georgia.

EPD must reconsider its permit after the court found flaws in provisions designed to make Longleaf a "minor" source of pollution for toxic air pollutants.

EPD's permit would allow New Jersey-based LS Power to build the country's largest coal plant and classify it as a "minor" source of pollution, a strategy aimed at getting around stricter pollution controls required for a "major" source of pollution.

EPD defended the permit on the ground that it contained safeguards to ensure that the plant would emit at "minor" source levels.

The court found, however, that the permit's monitoring and reporting scheme could "miss" many tons of toxic air emissions each year, includ-

ing emissions of known carcinogens like formaldehyde.

The court also found that the permit did not account for toxic air emissions from the entire facility. The court sent the permit back to the state agency to address these issues.

The court upheld the permit in other respects, disagreeing with the challengers' core contention the facility remained a "major" source of toxic air pollutants despite the provisions designed to make it "minor."

The mercury and air toxics rule recently proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency observes no distinction between "major" and "minor" coal-fired utilities, holding them all to a common set of standards, including a mercury limit that is sharply lower than the limit in the permit.

However, the proposed rule will not become final until November and Longleaf would have several years to comply with the new standard.

Longleaf is designed to be a 1200-megawatt plant that would emit millions of tons of pollutants each year in Early County along the Chattahoochee River. LS Power can sell the power to buyers anywhere in the U.S. without being subject to any regulation by Georgia's Public Service Com-

mission.

GreenLaw, a nonprofit public interest law firm, represented Friends of the Chattahoochee and the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club in their challenge to the EPD decision to approve the construction of the power plant.

"This is another step on our journey," said Bobby McLendon, president of Friends of the Chattahoochee. "We need the pollution controls called for by the Clean Air Act in order to protect all our citizens, but especially our children, from being forced to breathe dirty air."

"We are pleased that we were able to make progress on this complex case, which arbitrarily classifies a massive plant as a 'minor' rather than 'major' source of air pollution," said GreenLaw Executive Director Justine Thompson. "Although the court is returning the permit to EPD for further consideration, we are disappointed that the classification of Longleaf as a minor source of pollution was not rejected."

"EPD should be doing a better job protecting public health and enforcing the Clean Air Act," said Colleen Kieran, director of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club . . .