

The Order of the Earth

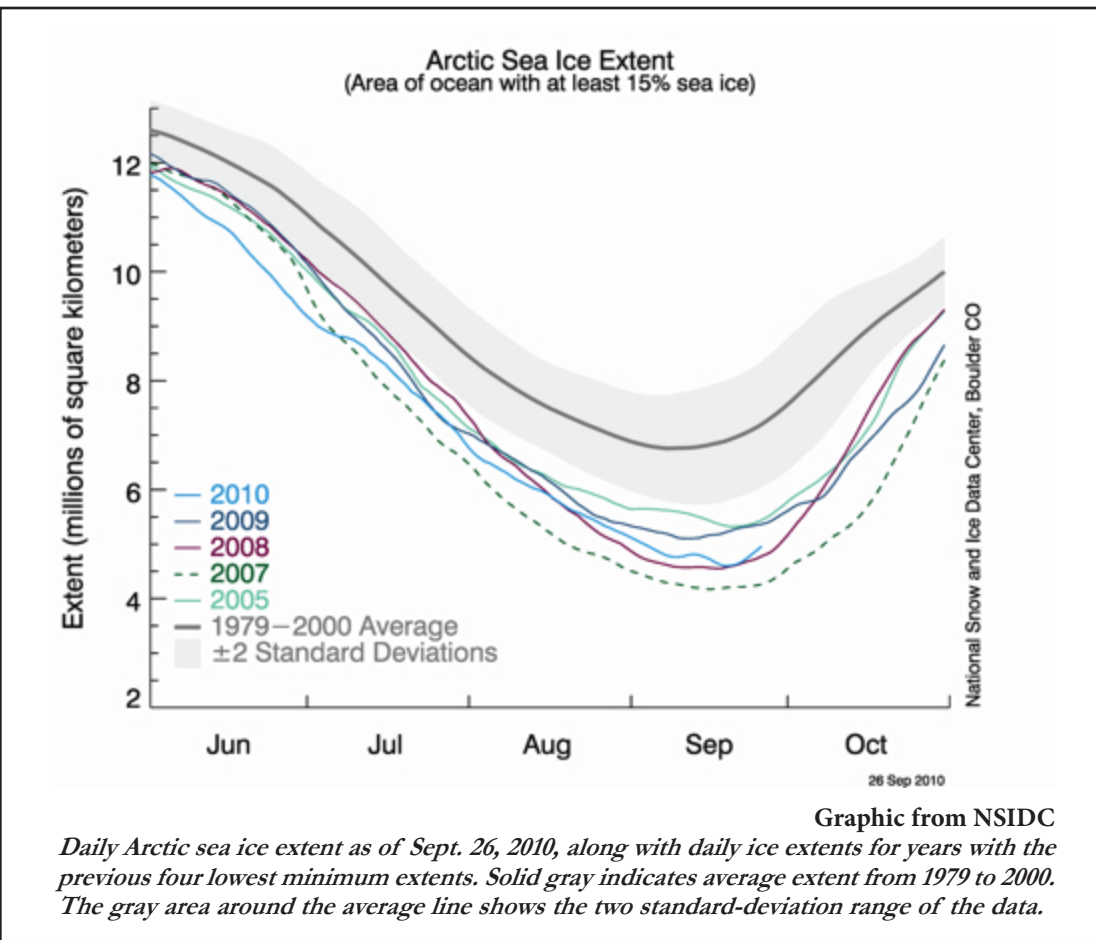
News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

November/December 2010

theorderoftheearth.com

Vol. 10 No. 10 Issue 103: To press 10/22/10

\$1.00



Arctic Sea Ice Melt Season Ends with Ice Continuing Its Recent Sharp Downward Trend

By Andrew Freedman, excerpt
ClimateCentral.org, September 28, 2010

After a false alarm earlier this month, the 2010 Arctic sea ice melt season has come to a close, with sea ice extent reaching the third-lowest in the satellite record. This continues the steady and steep decline in sea ice cover during the past few decades, which scientists have traced mainly to emissions of greenhouse gases, as well as natural climate variability. Underscoring the rapid changes sweeping the Arctic, both the Northwest and Northeast Passages were open for a time and two sailboats set new records for transiting both of them in just one season – a feat that would have been impossible throughout modern history.

Yesterday, the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) in Boulder, Colorado announced the end of the melt season, with sea ice extent dropping very close to the level reached in 2008. (Earlier this month, NSIDC had pronounced the sea ice melt season over, only to retract that five days later after sea ice began declining again. Further declines at this point are not anticipated).

According to NSIDC, sea ice extent fell to the third-lowest on

record at 1.78 million square miles, which was more ice than in the record melt season of 2007 but only about 14,000 square miles greater than the second lowest melt season on record in 2008. The 2010 minimum ice extent was 672,000 square miles below the 1979 to 2009 average. The minimum occurred on September 19, which was eight days later than the 1979 to 2009 average

Another key metric — sea ice volume — tells a similar, albeit more alarming story (for information on the differences between sea ice volume and extent, see NSIDC's FAQ page). According to the University of Washington's Polar Science Center, sea ice volume plunged to a new record low this year (see page 6). The chart of sea ice volume shows a stunning drop compared to the overall rate of decline in the past several decades and indicates that, this summer, the Arctic Ocean contained unusually sparse and thin sea ice.

Here's how the Polar Science Center describes the relevance of sea ice volume in relation to the NSIDC's reporting of sea ice extent: "Arctic Sea Ice Volume is an important indicator of climate change because it accounts for

variations in sea ice thickness as well as sea ice extent. Total Arctic sea ice volume cannot currently be observed continuously. Observations from satellites, Navy submarines, moorings and field measurements are limited in space or time. The assimilation of observations into numerical models currently provides one way of estimating sea ice volume changes on a continuing basis."

More ice monitoring products are also available at the National Ice Center, which is a federal agency that tracks land and sea ice.

As Joe Romm has reported over at Climate Progress, the openness of the Arctic Ocean this summer allowed two sailing vessels to set a new milestone by transiting both the Northwest and Northeast Passages in the same season. (Check out the captain's log from one of the vessels on page 6, which belongs to a Norwegian polar explorer, as the ship exited the Northwest Passage). That alone should be enough to drive home the implications of sea ice loss for marine shipping, natural resources extraction and military activities.

See **Arctic** on page 6

A Man Who Risks His Life for Earth's Creatures

An interview with
Sea Shepherd
Captain Paul Watson

By Michael Shapiro
Earth Island Journal, Autumn 2010

Paul Watson doesn't care what you think. The captain of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has been putting himself between whales and harpoon ships for more than 30 years, preventing the killing of countless cetaceans. He's been called a terrorist, a greater threat than Al-Qaeda, a liar. None of it bothers him.

"I am here to say things people do not want to hear and do things people do not want to see. I am here to piss people off – that is my job," the 59-year-old Watson says in Ron Colby's 2008 documentary *Pirate for the Sea*.

A Canadian, Watson was a co-founder of Greenpeace and instrumental in the campaign to ban the clubbing of Arctic fur seals. He has gained wider notoriety as a central character on the Animal Planet show *Whale Wars*, which chronicles Sea Shepherd's skirmishes with Japanese whalers. He was also spoofed last year in a South Park episode called "Whale Whores."

"Being lampooned on South Park is hardly something to complain about," he says. "They brought the issue of the dolphin and whale slaughter by the Japanese to a very large audience. I could not really care less how I was portrayed."

Michael Shapiro: So where are you coming back from?

Paul Watson: We got back from Antarctica about the seventh of March. We're heading to the Mediterranean now to go against bluefin poachers. We took three ships down to Antarctica and lost one. For the first time we managed to save more whales than were killed, so that was a successful campaign. They



Photo by Barbara Veiga/Sea Shepherd Conservation Society
Paul Watson, Captain of the Sea Shepherd, who risks his life to save whales and has been doing so for decades.

have a quota of 935 minke whales and they have 50 humpbacks on their permits. So 520 whales were saved and 507 killed.

MS: Let's go back to your early days of eco-activism.

PW: I was raised in an eastern Canadian fishing village right on the Maine border, called St. Andrews. I used to swim with these beavers in a beaver pond when I was 10. I went back when I was 11 and found there were no more beavers. I found that trappers had taken them all so I became quite angry and that winter I began to walk the trap lines and free animals from the traps and destroy the traps. So that was really my first venture into activism.

MS: You've talked about a whale you made eye contact with as it bled to death after being harpooned. Tell me about the connection you felt with that whale.

PW: That was in June of 1975. I was with Greenpeace and we had found the Soviet whaling fleet about 60 miles off the coast of Eureka, California. We came up with this idea to put our bod-

ies between the harpoon and the whale to prevent them from killing the whale. I was reading a lot of Gandhi at the time. Bob Hunter [a Greenpeace founder] and I found ourselves in a small boat and behind us was a 150-foot Soviet harpoon vessel bearing down on us. In front of us were eight sperm whales that were fleeing for their lives. Every time they would try to get a shot we would block the harpoon and then the captain of the whaling vessel came down the catwalk and screamed into the ear of the harpooner, then looked at us, smiled, and brought his finger across his throat.

A few moments later there was an incredible explosion. The harpoon flew over our heads – the line from the harpoon slashed down on the water right beside us, just nearly missed us. Then the harpoon struck one of the whales in the back. She screamed and rolled over in a fountain of blood. Suddenly the largest whale in the pod hit the water with his tail and disappeared and swam right underneath us and threw

See **Paul Watson** on page 9

NEWS FLASH

Submitted by John Conner
New York Times, October 15, 2010
E.P.A. Official Seeks to Block West Virginia Mine

By John M. Broder

WASHINGTON — A top federal regulator has recommended revoking the permit for one of the nation's largest planned mountaintop removal mining projects, saying it would be devastating to miles of West Virginia streams and the plant and animal life they support. In a report submitted last month and made public on Friday, Shawn M. Garvin, the Environmental Protection Agency's regional administrator for the Mid-Atlantic, said that Arch Coal's proposed Spruce No. 1 Mine in Logan County should be stopped because it "would likely have unacceptable adverse effects on wildlife."

The Best Party I've Ever Been To!



Photos by Leonard Foust, Mechanicsburg, PA

People relaxing inside the barn after dinner, listening to the music and waiting for the square-dancing to start.

Editorial by Iona

I am not a party person. So why on Earth am I writing about a party I went to recently?

Because it was the most wonderful party I've ever been to and I wasn't even invited. My husband was. He came home one day and told me about a pig roast. Gross, I thought. I didn't want to see a pig being roasted.

But then we met the man who invited him at the neighborhood convenience store and we asked how much it cost. Nothing!

That's #1 for why it was a great party.

#2 was that there was no alcohol.

#3 was that it was for entire families.

#4 was that it was a neighborhood potluck with the Allison's (our host and hostess) supplying the meat, potatoes, coffee, soda and even ice-cream cones from a machine (which many of us ate while we were waiting for the meat to be cooked).

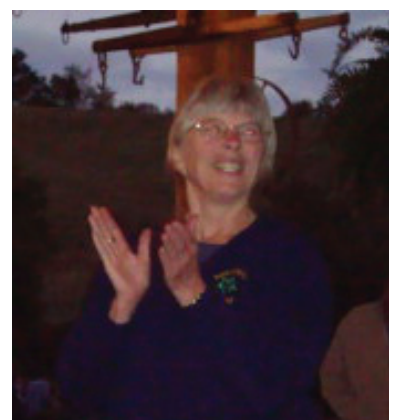
#5 was that there was live music (guitars, violin, etc.)

#6 was that there was square dancing after dinner in the barn! For everyone – not just the "pros" but the amateurs, too.

#7 was that this is a long-standing tradition and people came from far away to enjoy an evening like this. In this rural area, getting nearly 200 people together is a major accomplishment. The town where we live (Shade Gap) has a population of about 100. This was one town over.

It was so much fun that I had to write about it. Normally you don't see this sort of thing on the front-page of a newspaper but, with the world changing so fast, collapsing in many ways, and the prevailing wisdom being that neighborhoods and families need to be strengthened again, this seemed like a great editorial-type article for me to share with you all.

When we arrived at 5:15, the tables were set up in the barn for food and people were dropping off their contributions to the meal – casseroles,



The publisher having some fun.

salads, desserts, chips, etc. Our host hadn't mentioned the potluck aspect of it all. He just wanted us to feel free to show up so that's what we did.

Outside, picnic tables were set up on the lawn. There were about 100 people there and more were coming; they ended up with at least 156 people – I know because I saw the guest book. By 6:00 the meat in the large

See **Party** on page 16

Learn, Feel, Think and Act

Try Grassroots Activism – It's Fun!

From Endgame by Derrick Jensen (2006)

Here, once again, is the real story. Our self-assessed culpability for participating in the deathly system called civilization masks (and is a toxic mimic of) our infinitely greater sin. Sure, I use toilet paper. So what? That doesn't make me as culpable as the CEO of Weyerhaeuser and to think it does grants a great gift to those in power by getting the focus off them and onto us.

For what, then, are we culpable?

Well, for something far greater than one person's work as a technical writer and another's as a busboy. Something far greater than my work writing books to be made of the pulped flesh of trees.

Something far greater than using toilet paper or driving cars or living in homes made of formaldehyde-laden plywood. For all of those things we can be forgiven because we did not create the system and because our choices have been systematically eliminated (those in power kill the great runs of salmon, and then we feel guilty when we buy food at the grocery store? How dumb is that?). But we cannot and will not be forgiven for not breaking down the system that creates these problems, for not driving deforesters out of forests, for not driving polluters away from land and water and air, for not driving moneylenders from the temple that is our only home. We are culpable because we allow those in power to continue to destroy the planet.

Yes, I know we are more or less constantly enjoined to use only inclusive rhetoric but when will we all realize that war has already been

declared upon the natural world and upon all of us and that this war has been declared by those in power?

We must stop them with any means necessary. For not doing that we are infinitely more culpable than most of us – myself definitely included – will ever be able to comprehend.

To be clear: I am not culpable for deforestation because I use toilet paper. I am culpable for deforestation because I use toilet paper and I do not keep up my end of the predator-prey bargain. If I consume the flesh of another I am responsible for the continuation of its community. If I use toilet paper, or any other wood or paper products, it is my responsibility to use any means necessary to ensure the continued health of natural forest communities. It is my responsibility to use any means necessary to stop industrial forestry.

The next characteristic of abusers is that they get upset easily. They're hypersensitive, and the slightest setback is seen as a personal attack. Much of the reason for this has to do with the fourth premise of this book, that violence in our culture flows only one way. This is true not only for violence but for all control, all initiative. Those on top are allowed to have control and initiative. Those below must have them only insofar as control and initiative make them more effective proxies of those above.

Any breach of this etiquette must be dealt with swiftly, surely, and completely, so the hierarchy can remain seamless, safely unacknowledged, hidden from the pos-



sibility of change by either victim or perpetrator. That this is as true on the larger social scale as it is on the more personal or familial should be obvious but I'll provide a couple of quick examples.

Just last night I spoke with a group of students from San Marcos High School in Santa Barbara, California. The kids were delightful, intelligent, passionate and defiant.

One told me she had asked the school's administration for permission to put up posters containing these words from the Declaration of Independence: "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends [Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness], it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it." Far from rewarding her interest in history and politics (Who says kids these days don't know important historical documents?), administrators not only denied her request but threatened her with "forced transfer" to another

school should she post them anyway.

She asked my advice.

I suggested that since her request had already identified her to authorities, other students should put up the posters. Another student objected to this, saying that many students had already been threatened with expulsion.

"Why?"

She answered that they'd planned a one-period walkout to protest a school policy of administrators giving students' names and phone numbers to military recruiters. Teachers had infiltrated the organization planning the walkout, she'd said, under the guise of being advisors. When students rejected the teachers' advice to limit their protest to writing letters for the administration to ignore, teachers and administrators stood as one, telling students they'd be expelled if they walked out of any classes.

I told these kids I was proud of

them and that I was glad they had at such a young age experienced participatory democracy in action.

I wish I'd have told them another idea I had for the posters but this didn't occur to me until much later: that they form alliances with students at other schools, so that other students put up posters of resistance at this school and these students put them up elsewhere. Not only would this lessen the easy power of the administrators to harm those who speak out but, more importantly, it would begin to make networks of organized resistance, cadres for the revolution we so desperately need.

No matter what they felt in their hearts, the teachers had probably been in a very bad position. My understanding of the school climate was that, had they not gone along with this silencing of dissent, they could have lost their jobs. That's one of the ways the system works. If I complain about a woman in a uniform putting her hand in my pants, I miss my flight, and possibly get arrested. If these teachers do not stifle dissent, they possibly get fired.

This statement of course does not excuse their actions but merely helps us understand them. Or maybe they had their actions fully rationalized, as presumably did the administrators.

The slightest real dissent – that not confined to places, times and means designed or approved by those in power – must be perceived by those in power as an attack on the legitimacy of their rule.

Probably because it is. It's a wondrous thing to get up off your knees, to stand again (or

for the first time) on your hind legs, to say "Fuck you" – classes in "verbal nonviolence" notwithstanding – or to say "You have no right" or "No" to those in power, to choose where, when and how you will express yourself; where, when and how you will fight back; where, when and how you will defend what and whom you love against those who exploit and destroy them.

You should try it some time. It's really fun.

Email from Derrick

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

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

Most of the important things in life – the things we truly desire, such as love, joy and beauty – lie in a realm beyond the economic.

What we do not recognize is how economics has become the destroyer of our hopes. It is economic tyranny that cuts off our view of a better future.

From "No, Higher Consciousness Won't Save Us" by Norman Solomon, truthout.org; submitted by Kim Stenley, Taneytown, Maryland.

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Global in Scope, "Down-Home" in Nature

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Publisher/Editor: Iona Conner

Publishing Partners: Kim Stenley, Sally Klein

Layout/Design: Katherine Lukaszewicz, Arikia Millikan, Kim Stenley, Jennifer Michalak

Printing: ATJ Printing, Inc., Huntingdon Pennsylvania, a family-owned business using 50% recycled paper and soy-based inks.

Subscriptions: \$25 for 6 to 12 issues; \$60 international.

Circulation: 1,000 hard copies per month plus the paper is published on www.theorderoftheearth.com. We are linked with several sister groups and have more than 100 people on our elists. Our newspapers have traveled to 27 states plus the District of Columbia, as well as Canada, Italy, Australia, Sweden, Jamaica, Germany and Korea. We also send complimentary copies to contributors wherever they live if they want them.

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We are a non-profit 501 (c)(3).

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

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

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

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

Masthead: We say "Volume 10" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name ten years ago. In 1995 she wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion of that work. The masthead photo is a sunrise from a mountaintop on the way to the Pennsylvania Turnpike from Shade Gap 12/11/08.

Most High's Council of Elders

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

DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS: 10TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

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

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I no longer believe we can use
the system to change the system.
Let it all fall apart.

I no longer want to live in their world
so I must create/find my own.

--- Kim Stenley, Taneytown MD

Gas Drilling News



Food that's not grown with organic methods may be sprayed with toxic sludge.

How Slop from Natural Gas Fracking Could End Up in Your Food

Sewage sludge, a common farm fertilizer banned in organic farming, could be laced with toxic chemicals from natural gas drilling.

Submitted by Bill Boteler
Takoma Park, Maryland

By Leah Zerbe
Rodale News

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

In the immediate, buy organic. Beyond that, push your reps to support the FRAC Act and a moratorium until hydraulic fracturing is proven safe.

RODALE NEWS, EMMAUS, Pennsylvania — Here's an unappetizing reality of our food production system: Today's farming practices include the application of sewage sludge (muck that's left over after wastewater is treated); it can be sprayed all over food crops and on the crops grown for animals that we go on to eat. This practice in and of itself is causing problems with soil contamination and is even blamed for "farm deaths" down South. But now, there's a new addition to the toxic burden of the sludge as a result of the race to build thousands of natural gas drilling wells across the country. This "fracking" (hydraulic fracturing) technology is all over the news for creating pollution, such as flammable, methane-laced tap water; explosions in state forests; air pollution and a laundry list of other ills.

Now food contamination (through sewage sludge, air pollution and leaks) and farm destruction are on the growing list of potential fracking problems. "On the Marcellus Shale issue, there's been an underwhelming response by elected officials to look out for the health and safety of our citizens," says sewage sludge expert Darree Sicher, founder of the United Sludge-Free Alliance. She's especially passionate about keeping fracking out of the Delaware River watershed in the East, which supplies clean water to New York City and Philadelphia — nearly 16 million people. "Don't live over the shale? Doesn't matter," she says. "Forty percent of the U.S. population is within a one-day drive of Pennsylvania and the Delaware River."

THE DETAILS: There's no doubt some of the harmful elements found in sludge wind up in (not just on) our food. A group of scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently studied 26 farms in Virginia that had been treated with sludge (the industry prefers the more benign-sounding term "biosolids") and found that it takes more than a year for triclosan (a harmful antimicrobial chemical found in antibacterial soaps, toothpaste and products marketed as being treated with Microban) to break down in the soil. During that year, farmers are growing food crops in antibacterial-laced soil, thanks to the triclosan that washes down our drains and ends up in sewage sludge. Two other 2010 studies found that plants actually take up shampoo chemicals and harmful antibacterial agents.

WHAT IT MEANS: On top of the already toxic mix found in sewage sludge, there's the potential for wastewater-treatment plants to process fracking fluid, which includes more than 200 chemicals (many neurotoxic and hormone disruptors; some carcinogens). Not to mention the possibility of harmful heavy metals, some radioactive, coming up with the fracking wastewater from deep in the earth. Most contaminants would go undetected: The EPA only requires the testing of nine elements in sewage sludge. And while landfills test for radioactive elements in sludge they receive, the sludge some conventional farmers dump on our food fields is not tested for this, explains Sicher, who notes that 65 percent of sludge in this country goes to land use like farming, or is bagged and sold or given away as compost or fertilizer.

How to Protect Our Food Chain from Harmful Chemicals

- **Demand organic.** Join the Demand Organic movement to preserve the soil that supplies us with healthy food. Sludge is banned in organic agriculture, as are chemical pesticides that can be taken up in the plants we eat.
- **Force the FRAC Act support.** Demand that your federal legislators support the FRAC Act, which would at least restore some of the public-health laws that the natural gas industry is currently exempt from following. If there's drilling in your state, form a community group, just as the Damascus Citizens have done in Pennsylvania.
- **The Energy Justice Network** is a grassroots organization that helps local groups threatened by polluting energy and waste technologies to develop a plan of action to keep their communities safe.

• **Be wary of what you put down the drain.** Ideally, this country would follow in the steps of European countries and separate human waste from industrial and hospital waste. But in the interim, select the products you use to clean and bathe carefully because they can wind up in the next (nonorganic) tomato you eat!

FROM A N.Y. ANTI-FRACKING ACTIVIST

Hi,

I am a member-leader of DRAC, Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition, one of the many locally-based groups that has sprung up across the Marcellus Shale region of southern New York State, all working to prevent this monster from marching across the border from Pennsylvania into New York; however I think that the monster has already arrived, sucking water out of under-protected New York state creeks and lakes and exporting it to Pennsylvania for fracking uses.

On the wider stage, many well-informed and expert people can state that hydrofracking should probably be a banned practice everywhere; but it became prominent as an experimental, untested, unregulated energy technology during the Bush-Cheney era — and, as we are seeing in many arenas of American life, it is hard to stuff that geni back into the bottle.

Areas of Wyoming, Texas, Colorado, and Pennsylvania have been devastated by this practice in its unchained rampant capitalist, largely-unregulated form. Hydrofracking is quietly in use in West Virginia and Kentucky and other areas that have never had much in the way of effective protections against bad mining and drilling practices. (I lived and worked in Kentucky from 1992-2009 and have many fine connections in the area.)

Bill Belitskus of the Allegheny Defense Project and I are allied across space via email and interlocking listservs and we are members of some of the many groups that have sprung up over the past couple of years. Here are some links from my region of the southern tier of New York State:

- <http://www.shaleshock.org>
- <http://www.tcgasmag.org> (my favorite)
- <http://www.rouse-tc.org>
- <http://draconline.wordpress.com>

Excellent journalism from Sue Heavenrich is at: <http://marcelluseffect.blogspot.com>.

This is just the tip of the iceberg of info and organizations and efforts.

Hilary Lambert
Ithaca/Dryden New York

Hydrofracking Update

By Hilary Lambert

During the past year, Network News has provided updates about the hydrofracking issue, aka "Not your grandfather's gas drilling." Conventional natural gas wells are a familiar sight in the Cayuga Lake watershed, especially in Cayuga County, where fields are dotted with small concrete pads containing machinery. Drillers aim for gas-containing voids in the rock below, draw gas up to the surface and truck it away. While fracking was and is sometimes used in those wells, the impacts to property, air and water quality have been less evident from this method over the years than with the newer high-volume hydraulic fracturing.

This "extreme" hydrofracking requires much more land, water and chemicals, with the resulting potential for greater environmental impacts. In the Marcellus Shale region, the rock is rich in natural gas which is firmly fixed into the rock pores.

A gas well is drilled down to the shale, first vertically and then horizontally, to maximize the amount of shale available. Explosive charges are set off, starting at the far end of the pipe, to fracture the rock. Engineers then inject large amounts of water (2-9 million gallons per frack) mixed with sand and chemicals, to hold the fractures open and facilitate retrieval of the gas. Following a frack, about half of the fracking fluid remains in the ground and the rest returns to the surface along with the gas. This "flowback fluid" must be stored and disposed of safely, as it now contains toxic frack chemicals and may have picked up naturally-occurring radioactivity and chemicals from the rock.

The new gas fracking wells each cover 5-15 acres, require heavy-use access roads and pipelines and are a hive of around-the-clock activity, with water and chemicals trucks, generators, diesel engines, lights, etc. This activity is presently outside the control of the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act and Clean Drinking Water Act, due to language exempting gas and oil drilling and operations inserted into the 2005 Energy Bill by the Bush-Cheney Administration.

Water Quality and Quantity Concerns and Questions

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's concerns about fracking are focused on both water quality and water quantity issues. Major water quality questions and concerns: How would flowback fluid be stored, treated and disposed of? How would the construction of 5-15 acre concrete pads, with heavy truck traffic, road and pipeline construction — accompanied by logging and engineering alterations — affect stormwater runoff and quality? How would the quality of streams, creeks, headwater areas, wetlands, ponds and Cayuga Lake be affected by these proposed massive changes across our region's landscape? How would spills be handled? Accidents, inevitable in large-scale mining, would have unavoidable and long-term impacts on surface and groundwater.

Major water quantity questions include: If one frack at a single well requires between 2-9 million gallons of water, billions of gallons of water will be needed for fracking if and when permitting of these gas wells begins in New York State. Where will that water come from? Presently, there are no state or federal controls over water withdrawals from the Cayuga Lake watershed, which is part of the larger Oswego/Finger Lakes watershed (see map of New York State watersheds), itself part of the larger Great Lakes Basin. Other major basins in the Marcellus Shale region of New York are the Susquehanna and Delaware basins, each overseen by its own regulatory basin agency.



Photo by Andrew Harrer/Bloomberg via Getty Images

The Patterson-UTI Drilling Company LLC horizontal drilling rig in Chartiers Township, Pennsylvania on April 9, 2010.

Do 'Environmental Extremists' Pose Criminal Threat to Gas Drilling?

By Abraham Lustgarten

ProPublica, September 8, 2010

As debate over natural gas drilling in the Marcellus shale reaches a fever pitch, state and federal authorities are warning Pennsylvania law enforcement that "environmental extremists" pose an increasing threat to security and to the energy sector.

A confidential intelligence bulletin sent from the Pennsylvania Department of Homeland Security to law enforcement professionals in late August says drilling opponents have been targeting the energy industry with increasing frequency and that the severity of crimes has increased.

It warns of "the use of tactics to try to intimidate companies into making policy decisions deemed appropriate by extremists" and states that the FBI — the source of some of the language in the Pennsylvania bulletin — has "medium confidence" in the assessment. A spokesman for the FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The advisory, a copy of which was obtained by ProPublica, doesn't cite the specific incidents causing concern. It is also unclear from accounts from state law enforcement officials whether the incidents in Pennsylvania posed a substantial threat or what effect the advisory might have on public gathering and the debate over drilling in the state.

Pennsylvania State Police said there have been only a few isolated crimes involving drilling facilities. "We haven't had any incidents of any significance to date where we have identified a problem or any environmental extremists," said Joseph Elias, a captain with the Pennsylvania

State Police Domestic Security Division, which was not involved in issuing the bulletin.

An aide to Governor Ed Rendell — speaking on behalf of the state's Homeland Security Office — said the advisory was based on five recent vandalism incidents at drilling facilities, including two in which a shotgun was reportedly fired at a gas facility.

"All this security bulletin does is raise awareness of local officials. It doesn't accuse anyone of local activity," said the spokesman, Gary Tuma. "Where the professionals detect a pattern that may pose a threat to public safety, they have a responsibility to alert local law enforcement authorities and potential victims."

Anti-drilling activists in the state say that public hearings and other events have been peaceful and that they see no evidence of violent opposition. Given the lack of evidence about "extremist" crimes, they say, the bulletin casts drilling opponents as criminals and threatens to stifle open debate.

"It may very well be designed to chill peoples' very legitimate participation in public decision making," said Deborah Goldberg, an attorney with EarthJustice, a national group pressing for stronger environmental protections. "If people who have concerns fear that they are going to be treated as a security threat they may very well be afraid to go and express their views."

The advisory lists a series of public hearings on drilling permit issues across the state as potential flash points. It also mentions a September 3rd screening of the anti-drilling film "Gasland" in Philadelphia that went off without incident. Language describes "environ-

mental activists and militants" on one side of the debate and "property owners, mining and drilling companies" on the other.

Finally, the bulletin groups the public hearings and film screening with protest rallies for anarchist clubs focused on "evading law enforcement" and with a Muslim advocacy group's rally for the release of suspects in an alleged terror plot at Fort Dix, N.J. The advisory was sent to state law enforcement and local government groups, as well as businesses with a specific concern addressed in the bulletin. It was not intended to be distributed to the public.

In issuing such an advisory, the government has to walk a fine line between the need to respect the fundamental rights of freedom of speech and the need to keep the public safe, said Nathan Sales, an assistant law professor at George Mason University and a former policy development staffer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"The question is how to accomplish the one with minimal consequences to the other," he said.

A pro-drilling group, the Marcellus Shale Coalition, characterized the vandalism in Pennsylvania as "directed at preventing our industry from safely delivering these resources to Pennsylvanians."

The group's president, Kathryn Klaber, said she supported civil debate over drilling, "but to the extent they go in the other direction, and potentially devolve in a manner that undermines our ability to keep our folks safe, then we will have a problem," she said.

Dimock, PA to Get Public Water Battle Just Beginning: Change of "Control" Elections Weeks Away

By Mike Benard



Residents of Clearville and Hickory, Pennsylvania hold up signs at DEP press conference in Dimock, Pennsylvania.

Secretary John Hanger, head of the Pennsylvania DEP, announced at a press conference there that the state will authorize construction of a public water line to replace contaminated well water in Dimock and seek recovery of the cost of that pipeline from Cabot Oil & Gas of Houston, Texas, the gas company responsible for the contaminated water.

We attended the press conference. Check out the post at this link: Dimock PA! — <http://www.spectraenergy-watch.com/blog/?p=832>

Dimock is described as, "symbolic in the debate over the safety of the natural gas drilling process known as fracking." The symbolism of Dimock and the significance of a state regulatory agency requiring a gas company to pay for a public water line into a community in order to replace contaminated well water may be without precedent.

But will November elections change the outcome? Dimock residents know this battle isn't over yet and Cabot has launched a counter offensive.

Cell Phone Towers

German Study Confirms Dose-Response Relationship to Cell Phone Radiation

FCC Secretly Changes Cellphone Safety Guidance

By Cecilia Kang
Washington Post, September 30, 2010

The Federal Communications Commission has changed its guidance to cell-phone users worried about the health effects of wireless devices, dropping a long-standing recommendation that concerned consumers purchase phones with lower levels of radiation emissions.

The move comes amid a growing debate over cell-phone safety and coincides with efforts in some jurisdictions – most notably San Francisco – to require wireless providers to more clearly state the radiation emissions of the phones they sell.

The revisions were made last week, without any formal announcement, to a consumer fact sheet posted on the FCC's Web site. Consumer advocates criticized the agency for what they called a lack of transparency.

"A secretive change like the one that was just made raises questions of collusion with industry and does not help make the change credible," wrote wireless industry consultant Michael Marcus in a blog on Public Knowledge, a public interest site.

An FCC representative declined to comment.

In its revised guidance, the FCC said that data on a phone's radiation emissions is not a useful gauge of the risk posed by any device. The updated language omitted a previous suggestion that users buy phones with lower specific absorption rates (SAR), a measure of the rate of radio-frequency energy absorbed by the human body. The FCC now says that any phone approved by the FCC has passed its absorption tests and is safe.

Scientists are mixed on the effects of cell phone radio frequencies on human tissue. Some say that heavy users could have higher exposure and be at greater risk for brain cancer. Others say that children, with thinner skulls, are at a greater risk for tissue changes that can lead to cancer. But leading health groups, including the World Health Organization, say there is not enough evidence to reach that conclusion.

"The FCC requires that cell phone manufacturers conduct their SAR testing to include the most severe, worst-case (and highest power) operating conditions for all the frequency bands used in the USA for that cell phone," the agency wrote on its consumer and governmental affairs section of its Web site on September 20.

The FCC's new stance corresponds with the cell-phone industry's arguments against San Francisco's ordinance and similar proposals elsewhere. The wireless trade group CTIA has said that phones with a specific absorption rate of 1.0 are not necessarily safer than devices with a rate of 1.6 – the national limit – and said that how a phone is used is a more meaningful gauge.

Specific Health Symptoms and Cell Phone Radiation in Germany

By Horst Eger and Manfred Jahn

[Ed.: There are numerous charts in this report which you might want to look at. Also, remember that "m" means meter. To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.281.]

In January 2009 the administration of the Bavarian municipality of Selbitz gathered relevant data from 251 residents as part of a health survey. Subsequently, the data were assessed based on the exposure levels of cell phone radiation.

In a next step, the exposure levels based on residential location and available radio frequency (RF) measurements of local cell phone radiation levels were used to classify participants into exposure groups.

The mean radiation exposure level of the highest exposure group in Selbitz (1.2 V/m) was substantially higher than that of the study population in the QUEBEB study (1) of the German Mobile Phone Programme (mean value 0.07 V/m). For such symptoms as sleep problems, depressions, cerebral symptoms, joint problems, infections, skin problems, cardiovascular problems as well as disorders of the visual and auditory systems and the gastrointestinal tract, a significant dose-response relationship was observed in relation to objectively determined exposure levels. The impact of microwave radiation on the human nervous system serves as an explanation.

Carried out without outside funds, the study presented here provides a protocol concept that allows physicians and municipalities to cooperate and assess the potential human health impact of cell phone base stations located within residential areas.

In Upper Franconian Selbitz, the municipality collaborated with local medical offices whereby two separate data sets – a general health survey and available RF measurements—were used to correlate gathered symptom scores with independently available RF emission measurements of relevant cell phone radiation.

Materials and Methods

Selbitz in Upper Franconia is located in the northeast of Bavaria, Germany, having a total population of 4,644 (2,171 male and 2,473 female) on December 31, 2008.

Cell phone coverage is available across the entire municipality. In the center, cell phone transmitters of two service providers are located in the street Feldstraße 28 and the installation of a third telecommunication service provider is located in the street Burgstraße 26a.

As part of a survey in 2009, Selbitz municipality sent standardized health questionnaires by mail to 1,080 persons within the municipality and surrounding areas. The participants were aware that they could receive a questionnaire when they lived within a 400-meter radius of the cell phone base station at Feldstraße 28 or also outside of this radius. There were no personal interviews. A total of 88 sets of information on health symptoms were gathered, using a quantitative scale of zero to five. The symptom groups based on clinical entities were summarized as clusters for the assessment All participants who returned

their questionnaires were classified into groups based on their residential address. The circles drawn in the map at the right show distances of 100 m (meters), 200 m, 300 m, or 400 m from the two cell transmitters installed on the building of Feldstraße 28, identifying the groups 1 to 4. One control group (group 5), which can be classified as low-emission, includes participants outside the 400-m radius directly in Selbitz and also from surrounding areas that are further away from the municipality.

According to the elevation map, the landscape around the transmitter is level toward the west and east, gently rises toward the north, and declines with 7° to 9° toward the south.

The cell phone facilities of the service providers are located at a height of 19.20 m, 20.20 m, and 23.50 m above ground with the actual transmitters at 19.35 m and 22.70 m. The down tilt of the transmitters is given with 8°. The frequency ranges used are at about 940 MHz and 1850 MHz.

Under these conditions, the area where the main beam touches the ground is located almost 200 m away from the transmitters. Within the 200-m radius additional side lobes are to be expected...

Results

A total of 255 persons above the age of 18 participated in the survey; four questionnaires could not be evaluated. This corresponds with a response rate of 23% from 1,090 questionnaires sent out. In total, the groups 1 to 4 close to the transmitter had a response rate of 22% and the control group's rate was 27%, thus displaying no significant difference in the response rate.

For all participants the gender ratio of 43% male and 57% female applies, which roughly corresponds with the ratio of the statistically registered inhabitants of Selbitz with 47% male and 53% female.

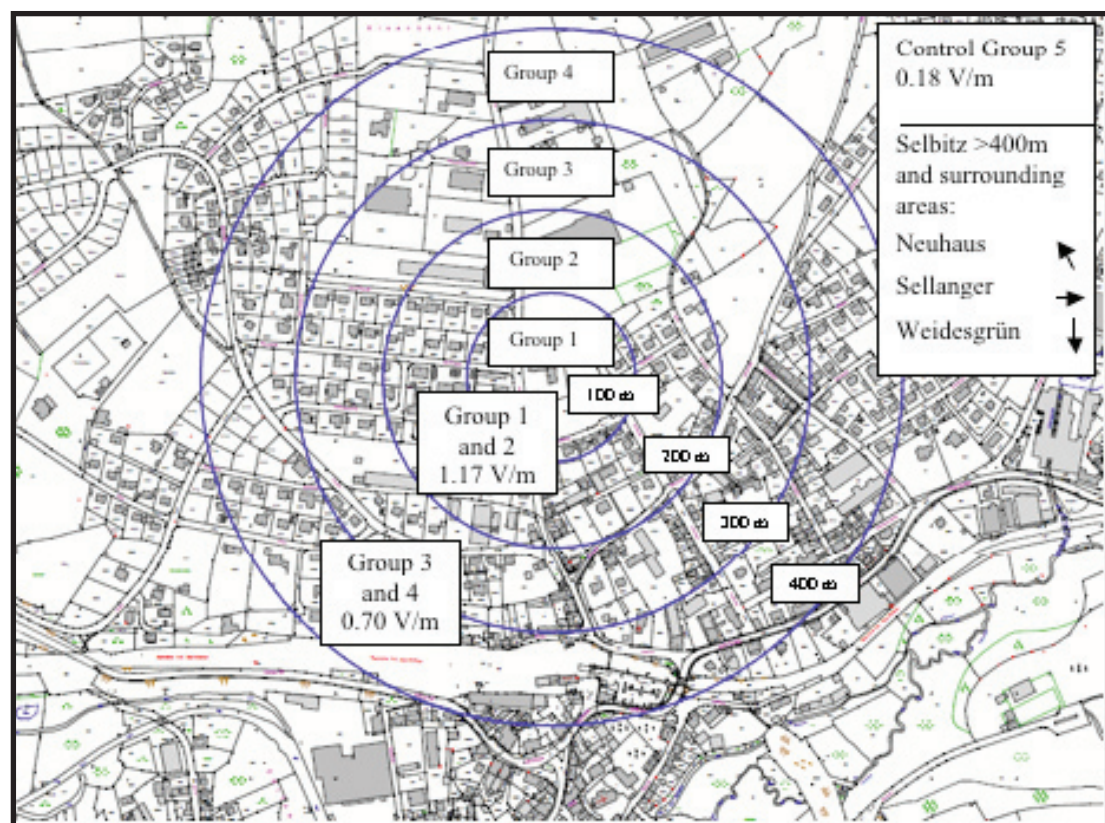
For groups 1 through 4, the control group 5, and persons in Selbitz from the age of 18, the average age is 54.5, 52.0 and 53.5 years. The age distribution in 5-year increments corresponds with the total population in Selbitz. The survey participants, thereby, represent an age-representative sample of the total population of all inhabitants of Selbitz from age 18.

Within the 400-m radius around the transmitter, a higher symptom rate could be documented for 14 out of 19 symptom groups in the highest exposure groups 1 and 2 close to the transmitter compared to groups 3 and 4 further away from the transmitter. The difference is statistically significant.

In comparison to the control group, significant ($p < 0.01$, t-test) differences were found for the following symptom groups in the four exposure groups 1 to 4 located close to the transmitter: sleep problems, symptoms of depression, cerebral symptoms, joint problems, infections, skin problems, cardiovascular problems, disorders of the visual and auditory system as well as hormone system and also gastrointestinal problems. The control symptoms "toothaches" and "bedwetting" were not significant.

An overview of the documented mean values for all 19 symptoms or symptom scores is shown in Figure 4. The highest mean values are found mostly in the two highest exposure groups 1 and 2.

The symptoms "toothaches" and "bedwetting" served as controls in order to validate with these radiation-independent



Source: With kind permission of Selbitz municipality

The map from the land title office shows in the center of the concentric circles the cell transmitters at Feldstraße 28 in Selbitz.

symptoms the plausibility of the participants' responses. There were no significant differences found for groups 1 and 2 in comparison to groups 3 and 4 or to control group 5, respectively.

In a second step, we investigated if, within the 400-m radius, documented symptom scores are related to the distance or measured exposure level.

In Figure 11 the mean values are shown, comparing group 1 and 2 to group 3 and 4.

Except for the symptoms toothache, hormone imbalance, weight gain, weight loss and bedwetting, significant differences were found ($p < 0.01$; t-test).

Among the study participants a significant dose-response relationship was found between the theoretically calculated or measured exposure level and the symptom score levels

Discussion

The presented results show a significant relationship between mean exposure levels of the study participants and reported health symptoms.

For the highest exposure group, the mean microwave exposure is given with a field intensity of 1.2 V/m. An additional question concerning the use of DECT phones at home revealed an additional background exposure level in all participating households.

The graphs show clear trends for decreasing symptom scores in relation to decreasing mean exposure levels caused by cell phone transmitter emissions.

The comparison with the national and international research to classify these results provides additional arguments for non-random relationships. . . .

In Germany where complete cell phone coverage is provided, the Federal Office for Radiation Protection (BfS) has received highly important information about the health problems affecting residents living next to cell phone base stations. In a meeting on August 2, 2006 in Neuherberg, strongly worded official medical reports were quoted that document problem situations in particularly highly exposed households

It has become known to industry that the health of their technicians is damaged.

There are already efforts under way to explore possibilities of how the electromagnetic pollution in wireless networks could be reduced. The reasoning for a patent filed in 2003 explicitly quotes evidence of damage in human DNA.

Since the 1960s long-term, nonthermal effects on the human central nervous system



It has become known in the industry that the health of their technicians is damaged.



Cell Phone Transmitters on Top of the Multistory building at Feldstraße 28, Selbitz, Upper Franconia, Bavaria, Germany.

have been causally linked to microwaves, ultrashort waves and shortwaves in several studies.

As part of a dissertation, Wenzel studied the health status of radio personnel in East German military forces and summarized his results in a report that was confidential until 1989. In comparison to a nonexposed group, he observed an increase in headaches, sleep problems, general fatigue, eye pain, stabbing pain in the chest, declining mental power, irritability, dizziness, tendency to sweat and visual problems. As a result of his findings, the inadequacy of the current exposure limits had already been pointed out in 1967.

The review of occupational surveys in the Soviet Union between 1960 and 1996, which had been carried out by Prof. Hecht on behalf of the Federal Office for Telecommunications, revealed causal links for microwave radiation as a stressor of the central nervous system.

In 1960 Iranyi et al. from Hungary reported for the first time in the Munich Medical Weekly Journal about a substantially increasing number of health problems in radio personnel of "modern" radio stations that had been validated by measurements and confirmed by medical doctors, including headaches, dizziness, tiredness, sleep problems, tremors and other symptoms. The symptoms occurred from field intensities above 3.8 V/m. There was no indication of simulated complaints. Because the symptoms occurred during their working hours and were associated with the number of years of employment, the authors concluded that there is a causal link

between symptoms and exposure levels.

In 1962 Miro found increasing cases of pain, dizziness, nausea, personality changes, weight loss, fever attacks with chilling and sweating and general fatigue in French radar personnel. The RF radiation exposure was at ca. 5 V/m.

In 1996 a study by the Swiss Federal Office of Energy around the shortwave transmitter at Schwarzenburg in Switzerland documented highly significant health problems in the civilian population regarding sleep problems, headaches, joint pain, fatigue and other symptoms. **In a blinded follow-up study, symptoms started to improve one day after the transmitter was turned off. (red bold added)**

In 2002 Santini et al. had also demonstrated a clear dose-response relationship for the following symptoms in the vicinity of French cell phone base stations: sleep problems, tiredness, fatigue, irritability, depression and other symptoms. **As a conclusion, it was recommended back then to install this type of transmitter no closer to residences than 300 m. (ditto)**

The occurrence of the symptom groups, sleep problems, depression, cerebral symptoms, infections, skin problems, cardiovascular problems, problems of the visual and auditory system as well as the gastrointestinal tract proved to be consistently and significantly higher in the exposed groups. As can be seen from the literature review, it has been known since the 1960s that RF electromagnetic fields and microwaves can trigger these symptoms

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Photo by John MacDermid

Police confront protesters Betty Krawczyk, left, and Harriet Nahanee on the Eagleridge Bluffs blockade, May 24, 2006. The next day, both women were arrested. Nahanee died shortly after her release from jail.

Injustice Toward 82-Year-Old Betty Krawczyk a Catalyst for BC Environmental Movement

By Rafe Mair

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada, September 26, 2010 (ENS) — Betty Krawczyk is a protester at the tender age of 82. Not long ago she was released from prison after serving 10 months for disobeying a court order.

How did this happen? Through an abuse of power arising out of the government decision to take the Sea-to-Sky Highway over the top of Eagleridge Bluffs, a move bitterly fought by residents to no avail. Betty was sent to prison for defying a court injunction to stay away from the area which was being bulldozed to widen the highway ahead of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Here's how the system "works." Betty, standing on public land, blocked machinery being used by Peter Kiewit & Sons, the huge construction company that for some reason does nearly all the government's construction projects, so Kiewit went to court to get an injunction ordering Betty to stay away.

Here's the flim-flam: This is a civil dispute but as soon as Betty disobeyed the injunction she was hauled up for criminal contempt of court. Betty was never permitted to discuss the merits of the construction decision by the provincial government led by BC Prime Minister Gordon Campbell — the only issue is whether or not she disobeyed the court order. All of a sudden Kiewit — and by extension the Campbell government — turned a civil dispute into a criminal case and this 79 year old (at the time) great grandmother was in the slammer for 10 months!

When Betty was finally released she launched an appeal because she thought the principle so important that she had to do so.

This past week her appeal was heard and the three judges concluded the proceedings with "judgement reserved" — meaning we will have to wait a little while longer to hear their verdict.

The Crown, on the instructions of the Campbell government, cross-appealed and asked the court to follow two cases, both concerning repeated violent pedophiles who raped their own children. One case is entitled Regina v. C.A.M and the other is R. v. M (in the BC Court of Appeal).

Betty Krawczyk is to be compared to serious and violent pedophiles and dealt with accordingly!

In R. v. M. one judge's opinion on the sentencing principle was: "When an accused has been convicted of a serious crime in itself calling for a substantial sentence and when he suffers from some mental or personality disorder rendering him a danger to the community but not subjecting him to confinement in a mental institution and when it is uncertain when, if ever, the accused will be cured of his affliction, in my opinion the appropriate sen-



Photo credit unknown

Betty Krawczyk addresses a crowd outside British Columbia Supreme Court, September 22, 2010.

tence is one of life."

Can you believe it? Based on brutal pedophilia cases Gordon Campbell and his Attorney-General have asked the court to raise Betty's sentence to LIFE IMPRISONMENT!!!

Nobody can be in any doubt as to the message here. This is intended to cow environmentalists into behaving themselves. Beware those who think they can speak freely and protest openly and effectively — we've a place for you and it's called jail. And if you really make a nuisance of yourselves jail can be forever. So, be warned!

This will have precisely the opposite effect. It will galvanize the environmental movement into a unity of purpose that will mean that activism will mean just that — supporting Betty and, more importantly, following her example.

Let me pause here and explain what I mean by the environmental "movement." It's far more than tree-huggers — though society owes them a huge debt of gratitude.

It's becoming mainstream British Columbians who, after a decade of being pushed around and lied to by the Pinocchio Campbell bunch, are fed up.

It's the jammed high school gymnasium in Pitt Meadows to protest the proposed damming of the Pitt River's tributaries.

It's the town of Kaslo who had more people turn up to protest a government/industry so-called hearing than there were people living in the town!

There is a sea change in the making here — the egregious environmental sins of this government are now becoming more and more apparent to people — good people — who want to trust their elected representatives but have been made fools of by doing it.

What Betty Krawczyk has done is show this government for what it is — arrogant and utterly dishonest. Her courage is a prism through which ordinary citizens can see the reality of the Campbell crowd. Those who doubted or didn't want to know what sort

of people these Liberals really are, look at them trying to throw an old lady in jail for life and all of a sudden what the environmental movement has been saying comes clearly into focus as the obvious truth.

Because of the courage of this incredibly gutsy lady, this government's attitude, so incredible as to be unbelievable, is now there for all to see.

What we must now do is very difficult but it will be done. We must all unite in a political action group as is common in the United States. I'm not talking about a coalition — that's impossible and not even a good idea. Each environmental group has its own special interest and that's how it should be.

What must happen is all these groups, very much including The Common Sense Canadian, must present a united — and there's no other honest word for it — attack on this government and make it clear that we will support no leader, no party, no candidate that will not express and put into action the ideals that we all believe in.

This cannot be simply a get-rid-of-Campbell exercise — though that's a hell of a good beginning — but a force to ensure that whoever replaces them clearly understands what the people of BC expect: the end of fish farms in our oceans, the end of paving over our farmland and wildlife preserves, the end of the destruction of our rivers and the end of killing the Fraser River because it's cheaper to get gravel there than mine it safely and ship it to where it's needed.

In short, Betty's courage is the catalyst by which British Columbians can take back their province, restore what can be restored and leave the rest intact for those yet to come.

Rafe Mair is a former BC Environment Minister, a Hall of Fame Broadcaster, and writer. This article was first published September 24, 2010 on Mair's Web site, The Common Sense Canadian.

Maryland Green Party U.S. Senate Candidate Dies in Bike Crash

UPPER MARLBORO, Maryland, September 21, 2010 (ENS) — The Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate in Maryland has died after being hit by an SUV while riding her bike in Prince George's County early Sunday morning.

Maryland State Police say Natasha Pettigrew, 30, died at Prince George's Hospital Center at 10:30 on Monday night.

While training for a triathlon, Pettigrew was riding her bike southbound along Route 202, just south of Campus Way in Largo, when a 2005 Cadillac Escalade, also headed south, struck her about 5:30 a.m. on Sunday, said Greg Shipley, spokesman for the Maryland State Police.

Pettigrew was on leave from her studies at the University of Miami Law School to run for the seat currently held by Senator Barbara Mikulski, a Democrat.

Police say the driver, Christy R. Littleford, 41, did not stop but continued on to her home about three miles from the scene of the accident, dragging Pettigrew's bicycle beneath her SUV.

Police say the driver thought she had hit a deer or a dog so she failed to stop. When she and her husband found the bicycle under their vehicle, they called Prince George's County police to report the crash. County police then transmitted the information to state police, who were already at the scene.

Pettigrew was not dragged by the SUV but suffered major injuries, Shipley said.

Maryland State Police say no charges have been filed. They are still investigating the collision and will forward the information they gather to the state's attorney's office.

"As a party, we have never experienced a sudden loss like this," Brian Bittner, Maryland Green Party co-chair said today. "We all looked forward to work-

ing with Natasha for years to come. Natasha was a bright, hardworking young woman who had talked to many Maryland voters as a candidate and meant much to many Marylanders as a person. She had incredible potential as a future leader for this party and this state."

Pettigrew became interested in politics because her family had endured financial hardships and she felt that public officials could have done more to help them, Bittner said.

After graduating from high school at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, Maryland, Pettigrew attended Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio where she

earned both a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology. In fall 2008, she entered the University of Miami School of Law in Florida.

"My sole interest in attending law school was, and is, to help others," Pettigrew wrote on her candidate Web site. "I would like to practice juvenile advocacy. However, the possibilities are endless in the field of public interest law."

"Natasha's intellect and charisma impressed everyone she met," said Karen Jennings, party co-chair. "We'll never know what great things could have come from this bright young woman."

Natasha's mother, Kenniss Henning, is going to take her



Photo courtesy of Maryland Green Party

Natasha Pettigrew after filing her candidacy documents at the Maryland State Board of Elections, July 2010.

place.

Here's her statement: "I dedicate my efforts as you dedicated yours, to the people. The race is already won; you have done so with much grace and elegance. I can think of no greater tribute to you and therefore, I accept the challenge to see this sprint to the end. Your passion for the people and your desire to inspire and to make change comes from deep within. I know that you learned much about social justice from me, hence we come full circle. I shall carry your message and continue to be a beacon of light reflecting hope for all.

Sadly Missed, Mommy

Philadelphia Activists Call for Independent Inquiry re: PA Homeland Security: Question Powers' Powers, "What's Ridge Got to Do With It?"

September 17, 2010 Press Release from Protecting Our Waters — "It's great that Governor Rendell is 'appalled' that Pennsylvania Homeland Security paid \$125,000 to track the activities of people who favor clean water, clean air and public health and safety. But being appalled is not enough," said Austin Kelley, an activist with Protecting Our Waters, a Philadelphia-based, all-volunteer group working to educate the public about the public health impacts of Marcellus Shale gas drilling.

"We call for a full investigation into exactly what happened, what role the gas industry played and who is accountable," said Kelley. "An independent inquiry should explore whether James Powers, director of PA Homeland Security, should be removed for mis-using taxpayer dollars to spy on legitimate activists or for supplying lists of our educational and advocacy activities to private companies drilling the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania for profit."

Ordinary citizens working for clean water and air, healthy communities and democratic process, found themselves identified as "extremist, militant, criminal" and other similar adjectives in at least one bulletin published by PA Homeland Security in late August. The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR), co-directed by Michael Perelman in Philadelphia, was paid \$125,000 by Homeland Security to gather information on citizens who advocate scientific study prior to unconventional gas drilling, who criticize industry practices or who seek to limit the industry's right to drill in sensitive areas.

Protecting Our Waters activist Amy Wilson added, "We must also ask: Why is PA Homeland Security suddenly so interested in delegitimizing clean water advocates armed with facts, scientific data and petitions? Could it have anything to do with former Homeland Security director Tom Ridge being hired to do public relations and lobbying for the Marcellus Shale gas industry for a hefty \$900,000? Is it just coincidence that these memos, undermining the democratic rights of public citizens with very mainstream concerns about clean water and clean air, came out less than thirty days after Ridge was hired by the Marcellus Shale Coalition (industry lobbyists) on July 30th?"

"The Marcellus Shale industry is paying big bucks to push their drill-hard-drill-fast-before-science-and-regulators-can-catch-up agenda in Pennsylvania," said Wilson. "Tom Ridge is their best PR tool right now and we have to wonder whether Ridge in turn used PA Homeland Security as a tool against clean water/public health advocates, as part of a public relations strategy to de-legitimize anyone who questions the industry."

The full accounting activists are calling for includes these questions:

- How did the \$125,000 contract come about in the first place?
- What role did Powers, PA Homeland Security Director, play?
- What role did the gas industry play?
- Were activists' identities revealed and, if so, to whom?
- Did, or does, Perelman, the "anti-terrorist" consultant hired to compile the list, have conflicts of interest? Does ITRR do other work for drilling companies?
- Was Tom Ridge involved in encouraging or otherwise suggesting that PA Homeland Security, or ITRR, should be involved in tracking activists?
- What exactly did Perelman do to gather his data, which was compiled with taxpayer money?
- Who will be held accountable?

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Bureau of Special Investigations might be suited to carry out such an inquiry. The OIG, according to its Web site, works to improve Pennsylvania's state government by investigating complaints on violations of laws, rules or regulations; abuse of authority; contract fraud and irregularities; employee misconduct and mismanagement of funds.

Austin Kelley, referring to the September 3rd GASLAND screening listed by Homeland Security as an event to monitor, commented, "Protecting Our Waters helped organize the outdoor screening as a way of informing our neighbors about a serious threat to our drinking water and to the beautiful land on which we live. We never expected — and never should

See **HOMELAND** next page

In the Market for Pollution – Selling the Blue Sky

Market for greenhouse gas emissions is a bazaar dependent on government regulations – but does it reduce emissions?

By David Biello
DailyClimate.org, September 8, 2010

Second of Three Parts

NEW YORK — There are any number of ways to make money trading, though some prefer the term gambling.

That's because the financial world is full of innovation these days – even in the wake of the Great Recession – which primarily means inventing new instruments to trade. One can still trade the mortgage-backed securities that helped derail the global economy or corporate debt repackaged as bonds. Enron helped pioneer the trade in "physical" electricity, actual power available for purchase on the grid and only physical in the sense that the infrastructure to transport it is more visible than an odorless, colorless greenhouse gas. Both are now lucrative markets but certainly electricity, despite its physics, is more stable.

So why would David Nussbaum, an unassuming middle-aged trader from New Jersey, switch from this steady market

to one that doesn't even really exist yet in this country or, more frequently, is completely voluntary? "People thought I was nuts," Nussbaum said. "I'm not a tree-hugger but this is something above and beyond just a financial transaction. It's reducing the world's carbon emissions."

Nussbaum has a chocolate bar on his desk wrapped in a fake \$1,000,000 bill. It's a payment from his boss at Evolution Markets for closing a deal that he didn't think could be done. And all the Blackberries, Etrali super-phones, laptops and monitors – a constant stream of communication and information – pale in significance to the most important trait a carbon broker can have: The ability to "smell BS" as Hochschild put it, even more important than speaking any of the multiplicity of languages carbon is traded in today.

"Agreeing on price, quantity and delivery is only half the battle," Nussbaum said. "The devil is in the details of these trades."

This market is uniquely dependent for its very existence on governments – and in the United States, the government appears divided on how to proceed. Different bills linger in the House of Representatives and Senate – with little chance of passage – while the EPA plods forward with regulations to cut CO₂ emissions. The EPA "doesn't know what's going to happen on cap-and-trade. The President doesn't even know," observed Lenny Hochschild, Nussbaum's partner in carbon at Evolution. "The hardest part is being reliant on a political process which doesn't appear to be incented towards what is good



for America. The single biggest problem is regulatory uncertainty." In other words, nobody knows what the rules of the game will ultimately be.

As goes the United States, so goes the global market. Nussbaum has a cartoon on his desk that neatly summarizes the problem. A bespectacled, gaunt U.N. negotiator says, "Avoiding climate change requires cooperation from everybody." His translator says: "We're screwed."

Or, as one broker who declined to be identified said: "It'd be nice to be in a market that's not created by a government."

Yet, the very complexity of the rules created by governments – whether the Clean Development Mechanism enshrined by the Kyoto Protocol, the fuel emission analyses in California's climate change law, or the arcane necessities of the 40-year-old Clean Air Act and its potential to impact on U.S. emitters of greenhouse gases – keep the brokers in business. No one can figure out what the rules are.

and a founding father of carbon markets, sold out for \$600 million this year. Brokerage CantorCO2e closed its U.K. carbon desk in July, consolidating those operations in the United States and effectively ending its physical presence in the world's most active carbon market, in Europe. "Carbon is a relatively small part of what we do in terms of revenue," said CantorCO2e CEO Josh Margolis. "Diversity is our friend."

And the U.N.'s Clean Development Mechanism market itself may come to an end in 2013 – bringing to a close the \$20.6 billion trade – without a new set of commitments by the global community on how to extend the Kyoto Protocol's provisions, according to the U.N.

A closer look at the primary U.S. effort – the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative of 11 Northeastern states – may clarify. Regular auctions to sell the right to pollute, or allowances, have netted nearly \$676 million for the states and emissions have dropped to roughly 120 million metric tons of CO₂ – 34 percent below the cap for 2009, according to a report from Environment Northeast. The price of an allowance is under \$2, hardly a massive economic burden on either electric utilities or electricity users.

Yet, there have been problems. Politicians, such as the governor of New York, have raided RGGI auction funds – supposed to be spent on energy efficiency improvements and rebates to electricity users – to remedy budget shortfalls. And the bulk of the emissions drop is not a consequence of a price on carbon or the cap – as theory would hope

– but rather a by-product of the mild winter in 2009 paired with a collapse in the U.S. economy – both of which reduce the demand for electricity and therefore the amount of CO₂ pumped out to create it.

The great-granddaddy of all emission markets – the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Acid Rain Program – shows how vulnerable such a trade can be to the whims of government. Thanks to regulatory reforms begun under the Bush administration beginning in 2005, that market has collapsed – with allowances that once traded for \$1,550 per ton in 2005 now trading for just \$10.

In the end, the only thing that matters is whether any carbon market actually reduces emissions of greenhouse gases. The answer so far: Not yet. The European emissions trading scheme (ETS), the largest in the world, "has reduced emissions by just 2 percent compared to the projected levels without ETS," according to a 2010 report from the U.S. Climate Task Force. "Moreover, if the effects of the 2008-2009 financial meltdown and recession are taken into account, the data show that the ETS has had little if any independent effect on European [greenhouse gas] emissions."

And that brings up a question cap-and-trade's critics love to ask: If it can't reduce emissions, what is a carbon market really for?

David Biello has covered the environment for more than a decade at publications from *Scientific American* to *Elle*. *DailyClimate.org* is a nonprofit news service covering climate change.

Homeland

Continued from previous page

have had to expect – that our government would put us on a terrorist watch-list for simply trying to inform our community about a vital public health concern.... We have every right to hold our government accountable, to insist that they uphold the Constitution and protect our civil liberties. It's not acceptable for government officials to actively side with the rich and powerful against the public interest."

The next major event Protecting Our Waters encouraged all Delaware River watershed residents to attend was Philadelphia City Council's September 28th public hearing about the economic and environmental impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling in the region. More information is available at www.protectingourwaters.com.

Background: In Philadelphia, citizens are pushing for a cumulative impact study to be done before gas drillers anywhere in the Delaware River watershed inject toxic chemicals underground, and before they pour hydrocarbons, toxins and methane emissions into the air as part of gas extraction. "We think science should guide policy and that's what the industry is calling 'dangerous,'" commented Wilson. Statewide, based on environmental damage so far, *Protecting Our Waters* joins 160 other organizations advocating for a moratorium on new drilling permits at least until the new EPA study on unconventional gas drilling's impacts on water and air is complete.

The Marcellus Shale industry aims to speed

up drilling before any major scientific study of this new, unconventional technology – which only began to proliferate in 2005 after the industry won exemptions from major federal environmental laws – is complete. The EPA study now being designed will take two years. But most Marcellus wells are depleted by 85% within two years, so, two years from now the "bust" part of the "boom" cycle may well be underway in some regions and much of the worst environmental damage already done. Once contaminated, watersheds cannot be fully restored. Restoration efforts, further, will be paid for by the public, while the profits remain private.

Iris Marie Bloom, Director, Protecting Our Waters; cell (215) 840-6489; protectingourwaters@gmail.com; www.protectingourwaters.com.

"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."

Teton Sioux

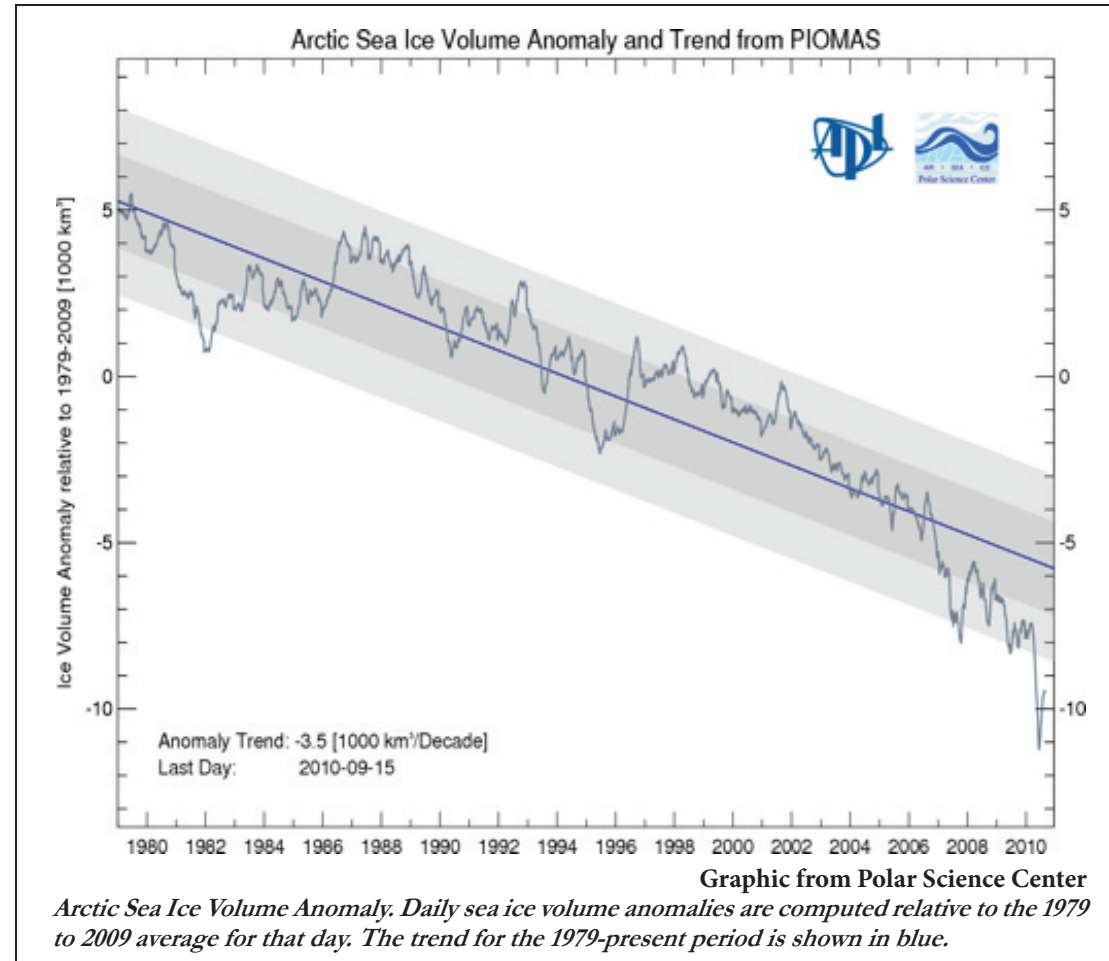
"A stream is not just a collection of resources for us to exploit but a community of which we are members. Beauty pulls us out of our individual selves and joins us with a world of immeasurable – and infinitesimal – things."

James G. Blaine

"Seeing the Whole River," Waterkeeper

Arctic

Continued from page 1



Graphic from Polar Science Center
Arctic Sea Ice Volume Anomaly. Daily sea ice volume anomalies are computed relative to the 1979 to 2009 average for that day. The trend for the 1979-present period is shown in blue.

Sea ice decline will be very difficult to reverse – even if greenhouse gas emissions are rapidly and significantly cut, a scenario that appears increasingly unlikely – since feedback effects help ensure that sea ice loss in the summer leads to warmer water and air temperatures and thinner ice in the fall and winter, which leaves more vulnerable ice head-

ing into the next melt season. The Real Climate blog has an excellent post on climate feedbacks that explains the ice-albedo feedback, which is one of the key ways in which a warming climate may propel a virtually self-sustaining loss of sea ice.

Some climate change contrarians, such as meteorologist Anthony Watts, instead promote

the idea that sea ice decline (along with the majority of recent warming in general) is primarily driven by natural ocean cycles, and that a cooler North Atlantic and Pacific Ocean could allow Arctic sea ice to recover. I find that argument to be highly dubious, based on a reading of the scientific literature and interviews with Arctic sea ice researchers.

Captain's Log: Expedition Report, 06.07 CEST (www.ousland.no/2010/09)

Today, on the 21st of September, we enter Lancaster Sound and reach the 74th parallel, considered by most as the exit (or entrance) to the Northwest Passage. We are proud of being the first sailing vessel, together with "Peter Ist," that ever has sailed through both the Northeast and Northwest Passage in one short Arctic summer. . . . We have met "Peter Ist" in several ports along the route. . . . On each occasion there has been a very good atmosphere between us. We certainly agree that we have become friends on this voyage and we have tried to help each other whenever we can. They gave us a wire to repair the forestay in Barrow and in Cambridge Bay and Pevek we shared with them our ice information and chart details.

In Cambridge Bay we proposed to Captain Dan and his crew that we should enter Pond Inlet together. We don't know if that will happen, since they apparently have turned on their powerful engine and are steaming east some hours ahead of us. Hopefully we will meet after all. Now we will get our new forestay in Pond Inlet and some small supplies, water for instance, and do the planned crew change. Eric, who has previously done both passages on the Vagabond, has been a tremendous capacity to have on board. He will change places with Trygve Rushfeldt, who is a long time multi-hull sailor from Norway.

Our expedition is one of the most environmentally friendly of its kind ever undertaken. We have used sail more than 90 percent of the time; only in between thick drift ice and in and out of harbours have we had some modest help from our small outboard motor. For the captain and crew of the "Northern Passage" this is not merely a question of a sports achievement – to complete both passages – Thorleif and Barge both have a strong environmental commitment and are particularly concerned with the ongoing climate changes.



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Heinz Family Foundation Awards \$1 Million to Environmental Innovators

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania, September 21, 2010 (ENS) — Teresa Heinz and the Heinz Family Foundation today announced the winners of the 16th annual Heinz Awards, honoring the contributions of 10 people whose work addresses environmental challenges. The Heinz Family Foundation, one of the Heinz Family Philanthropies, began as a charitable trust established by the late U.S. Senator John Heinz. His widow, Teresa, established the Heinz Awards in 1993 to honor and sustain the legacy of her late husband. Teresa Heinz is now married to U.S. Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts.

Each recipient received a cash prize of \$100,000 and a medalion inscribed with the image of Senator Heinz on one side and a rendering of a globe passing between two hands on the other.

"We're living in a time of unprecedented global change. Our planet is facing rising temperatures and our communities are affected by toxic chemicals that weren't on the market a hundred years ago," said Teresa Heinz, chairman of the Heinz Family Foundation. "We're recognizing innovators who are tackling some of the most vexing problems facing our planet."

The Heinz Awards annually recognize individuals creating and implementing workable solutions to the problems the world faces through invention, research and education, while inspiring the next generation of modern thinkers.

This year the awards honor individuals who are addressing global change caused by the impact of human activities and natural processes on the environment.

"Each of the awardees is distinguished not just by the impressive detail and scope of their work but also by their courageous willingness to communicate the implications of their work, often in the face of determined opposition," the foundation said in a statement. "This characteristic was highly prized by Senator John Heinz and, hence, the award program seeks to identify and honor it."

The winners are:
James Balog, Extreme Ice Survey, Boulder, Colorado: For his use of photography to document the devastation of global warming. Balog, a former global warming skeptic, is honored by the Heinz Awards for his pioneering photographic documentation of the effects of global warming worldwide. Using materials from his local hardware store, he adapted 39 Nikon cameras to take photos of glaciers around the world each hour of daylight.

More than 500,000 photographs from his Extreme Ice Survey illustrate the evidence of global warming over time, providing scientists with vital insight on glacial retreat. Balog is admired for his innovative approach to photography and risky maneuvers — from rappelling down crevasses to climbing icy precipices — to capture the perfect image.

Frederick vom Saal, Ph.D., University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri: For uncovering health problems linked to the chemical bisphenol A. Building upon an already distinguished career in basic reproductive biology, Dr. vom Saal discovered unexpected health problems linked to exposure to common chemicals in every day products such as bisphenol A (BPA), a widely-used ingredient in consumer products.

Dr. vom Saal's work has opened new questions about the safety of many chemicals in widespread use, which had been thought safe based on traditional methods used in toxicology. His research challenges health agencies around the world to use 21st century biomedical science in assessing the risks posed by environmental chemicals.

While some regulatory agencies have taken action, others have been slow to respond. The market, however, has moved quickly due to consumers demanding alternatives to materials that science reveals may be harmful.

Cary Fowler, Ph.D., Global Crop Diversity Trust, Rome, Italy: For establishing the Global Seed Vault to conserve genetic diversity of the world's food plants despite climate change. Dr. Fowler's work emphasizes that a lack in plant population diversity weakens food security. His efforts to conserve crop diversity, including the development of the Global Seed Vault — holding one-third of the world's seed varieties — are critical to preserving crop diversity as factors such as climate change and natural disasters threaten agriculture and its ability to feed humanity in the future.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is dug into a frozen mountainside near the village of Longyearbyen, in Svalbard, a group of islands 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) north of mainland Norway. The vault was officially opened on February 26, 2008, to serve as a safety net for plant diversity.

Terrence Collins, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: For using green chemistry to detoxify hazardous chemicals and training the next generation of scientists. Dr. Collins has a distinguished and unquenchable passion for training the next generation of scientists to combine the tools of chemistry with the knowledge of environmental health science so their work will reduce the use and generation of hazardous substances.

A professor at Carnegie Mellon University's Institute for Green Science, Dr. Collins and his research group have played a crucial role in inventing safe, sustainable ways to mitigate toxic waste and biological agents including anthrax. Throughout his scientific career he has demonstrated an informed willingness to challenge entrenched ideas and misguided conventional wisdom, guided by a sharp and intellectually rigorous focus on what is necessary to move chemistry toward a truly sustainable path.

Gretchen Daily, Ph.D., Stanford University and the Natural Capital Project, Stanford, California: For her achievements demonstrating the financial value of natural ecosystems. Dr. Daily works to protect and place a value on the services provided by natural ecosystems, which include climate stability, flood control, water purification, pollination and production of food.

Dr. Daily has shown important and unique global leadership in creating new tools and approaches for estimating the economic value of conservation, and for implementing these in key demonstrations around the world. With the Natural Capital Project, she has co-developed InVEST, a computer software program helping decision makers identify ecological assets with the highest financial value.

Dr. Daily's current work in China is helping to inform a \$100 billion investment in conservation, over 25 percent of the country's land area, to harmonize conservation and human development.

Daniel Sperling, Ph.D., University of California, Davis, California: For advancing sustainable transportation policies and accelerating the transition to low-carbon alternative fuels nationwide. Dr. Sperling has helped to revolutionize transportation and energy research through a unique academic approach that merges research, policy studies and entrepreneurship in pursuit of clean, equitable transportation options.

A professor and founding director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis, Dr. Sperling was instrumental in the passage of California's groundbreaking Low Carbon Fuel Standard, the first major regulation built on the concept of measuring greenhouse gases over a product or fuel's lifecycle, from production to end use. Dr. Sperling's most recent book, *Two Billion Cars*, has received international acclaim and demonstrates his ability to communicate complex topics in a

way that touches people and moves them to action.

Elizabeth Kolbert, The New Yorker, Williamstown, Massachusetts: For her groundbreaking environmental journalism and devotion to informing readers. Kolbert is honored for her steadfast, creative and challenging journalistic explorations of important environmental issues that are central to global change. Kolbert's investigations go beyond traditional reporting — even raising a hive of bees in her backyard to better understand their habits for a story about their mysterious disappearance.

Her skill for providing readers with intriguing narrative generates intense interest, grabs national attention and has inspired a movie. While reporting on topics such as Arctic ice caps and extinctions, she is frequently invited to speak at universities and serves as a guest editor for other publications.

Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D., Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey and New York, New York: For assessing the impacts of global warming and air pollution, and working for policies to prevent future harm. Long before global warming reached global prominence, he drew international attention to the issue by co-organizing workshops that helped precipitate the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Director of the Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy at Princeton, Dr. Oppenheimer was formerly chief scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund for 21 years. He is currently a lead coordinating author of the fifth assessment of climate change being prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scheduled for release in 2013-14, as well as on a special report on climate extremes and disasters.

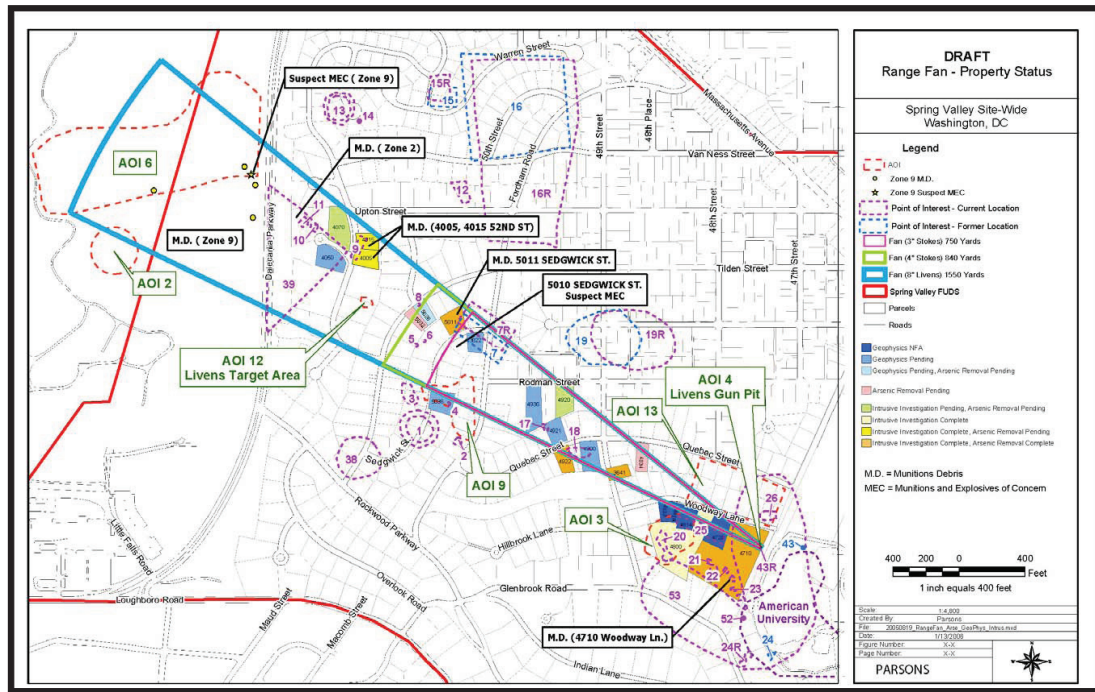
Dr. Oppenheimer has repeatedly demonstrated a commitment to help policymakers and the public understand climate science and the gravity of its implications.

Richard Feely, Ph.D., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, Seattle, Washington: For his extraordinary efforts in identifying ocean acidity as global warming's evil twin. Studying the world's oceans since 1974, Dr. Feely is recognized by the Heinz Awards for his extensive study of ocean acidification caused by rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. Logging over 1,000 days at sea and over 50 scientific expeditions, Dr. Feely's discoveries prove acidity levels are rising fast and represent a major challenge to the health of the oceans' food web.

Throughout his career, Dr. Feely has promoted improvements in public policy to protect oceans and marine ecosystems. His research documenting the pace and extent of acidification have brought this issue to worldwide attention and forced recognition of the fact that policy measures that only address global warming will fail to fully confront global change.

Lynn Goldman, M.D., George Washington University, Washington, D.C. and Silver Spring, Maryland: For promoting regulation of dangerous chemicals and expanding citizens' right to know about pollution in their communities. As a pediatrician and epidemiologist, Dr. Goldman saw children with preventable infectious diseases and lead poisoning and it inspired her to research and develop programs to stop negative health effects caused by chemical contaminants.

Appointed to the U.S. EPA, she strengthened regulations on pesticides and toxic substances and expanded citizens' right-to-know about pollution in their communities. Returning to academia after government service, she has carried out ground-breaking research on how chemicals affect newborn children. In August, she became dean of the School of Public Health and Health Services at George Washington University.



Graphic submitted by author
MLivens Range Fan, which stretches one mile from the high ground at American University to the low hills around Dalecarlia Reservoir.

Munitions Will be Destroyed Soon Behind D.C. Hospital

By Allen Hengst
 Washington, D.C., October 12, 2010

Munitions Investigation Next to Reservoir Nears Completion

Later this fall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plans to mobilize a Controlled Detonation Chamber (CDC) to the Spring Valley federal property to destroy the conventional munitions that were recovered during recent investigations at Spring Valley ... The destruction process begins by wrapping a donor explosive, or rolled sheet explosive, around the munition, placing the munition in the CDC, then closing and sealing the door. Once the door is closed, the donor explosive is remotely detonated ...

In addition to the inherent safety measures built into the detonation chamber, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to use sandbag barriers to ensure the safety of the workers and the surrounding community during the operation. The safety and setup plans are currently being reviewed by various organizations within the Department of Defense, as well as the Corps' regulatory partners.

Work is progressing on the geophysical investigation that began last summer of a 62-acre section of Dalecarlia Woods, located adjacent to the Dalecarlia Parkway. A portion of the site was used by the U.S. Army during World War I as a target/impact area and for possible munitions disposal ... ERT has completed the geophysical survey on about 70 percent of the survey area and plans to finish the geophysical data collection on the entire 62-acres by this fall ... "They are planning to begin the first 10 acres of the intrusive anomaly investigation of the woods by the fall of this year and complete the activity by the summer of 2011," said Lan Reeser, USACE design team leader.

CERCLA Feasibility Study Will Delay Pit 3 Dig at Least Nine Months

Progress was made this month in determining the next step in the administrative process for the Pit 3 Area property on Glenbrook Road. The USACE consulted with the Department of Army, District Department of the Environment and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a decision was made to begin a Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study is the part of the administrative Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA; aka Superfund) process in which there is a comprehensive review of all information and data generated to date at the property. In coming months, USACE will draft the Feasibility Study document for the Pit 3 Area property on

Glenbrook Road and will analyze all options for final cleanup of the property. A Proposed Plan containing potential options and the recommended approach for conducting the cleanup of the property will then be published and made available for public review and comment.

Sign Up for Guided Tours of Spring Valley FUDS

American University Experiment Station (AUES) Spring Valley guided tours provide context to better understand the issues surrounding this Formerly Used Defense Site [FUDS]. Tours focus on historical features of the American University Experiment Station, the current Army Corps of Engineers cleanup operations and residents' health problems. Tours are led by a former Restoration Advisory Board member and Spring Valley resident. Each tour takes approximately one hour. Small tour groups of five to 10 people allow for opportunities to ask questions. Participants see where testing occurred during WW I and where chemical munitions are being removed today.

There is no charge for the tours, but donations are appreciated to advance the work of the Environmental Health Group (EHG) to raise awareness and encourage a thorough investigation and cleanup. For more information contact wksla@aol.com.

DC-Area Residents Mark Your Calendars

1. Please join EHG for our weekly discussion of Spring Valley cleanup issues Saturdays at 1:00 pm in the cafe at Glover Park Whole Foods Market, 2323 Wisconsin Avenue, NW.
2. November 9: Next Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board monthly meeting at 7 p.m., Saint David's Church basement, 5150 Macomb Street, NW (one block north of MacArthur Boulevard). No meetings in December or August.



Exclusive: "Spring Valley Coverup" T-Shirts

These black T-shirts depict President Obama asking: "What about the other burial pits?" on the front with a U.S. flag and the words "Spring Valley Coverup" on the back. This T-shirt is available for \$20 in Medium, Large and Extra Large sizes. To order contact Allen Hengst at ahengst@rcn.com.

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Animals



Photo courtesy KDNG

Yuzana bulldozers turn Tiger reserve land into plantations.



Photo courtesy KDNG

Yuzana workers clear and burn in the tiger reserve.

World's Largest Tiger Reserve Clearcut for Plantations

YANGON, Myanmar, September 27, 2010 (ENS) — In August, Myanmar officials formally announced that the entire remote Hukawng Valley would be designated as a Protected Tiger Area. They trumpeted the creation of the world's largest tiger reserve in the valley in Kachin State, located in the northernmost part of the country, also called Burma.

The declaration was hailed by environmentalists around the world as a landmark in conserving the only 3,200 wild tigers left by protecting an area the size of Vermont.

But less than a month later, a report and video released by a network of civil society groups and development organizations in Kachin State shows that one of Myanmar's most powerful tycoons has been, and still is, clear-cutting forests across the tiger reserve to put in sugar and tapioca plantations and to plant jatropha for biofuel.

The report, "Tyrants, Tycoons and Tigers" by the Kachin Development Networking Group details how fleets of bulldozers and backhoes are razing forests and destroying animal corridors, leaving only the conservation signboards standing.

The Kachin Development Networking Group (KDNG) is a network of civil society groups and development organizations in Kachin State. KDNG's stated purpose is "to effectively work for sustainable development together with locally-based organizations in Kachin State. It's aim is to promote a civil society based on equality and justice for the local people in the struggle for social and political change in Burma."

"Today a 200,000-acre monocrop plantation project is making a mockery of the reserve's protected status," the report states.

"Fleets of tractors, backhoes and bulldozers rip up forests,

raze bamboo groves and flatten existing small farms. Signboards that mark animal corridors and "no hunting zones" stand out starkly against a now barren landscape; they are all that is left of conservation efforts," KDNG reports.

"Application of chemical fertilizers and herbicides together with the daily toil of over two thousand imported workers are transforming the area into huge tapioca, sugar cane and jatropha plantations," according to the report.

"In 2006 Senior General Than Shwe, Burma's ruling despot, granted the Rangoon-based Yuzana Company license to develop this "agricultural development zone" in the tiger reserve," KDNG states. "Yuzana Company is one of Burma's largest businesses and is chaired by U Htay Myint, a prominent real estate tycoon who has close connections with the junta."

The tiger reserve was established in 2001 with the support of the Wildlife Conservation Society based at New York's Bronx Zoo.

In 2004, the Myanmar government designated 2,500 square miles of the valley as a wildlife sanctuary, based on the first biological expedition into the area in 1999 led by Dr. Alan Rabinowitz, an American who is currently CEO of the wild cat conservation group Panthera, and staff from the Myanmar Forest Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society's Myanmar Program.

In August, 4,248 square miles was added to the reserve. "I have dreamt of this day for many years," Rabinowitz said at the time. "The strides we made in 2004 were ground-breaking but protecting this entire valley to ensure tigers are able to live and roam freely is a game changer. This reserve is one of the most important stretches of tiger habitat in the world and I am thrilled

that the people and government of Myanmar understand the importance of preserving it."

Rabinowitz said the unprecedented tiger reserve extension was enacted after Myanmar Prime Minister Thein Sein gathered 17 other Cabinet ministers to fly to the valley earlier this year to assess its conservation needs.

Clouded leopards, Asian elephants and some 370 bird species, including the critically endangered Rufous-necked Hornbill, have been found in the region and of the current global estimate of 13,500 plant species, approximately 7,000 are found in this valley and nowhere else on the planet.

"Myanmar now offers one of the best hopes for saving tigers in Southeast Asia," said Colin Poole, director for Wildlife Conservation Society's Asia Programs, on August 6. "The newly expanded protected area in the Hukawng Valley will be a cornerstone of tiger conservation throughout this iconic big cat's range."

But KDNG spokesperson Ah Nan said on August 25, "The destruction in Hukawng makes a mockery of the tiger reserve. Yuzana is doing whatever it likes with the aid of the generals and the silence of conservationists."

People as well as tigers are being displaced. The KDNG report documents the struggles of indigenous farmers being forcibly relocated to make way for the plantations. There are seven villages in the middle project area with a total estimated population of 5,000. The populations come from several different sub-groups of the Kachin ethnicity.

They have organized themselves to resist attacks and intimidation from Yuzana and regime officials, opened a court case against the company and asked the International Labor Organization to intervene.

"They threatened the local



Photo courtesy KDNG

Signs like these from the Myanmar Forestry Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society are all that remain of an animal corridor in the world's largest tiger reserve after Yuzana Company bulldozed the area.

residents and took away their farms without negotiating with the people. They came at night time and bulldozed away our farmlands. They confiscated cemeteries and burned farmhouses. They confiscated lands belonging to religious organizations," the farmers wrote in a joint letter to Hpakan Township Peace and Development Council in June 2009.

In March 2010, representatives of three villages filed written requests to the International Labor Organization to investigate the actions of Yuzana. In July 2010, more than 100 farmers opened a joint court case in Kachin State.

Yuzana Company was founded in 1994 by Myint. The com-

pany is involved in hotels and tourism construction, fisheries, palm oil and rubber plantations. The company owns three hotels and the Yuzana Supermarket in Rangoon.

"We want to bring development to Hukawng," the KDNG report quotes Myint as telling Ban Kawk villagers in 2010.

Myint has been targeted by EU and U.S. government sanctions due to his links with the Myanmar's military regime.

But KDNG predicts that Myint is slated to become a regional governor after Myanmar's upcoming elections. The ruling regime plans to hold general elections on November 7, the first in 20 years.

"These tycoons are a new face

of tyranny in Burma," said Ah Nan. "They're set to enjoy even greater power after the elections."

Despite the plantations, the ruling military regime claims in its recent National Tiger Plan that it will double the country's tiger population by 2022.

The plan will be submitted at the first ever Global Tiger Summit to be held in St. Petersburg, Russia in November.

At the summit, Russia will host ministers and heads of state from the 13 countries that still have tiger populations to sign a declaration on joint cooperation for tiger conservation and to initiate a global tiger recovery program which seeks double tiger numbers by the year 2022, the next Year of the Tiger.

Is Gulf Seafood Really Safe to Eat? Government Withholding Key Data on Seafood Testing, Scientists Say

By Brad Jacobson

Raw Story, October 7, 2010, excerpt

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and FDA officials maintain they've provided results of ongoing Gulf seafood safety tests with the utmost transparency. But outside scientists, eager to perform independent evaluations of the government's findings, complain the information released contains far too many unknown variables that preclude peer review.

In recent interviews, FDA and NOAA officials told *Raw Story* that they've been completely transparent in sharing ongoing Gulf seafood testing data, protocol and methodologies.

Whenever we reopened [waters], we'd post the data that we used and the FDA certified it as good enough to reopen," said NOAA spokeswoman Christine

Patrick. "So that's all publicly available and it has been since we started reopening."

"There's nothing we are withholding," echoed FDA spokeswoman Meghan Scott.

Yet in wide-ranging interviews with *Raw Story*, multiple independent scientists involved in studying the effects of the Gulf oil spill not only revealed that government claims of sufficient transparency are wholly misleading but they also provided several key examples of how withholding this information precludes independent evaluation and opens a raft of critical unanswered questions.

Raw Story's investigation also found that federal officials continue to publicly claim (as they did as well in our interviews) that Gulf states follow the agreed-upon protocol set by NOAA and FDA for the reopening of previously closed waters.



But scientists in close discussions with these agencies informed *Raw Story* that the Gulf states are actually making their decisions for reopening waters on a case-by-case basis with no consistent set criteria — making the basis for state reopening of previously closed waters an even greater un-

known for independent scientists.

Released Data Insufficient for Independent Evaluation

"We're a little worried that these samples so far may not be as thorough as they might need to be and there could be areas that are missed," said Gina Solomon, a doctor and public health expert in the department of medicine at the University of California at San Francisco.

"That's the fundamental concern," added Solomon, a co-author of the recent peer-reviewed *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* study on Gulf seafood safety.

Timothy Fitzgerald, a marine scientist with the Environmental

Defense Fund who testified last week to the National Oil Spill Commission, said, "Given the work that we do and the level of resolution we usually rely on, if they're going to provide technical detail I would very much like them to actually provide it in as raw a form as possible."

"What they've done in a lot of instances is [provide] kind of first- or second-order binning or summarizing or distilling, which makes a lot of the data unusable or unavailable," Fitzgerald continued.

"It's not that it doesn't exist," he said. "It's just that it hasn't been provided in a way that scientists could really make a lot of use out of it."

Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, a staff scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council and a contributor to the *JAMA* study, said there is no clear description of the scientific method being

applied to determine how they select the locations to sample, how many samples they take or how they are sampling to ensure that the areas they are reopening are free of oil.

"All of this remains information that we have asked various different agencies for, and this includes NOAA and the FDA, and they have not provided it," Ellman said. "It's not part of the materials that are on their Web site and it remains this very big blank to the transparency of how these safety considerations are being made."

Solomon and Ellman said NOAA officials have described a more specific sampling plan for federal waters by phone but have not provided them with a copy despite repeated requests.

"So the question is, why?" ...

Read full story at <http://www.alternet.org/story/148433/>.

Earth-Care

Paul Watson

Continued from page 1

himself out of the water straight at the harpooner.

But they were waiting for him and with an unattached harpoon at point-blank range he fired and that whale screamed, fell back on the water and was rolling in agony on the surface when I caught his eye. Suddenly I saw him dive and a trail of bloody bubbles coming towards us real fast. He came up and out of the water at an angle so that the next move was that he would fall right down on top of us and crush us. As I looked into that eye, I saw something which really changed my life. That whale had the power to kill us right there and I could see understanding. I could see the whale really understood what we were trying to do. I could see him pull himself back and his muscles move and instead of coming forward he fell back and I saw his eye slip beneath the surface and he died. He could have killed us but he chose not to do so, so I feel personally indebted to that whale. That's one of the reasons I've dedicated my life to protecting whales.

MS: Do you feel that the whale consciously put itself in front of the harpoon to protect the other whales?

PW: I think he was defending his pod and allowing the pod to get away. The pod of course did get away. I don't know what a whale thinks. But what I saw in the eye was pity – pity for us, that we could take life so ruthlessly and mercilessly. I began to think: Why are the Russians killing these whales? They were using sperm whales for spermacetti oil, a high-heat resistant lubricating oil. One of the things that they were making with them was intercontinental ballistic missiles. So here we are destroying this incredibly beautiful, intelligent, magnificent creature for the purpose of making a weapon meant for the mass extermination of human beings. That's when it occurred to me that we as humans are insane.

From that moment on, the change in my life was that I never did anything again for people – I did it for whales and other creatures of the sea. So that pretty much puts us beyond criticism from people – because when people disagree with what we're doing, I say: I don't care. Our clients are the whales, sharks, seals, fish, whatever. We don't give a damn what you think. Find me one whale that disagrees with what we do and maybe we might reconsider but until then we're going to do what we do. And I think we do it responsibly; we've never injured anybody. I find it interesting that some of the larger organizations condemn us for being violent but we've never injured anybody. We've never had anybody seriously injured; we've never been convicted of a felony and we've



Photo by Glenn Lockitch, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society

"There are 528 whales that are swimming in the ocean right now that would be dead if we had not gone down there and intervened. That's the only thing that really matters to me. That and the fact that we did it without injuring anybody," says Paul Watson.

never been sued. And we get criticized by organizations that have been sued, have had people killed and have had people convicted of felonies. I just find it a little bizarre.

MS: Hypocritical?

PW: Completely. I was doing a talk show in Vancouver and somebody called in a bomb threat to protest my violence, which I thought was pretty strange. We had to evacuate. A reporter threw a microphone in my face and said, 'Greenpeace has condemned you as an eco-terrorist. What's your response?' I said, 'What would you expect from the Avon ladies of the environmental movement?' They've never forgiven me for that. But they called me an eco-terrorist. I was just responding.

MS: Do you think the attitude of "I don't care – I work for the whales" possibly makes your work less effective?

I think it's irrelevant. I don't care if I put people off. After we sank those whaling ships in Iceland, half their fleet, John Frizell from Greenpeace came up and told me that what I did was reprehensible and irresponsible and an embarrassment to the movement. And I said, 'Well you know John – So?'

And he said, 'I think you should know what people in this movement think about you.' I said, 'Really John, I don't give a crap. We didn't sink those whaling ships for you or Greenpeace or anybody else. We sank them

for the whales.' The whales are dying – they're being slaughtered in horrific ways, so I don't have time for people to say, 'Well, that's not the way to go about it.' All I know is that there are 528 whales that are swimming in the ocean right now that would be dead if we had not gone down there and intervened. That's the only thing that really matters to me. That and the fact that we did it without injuring anybody.

MS: In terms of your relationship with the Japanese, not just the whalers but the people, do you think there's something in their culture that says, "We will determine our culture, our actions. We will do what we want to do and the more that people try to stop us, the more we want to do it." That might be human nature.

PW: Even if the majority of Japanese people were opposed to whaling, that doesn't mean it's going to end. The majority of Canadians are against sealing but [the clubbing] keeps going on. I don't think governments really give a damn what their people think – it's all corporate interests.

We decided to speak the language they understand – profit and loss. It's economics, all of it comes down to economics. The fact is that they've lost money for five years – how long can they continue to do that? That's the key. Every year a whaling ship gets sunk in Norway. Why? To keep the insurance premiums high –

we have to make them pay.

MS: My editor wanted me to ask you: Why is killing a whale worse than killing a pig, for example, when a pig is intelligent, too?

I get this question from the Japanese a lot and I find it offensive. How can anybody compare the killing of a pig to the killing of a whale? First of all, our ships are vegan. Forty percent of the fish caught from the oceans is fed to livestock – pigs and chickens are becoming major aquatic predators. The livestock industry is one of the greatest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions ever. The eating of meat is an ecological disaster.

MS: Are you a vegetarian or vegan?

PW: Yes, a vegan, but we're promoting veganism not for animal-rights reasons but for environmental-conservation reasons.

You cannot compare the killing of animals in a domestic slaughterhouse to the killing of a whale. What goes on with those whales – or dolphins, say in Taiji – would never be tolerated in a slaughterhouse. Those slaughterhouses would be shut down. It takes from 10 to 45 minutes to kill a whale and they die in horrific agony. That would be completely intolerable and illegal in any slaughterhouse in the world.

Also they're an endangered and protected species – pigs and cows are not. They're part of an ecosystem, which pigs and cows are not. It always bothers me that

that comparison is brought up. And especially when it's brought up by the Japanese, who eat more pigs, cows and chickens than all the people of Australia and New Zealand combined. Only one percent of the Japanese people eat whales; for the most part they eat cows and pigs and chickens. It's a ridiculous analogy.

MS: How do you view protest versus intervention?

PW: A couple of years ago 60 Minutes Australia did a piece in which a Greenpeace spokesperson said he was opposed to Sea Shepherd because we were violent and that Greenpeace's approach was to bear witness. I was just appalled. Bearing witness – you know, you don't walk down the street and see a woman being raped and do nothing. You don't walk down the street and see a kitten or a puppy being stomped to death and do nothing. You don't walk down the street and see a child being molested and do nothing. And you don't go down there and watch whales die and hold signs and do nothing. I just find this 'bearing witness' another word for cowardice. So that really offended me that they would say that.

We're an interventionist organization, not a protest organization. Protest is very submissive – it's like saying, "Please please, please, don't kill the whales." Then they go and kill them anyway – nobody cares. The fact is, you gotta stop them – you're

dealing with ruthless people and you have to stop them. But you have to do it in a responsible way, which just means you don't hurt them.

MS: Do you see any situation where it's okay to hunt a whale, say Indigenous people who have for centuries been living off whale meat and blubber?

PW: You know, everything has changed because we have a population of seven billion people on the planet right now and the oceans are dying. The oceans have been so severely diminished that there's a good chance we could kill them. And if the oceans die, we die. In light of that prospect I find it very difficult to be sympathetic to any cultural needs in order to destroy endangered species. Yeah, sure, it isn't the Inuit's fault that the whales have been diminished but they can finish the job. When you get right down to it, it's all about human beings. I don't divide them into groups – the human species has been an extremely destructive species and has the potential to destroy the life-support system for humanity. So this traditional stuff really gets to me – anything that involves killing an endangered species or destroying a habitat, if that involves tradition, I say ecology comes before tradition. I'd rather be ecologically correct than politically correct.

MS: What can people do to support your work?

PW: Stop eating the ocean. Don't eat anything out of the ocean – there is no such thing as a sustainable fishery. If people eat meat, make sure it's organic and isn't contributing to the destruction of the ocean because 40 percent of all the fish that's caught out of the ocean is fed to livestock – chickens on factory farms are fed fish meal. And be cognizant of the fact that if the oceans die, we die. Therefore our ultimate responsibility is to protect biodiversity in our world's oceans.

MS: So do you have any quiet time?

PW: I do what I want to do. I don't really understand this 'quiet time' thing. Every time I see a movie, I see people sitting on the beach with a drink – to me that seems like one of the most boring things to do. The perfect job is a job where you'd do it whether you're getting paid or not and you'll never retire from it. That's what I have.

Michael Shapiro is the author of A Sense of Place: Great Travel Writers Talk About Their Craft, Lives and Inspiration and Guatemala: A Journey Through the Land of the Maya. Reprinted with permission from Michael Shapiro (www.michaeshapiro.net) and Earth Island Journal (www.earthisland.org).

North Atlantic Right Whales to Get Expanded Critical Habitat

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 6, 2010 (ENS, excerpt) — In response to a lawsuit filed by conservation groups, the NOAA's Fisheries Service agreed Tuesday to revise critical habitat designations for North Atlantic right whales. The critically-endangered species numbers fewer than 400 whales after centuries of commercial whaling.

The move comes after a federal lawsuit was filed by The Humane Society of the United States, Defenders of Wildlife, Center for Biological Diversity and the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

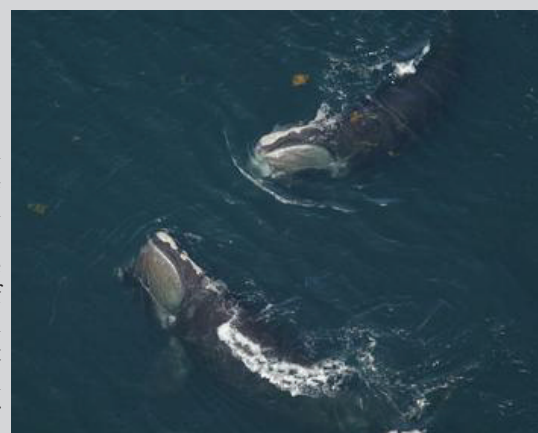
The lawsuit challenged the agency's failure to respond to the groups' August 2009 petition, which

sought to expand current critical habitat protections. The agency designated three critical habitat areas in U.S. waters for these whales in 1994 – calving grounds off Florida and Georgia and feeding grounds in Cape Cod Bay and the Great South Channel, both off Massachusetts.

The groups argue that these protected areas are inadequate to allow the whales to recover. The Endangered Species Act requires that the government respond to petitions within 90 days after they are received but the Fisheries Service did not respond to the August 2009 petition until this week after a lawsuit was filed to compel the agency's response.

In its announcement the Fisheries Service said it received the petition "while conducting an ongoing analysis and evaluation of new information available since the 1994 designation that indicates the designation should be revised."

The Service said it expects to propose the critical habitat changes in the second half of 2011. "We are delighted the administration is moving to protect critical habitat for right whales without further delay," said Jonathan Lovvorn, vice president and chief counsel for The Humane Society of the United States....



North Atlantic right whales. Photo courtesy NOAA

Schools Preparing Next Generation for Ecological Living and Protecting Students from Harm

New York State Has First Green Cleaning Law for Schools

Submitted by Wynde Winston Westminister, Maryland

Our Toxic Times, October 2010

The State of New York has implemented the nation's first Green Cleaning Law requiring that all schools use environmentally-sensitive cleaning and maintenance products. A comprehensive Green Cleaning Program improves indoor air quality and reduces hazardous chemical use, thus creating a

healthier learning environment for children and a safer workplace for staff.

A Green Cleaning Program incorporates a holistic approach that includes the participation of all community stakeholders, not just the custodial staff. Parent-Teacher Associations are critical stakeholders in the development and implementation of a school's Green Cleaning Program.

A Program Toolkit for "Five Steps to a Green Cleaning Pro-

gram" is available at greencleaning.ny.gov/FiveSteps.asp and "Customizable Documents and Templates" for advice on creating or enhancing a Green Cleaning Program for your school is available at greencleaning.ny.gov/DownloadCenter/default.aspx.

Our Toxic Times is published monthly by the Chemical Injury Information Network: P.O. Box 101, White Sulphur Springs, Montana 59645 406-547-2255; ciin.org.

By Amanda Peterka GreenWire.com, September 30, 2010

Stoddert Elementary School Principal Marjorie Cuthbert sees her school as a "microcosm of solving future world problems."

The Washington, D.C., public school reopened recently after a renovation that added a geothermal heating and cooling system, energy usage displays, information kiosks in three different languages, numerous new windows, a greenhouse made from recy-

clered water bottles and carbon dioxide sensors.

Students are assembled in "green teams" and give tours to visitors using a guide put together by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The school is attaining gold certification from the council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system, one of 6,500 schools in the country that are registered for certification or already LEED-certified. With this "microcosm" as its backdrop, the USGBC

launches its newest program today, the Center for Green Schools, with the goal of giving everyone the opportunity to attend a school like Stoddert within this generation.

"The education sector is doing more in the way of green building than any other sector, more than health care, more than commercial, more than religious institutions. But we still have a really long way to go," said Rachel Gutter, director of the USGBC's new initiative, before the launch event at Stoddert . . .

LESS WORK, MORE LIFE

By John de Graaf
The Progressive

A few years ago, after finding my way through an incredible jumble of bicycles outside her building, I met with a University of Amsterdam professor who studies work-life balance. She recounted a conversation she'd just had with the manager of the Dutch division of an American company who had come to Holland from the United States two years earlier.

Professor: Do you notice a difference between the approach to work time and free time here compared to the United States?

Manager: Yes, it dawned on me my second week on the job. It was a Friday evening, eight o'clock, and we had an important shipment to get out on Monday. I called my assistant at home and told her to call some of the workers to get some things done on the weekend in preparation.

Professor: What did she say?

Manager: She said she didn't work on weekends and didn't expect to be called at home when she wasn't working.

Professor: And what did you say?

Manager: I said, "Well, excuse me but I'm the new manager here and we're a company that competes in the global economy and we have an important shipment to get out and we appreciate employees who are team players."

She said, "OK, I can do what you ask of me but, under Dutch law, you have to pay me double time for unscheduled, overtime, weekend work. And if I call these people, they'll just get mad at me for interrupting their family time. Don't worry, we'll come in Monday, work hard and get the job done."

Professor: What did you say then?

Manager: I said, "Oh, forget it!" I hung up the phone in frustration and stewed all weekend.

Professor: And then what happened?

Manager: They came in Monday and got the job done. They work very hard when they're working so everything was fine. And that's how it's been ever since. I've gotten to like it that way because now even I have a life.

Less work, more life. It's a tradeoff that a lot of American workers might appreciate. Pollsters find time stress a constant complaint among Americans. Until the current recession, Americans were working some of the longest hours in the industrial world.

Conservatives say this is all voluntary: Americans just like to work a lot. But Gallup's daily survey finds them 20 percent happier on weekends than on workdays – what a surprise! And when Americans rank the pleasure their daily activities bring, working ends up second from the bottom (socializing after work is second from the top!), more pleasurable only than that mother of all downers, the morning commute.

By contrast, the Netherlands boasts the world's shortest working hours. Dutch workers put in 400 fewer annual hours on the job than American workers do. And yet, the Dutch economy has been very productive. Unemployment (at 5.8 percent) is much lower than in the United States, while the Netherlands boasts a positive trade balance and strong personal savings. A Gallup survey ranks the Dutch third in the world in life satisfaction, behind only the Danes and Finns and well ahead of Americans.

The Dutch have been reducing time on the job through work-sharing policies since the 1982 Wassenaar Agreement,

when labor unions agreed to modify wage demands in return for more time. Their Working Hours Adjustment Act (2000) requires that employers allow workers to cut their hours to part-time while keeping their jobs, hourly pay, health care and pro-rated benefits.

Anmarie Widener, a health researcher and part-time instructor at Georgetown University, was impressed by the Dutch devotion to time for family and recreation she witnessed while getting her Ph.D. in the Netherlands. Her dissertation compares life satisfaction among Dutch and American parents. Not surprisingly, she says, "My polling showed that in almost every area of life, Dutch parents are substantially more satisfied than their American counterparts." And so are their children. A 2007 UNICEF study ranked children's welfare in the Netherlands as the highest in the world. By contrast, the United States was twenty of twenty-one wealthy countries studied, barely edging out the United Kingdom.



Work-sharing may be all the more important in times like the present. Economist Dean Baker argues that any further economic stimuli should include Kurzarbeit, or "short work," a German policy that encourages employers to reduce hours rather than lay workers off when times are tight. Instead of cutting 20 percent of the workforce, a German company might reduce each worker's load by a day. Unemployment benefits kick in for the reduced work time, so workers earn roughly 90 percent of their former incomes for 80 percent of the work.

Other countries have followed suit – the French believe in "working less so all can work."

Here in the United States, a bill sponsored by Senator Jack Reed, Democrat of Rhode Island, and Representative Rosa DeLauro, Democrat of Connecticut, would allow federal unemployment benefits to be used to top up salaries of reduced-hour workers in the United States. When the bill was discussed in Barney Frank's House Financial Services Committee, not only did Dean Baker testify in favor but so did Kevin Hassett, an economist with the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

Hassett pointed out that even though the Germans' economy tanked like ours did in 2008, their unemployment rate hasn't risen – thanks to Kurzarbeit. The law allows companies to retain workers instead of having to rehire later, he said. It's good for them, good for the workers and doesn't really cost any more than traditional unemployment payments. It's a win, win, win. Nonetheless, not a single Republican has supported the bill and not all Democrats do either, so it remains in limbo.

Shorter working hours – the roses of "Bread and Roses" fame –

are part of a long and progressive American tradition. A famous Dorothea Lange photo from 1937 shows a National Association of Manufacturers billboard on a hardware store. It reads: WORLD'S SHORTEST WORKING HOURS – THERE'S NO WAY LIKE THE AMERICAN WAY! A bill passed the U.S. Senate in 1933 that would have made the official workweek only thirty hours long. Presidents from FDR to Richard Nixon called for reducing working hours.

In our time, feminist and women's groups, including MomsRising.org and the National Partnership for Women and Families, have led the way in promoting work-life balance policies, demanding paid family leave, paid sick days and flexible hours. Congressman Alan Grayson of Florida has introduced a bill calling for mandatory paid vacations, guaranteed by law in almost every country. The United States joins Burma and a handful of others that don't offer this basic benefit.

As Juliet Schor makes clear in her new book, *Plenitude: The New Economics of True Wealth*, shorter work time also makes environmental sense. Planetary restraints and climate change require us to reduce our consumption of resources. Demands for quick extraction of resources lead to catastrophes like the oil volcano beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

As productivity increases, we seem faced with a choice between environmental disaster or massive unemployment. Unless, of course, we slow down by reducing working hours and sharing the work. Half a century of economic growth has not increased our happiness. More free time might well do so. It will certainly improve our health.

Americans will exercise more, sleep more, garden more, volunteer more, spend more time with friends and family and drive less. We need full employment but not by returning to the unhealthy overwork of recent decades. As Derek Bok puts it in his new book, *The Politics of Happiness*:

"If it turns out to be true that rising incomes have failed to make Americans happier, as much of the recent research suggests, what is the point of working such long hours and risking environmental disaster in order to keep on doubling and redoubling our gross domestic product?"

Progressives would do well to advocate reduced working hours instead of demanding unsustainable growth. Suzy Ross, who teaches at San Jose State University, told me that when her co-workers found that they would have to take furlough days and commensurate pay cuts in response to California's budget crisis, they all responded in anger. Now, she says, they appreciate the extra two days off each month and few want to give them up, though they could use the money.

Reducing work hours and sharing available work is essential for our families, health, economic security and the environment.

It's time to get on with it.

John de Graaf is a documentary filmmaker, director of *Take Back Your Time* (www.timeday.org), and co-author of "Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic." His new book, *What's the Economy For. Anyway?* will be published by Bloomsbury Press in 2011. This piece was originally published in *The Progressive* magazine, 409 E. Main St., Madison, WI 53703; www.progressive.org.



Loss and Courage

within the madness of change
there are autumn flowers
cornflowers and touch-me-nots
the softness of love amidst loss
and the cool, calm courage of snow
upon a red maple leaf

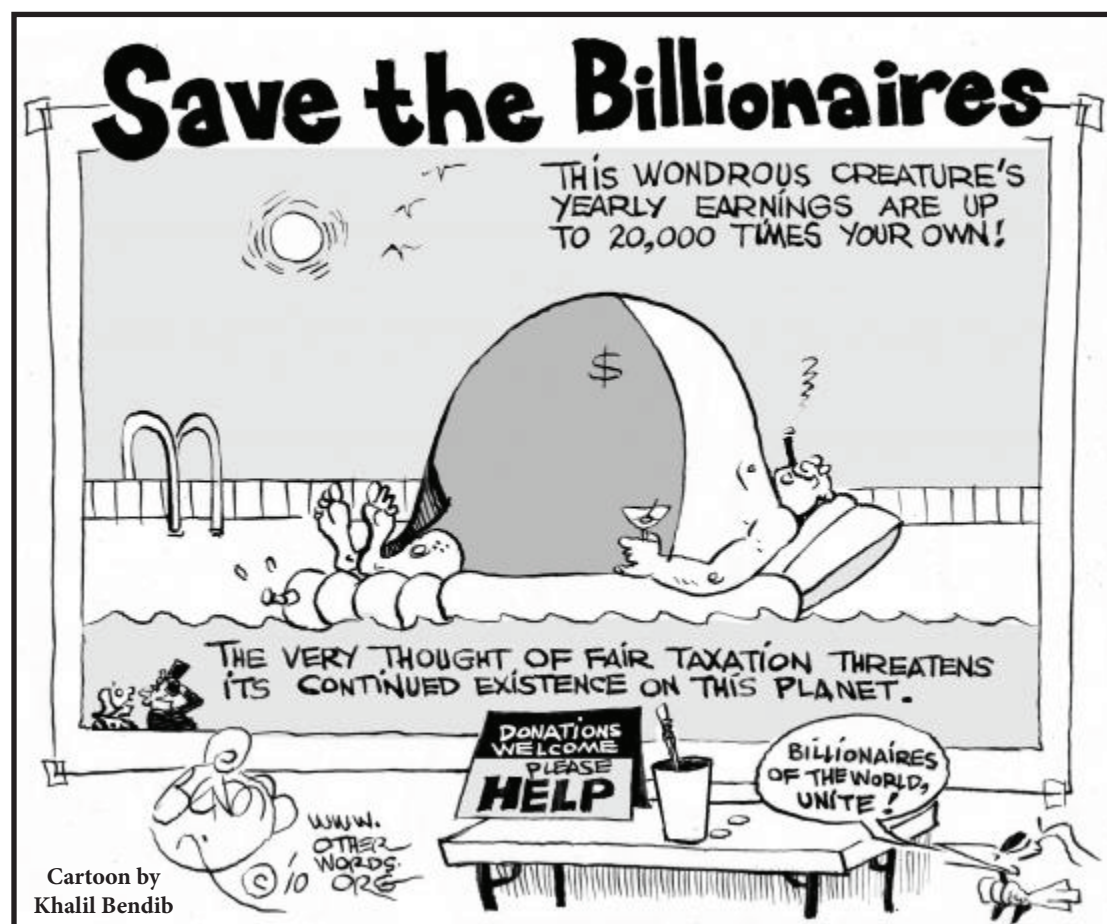
By Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada

Earth Psalms: Song 57

By Angela Magara ©
www.angelamagara.com

*Deeply have I tried, deeply, to burrow into the heart of Divinity
To find shelter from surrounding storms.
Not shelter nor shielding, but
Trust in the process
discovered.
First trust, then disappointment.
First design, then failure.
First release, then awakening.
First awakening, then vision.
Then wonder, work, success, failure, trust.
I know my path.
Sometimes with understanding, sometimes
Not.
I cannot hide into divinity.
But I can fly on waxen wings.*

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



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Views

FROM BEHIND THE RAZOR WIRE



Photo by Iona

Spruce tree covered with snow in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Embedded in the Scroll

By Mel Samms-Overley
Bedford, Pennsylvania

Cracked through by sharpened pinpoints of light
a bramble
of rough-knit bough and branch,
of porkypine tufts of puffy green,
becomes my safe haven
from an early bird's
november snow.
On a backdrop
of dirty gray clouds
all stacked or tumbled,
and on a stage
of cold sheared air,
lacy veils
dance in gliding pirouettes.
Rubbing shoulder to shoulder
and touching tip to tip,
they swirl to and fro
singing their song of joy
in near silence.

As our yearly solar cycle
is puckering and creeping
on frozen toes
toward the winter solstice,
even now
in this time
my fingers of wonder
are tingling.
I can sense
from within the allure of hidden currents
something
just beneath
the edge of each sound
or darting sprint for life.
I can feel
peace
oozing through the spread cracks
of my toes
and on across
the thirsty tracks of my covered skin
only to end up
overflowing
drop by drop
from the corners
of my parched spirit.

With a measure of timed tick-tocks
each man, woman and child
needs to seek out and covet
their own embracing tryst.
Whether unmarked or named
seek to look out of a child's eyes
while gazing upon
the boundless ocean of Mother Earth's wonders.
Even a short list is long on opportunities.
Such as,
Her mountains wearing a crown of ice over brows of granite.
Her hills, wearing only a portion at a time
from the wardrobe of her green finery.
Her deserts, dressed in skirts of shuffling sand
that rustle and shift
studded throughout by jewels of stone
that wear the mantle of time with grace,
to the hidden oases that blink out at you
from unexpected places.
Her forests tucked away, clothed in all the colors.
Her tumbling brooks, sporting pockets of bubbled froth.
Her meandering streams carrying those many tales.
Her lazy rivers, brushed by sun and dappled shadow,
bordered by draping boughs
covered in speckled patches of moss,
dripping with scented wisteria and smoky filigree.
Her raging rives
barking past worn stubs of stone.

Her oceans of crystal clear emerald waters,
Her pungent swamps
and her teeming jungles,
Her secret valleys and her places
of Holy power.
This gift of solace,
This gift of healing balm,
lies awaiting
for each one
to hear its siren call.

There, held gently,
within the protecting arms of our Mother
we can find the resolve
to punch sunbeams
through the damp, dark walls,
we surround ourselves with.
The sparking glimmer of these beams
will with patience
illumine the possibilities.
These glowing shafts of sunlight,
with a sleight-of-hand
unveil to The Seeker
some of the many
names of God
embedded into the scroll
of His Creation.

If we choose to.
If we walk the steps
down the woven web of our path,
we will arrive one step closer
to the Source of All.

Dear Inmates,

I am delighted that you like our paper so much!
Thank you for your interest and for your warm letters.

I'm starting to get more and more letters and requests
for papers from prisoners so I decided I needed one
"group" letter to lay the cards on the table.

Here goes:

1. Please, please tell me your institution's mailing
rules for individual newspapers, back issues and letters.
I don't like to waste money and time and then disappoint
you when things get returned.

2. I am not rich. Somehow I must come up with
\$1,000 a month. I work a part-time job to be able to
bring you my paper so a.) if you can send stamps or
money or help me get paid subscriptions, I will be grate-
ful. It costs me \$21.84 for every annual \$25 subscription
and the postage will go up soon. I realize many prisoners
earn slave wages so I don't expect everyone to be able to
send a check or money order but I would like a little
help. If I don't hear from you after I've sent a couple of
issues, I'll assume you're not interested and take you off
my list.

3. While I enjoy your letters, it's hard for me to write
back very much or very often. I'll am 65. I have a hus-
band, two married sons and seven grandchildren. I save
my money so I can visit them in New Jersey and Most
High God (see "The Awakening" series) in Idaho a few
times each year. We own a home with 6 1/2 acres and I
have a small flower garden where the weeds are winning.
So, you see, I don't have a whole lot of free time to write.
Plus, the newspaper is like a full-time job in itself.

4. For the above reasons, I can't do much to help you
legally or socially. Although my heart would like to help
everyone, I don't have much spare time.

5. I'm happy to run Pen-Pal ads for serious (or light)
communication but my newspaper isn't about match-
making. If you find a match, I wish you happiness, but
please make your ad simple and talk about yourself and
your interests, not your looks, OK?

5. "The Awakening" articles are the one thing where I
will always do my best to answer any questions about
Most High God and I will make time for that before
other things. This is not a cult or religion or church; this
is God for everyone, including agnostics and atheists.
This is the most important work I do so I am open to
those communications and will give them priority. We
published 10 articles and are starting to re-run them on
page16).

6. PLEASE don't ask me to be on your email list - I
can barely keep up with the emails I get flooded with for
the newspaper. Although I list gmail.com as one way for
people to reach me, it does not work for prisoners. I have
even tried a few times to follow CorrLinks instructions
and it never works. Thank you for thinking of me any-
how.

7. If you give me blanket permission to reprint any-
thing in your letters, I needn't waste time writing back to
you to ask for permission and then waiting for it to
arrive. Also, please tell me how you want me to sign your
name and residence. So many of you have excellent
thoughts and feelings that I want to share with others. I
got way behind in publishing your letters when my hus-
band was sick but he's better now. I'm trying to make up
for that oversight by printing this whole page full of ideas
"From Behind the Razor Wire," as Don Harkins used to
say in *The Idaho Observer*.

Thanks for reading through all this.

Your Friend,

Iona

Dear Editor,

Having taken note that your read-
ership/contributors appear to be well
above average in intelligence and
consciousness, I hope they can do
something about some things that
bother me.

I am unaware of the stats here in
Pennsylvania but I assume they are
similar to the ones in Michigan:

- 52% of the people in Michigan
get a check from city, township, state,
county or federal government.

Each of those governments re-
quire their own
buildings, i.e.,
jails, courthouses,
offices and gar-
ages. They must
also maintain a
convoy of cars,
trucks, SUVs (gas-
guzzling) snow-
mobiles, boats and
jet-skis. Each of
the above has to
have its own state-
of-the-art tele-
phone, cell phone,
two-way radio
and computer. Of
course the more
important individ-
uals would require
a laptop and personal cell phone.

Now let's think about prisons,
camps, correctional institutions. At
the federal level, each of those guards
gets (I'm not certain about these stats)
\$8,000 more per year in cash and
\$12,000 more per year in perks than
a comparable state position.

The cost for housing a federal
inmate varies depending on which
authority you refer to. I read an ar-
ticle four or five years ago that said
\$70,000 per inmate per year. That
boils down to \$105,000 for the federal
correctional institution (FCI) here in
Loretto, not including the camp. The
cost per inmate per year according to
the petition regarding H.R. 1475 says
the cost is only \$40,000-plus per in-
mate per year, which brings the cost
down to only \$60,000,000 taxpayer
dollars.

Eighty-five percent of federal
inmates/prisoners are being held
for victimless or/and non-violent
"crimes." The remaining 15% prob-
ably really do need to be confined.
Some of those will never be rehabili-
tated and should remain confined.

Now comes "the game." Prosecu-
tors and pre-sentence investigators
(PSI) like to build as many "points"
against an individual as possible, of-
ten by double or triple counting. For
instance bank robbery: Robbers face
was covered = 10 points; robber had
a note = 10 points; robber said, "This
is a robbery" = 10 points; robber ran
out of bank = 10 points; robber got in

car = 10 points; robber drove car = 10
points; robber had window up = 10
points; passenger window was down
= only 5 points. Let's say 20 points
= probation; 30 = one year confine-
ment; 40 points = five years; 50 points
= 20 years and 55 points = life.

Now we see that a man or woman,
no job, no assistance, gets desperate
and goes for the "easy" money. Now
she is spending the rest of her life in a
federal lockup while her 2.7 children
are put into foster homes (where they
will more than likely be abused).

Now those kids
will grow up with-
out any parents or
real parental love
or discipline to
become - what?
Robbers, addicts,
thugs, crack "Ho's?"
Just because they
were without food
and in a moment's
desperation their
mother did an ir-
rational thing.

To my level of
understanding,
H.R. 1475 means
that people like that
mother or the guy
who tore the tag

off a mattress in an Ohio motel and
brought it back to Pennsylvania, do
not spend the rest of their lives in jail
because some zealot PSI was trying to
prove her worth to the system.

What H.R. 1475 would do (the
way I read it) is let federal inmates
earn "good time" and only have to do
65% of the time the PSI put together
for them.

This will not free the murderers or
the D.O.M. next door who raped lit-
tle kids. It will help ease the burdens
of the family and friends of the non-
violent/victimless offender. It will
free the *older* people who were good
citizens but made a mistake.

There is an age restriction in this
H.R. 1475; I believe it to be 50 or 55
years of age. H.R. 1475 will not free
the younger population. Maybe it
should free the young also - before
they get to join gangs and learn to be
recidivistic professional criminals.

But, no, this H.R. 1475 will set
your Granddad, uncle, older brother,
grandmom, aunt or older sister home
for Christmas, Easter and family
birthdays. More importantly to me,
it will get him or her home so he/she
can die with his/her family around
him/her, not in some cold cement
and steel room alone without proper
medical attention.

Please, please, please, write your
congressman and tell him/her you
want H.R. 1475 to pass.

Thank you ever so much,

Jerry Byers
Loretto FCI, Pennsylvania

Iona,

Thanks for the two free sample is-
sues. I'm sincerely interested in what
The Order of the Earth has to offer.

I'm enclosing a \$25 money order
for a year subscription.

Thanks for your time-n-business.
Have a Great Day.

In Solidarity,
Malachi Stops
Herlong, California

Dear Iona,

Most all my supporters have died
now or got themselves similarly situ-
ated, jailed. It would be a good thing
to sit once more with the living - eat a
good wholesome, non-chemical eve-
ning dinner, smell the natural coffee-
bean aroma once more before it's my
turn to cross over to the life of peace
my Father has prepared for my rest.
**Michael Kirkpatrick (in his 60s after
14 years in prison - disabled, too)**



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Food and Health

Mark's Green Party Saving the Co-Op: Part X Small Banking for a Small Store

By Mark Lautman
Rockville, Maryland

Tincture Alice and Palette Jack serenely walked into the Happy Apple Blossom Co-Op at about two o'clock p.m. – four hours after Latonya Rotterdam, the co-op's manager, had sent them to the bank to make a deposit.

"Where on Earth have you been?" demanded Rotterdam.

"Well," said Tincture Alice. "While we were at the bank, we decided to watch the plasma television in the lobby. They had this great show about migration patterns of humpback whales. Did you know that a baby humpback is 15 feet long?"

"That's about as long as our display for the granola bins, if you include the maple hemp on the left side," confirmed Palette Jack. "Personally, I've never been a fan of hemp granolas. I think we should move it to the additives aisle."

Desperately calling upon the ancient spirits of calm and serenity, Rotterdam managed to pursue her original line of questioning with no measurable increase in blood pressure. "Do you mean to tell me you went to the bank and watched television in their lobby for four hours?"

"Not only that," confessed Pallet Jack, "you should see the seating they have! We were in plush armchairs and the greeter offered us double crème brie with spelt wafers. What we ate would cost twenty dollars in our own store. That was OK, right? After all, you're always complaining about the fees we pay the bank, so we just figured we'd get our money's worth."

Rotterdam was well aware of the exorbitant fees, the lavish furniture and mind-numbing marketing tactics of the co-op's bank. She had always considered moving the co-op's business to Debenture Woodworth's Bank a few miles down the road and the lost productivity she had just incurred was the final incentive she needed. "Alice, I'm going out for a few hours. You and Jack stay here until I get back."

Rotterdam drove up to Woodworth's bank. She walked in and was amazed that the only other person in the branch was someone vacuuming the Earth-toned carpet.

"I'll be right with you ma'am," said the worker. "I just have to finish the section by the door. It gets so dirty there because people bring in all sorts of mud." The worker rolled the vacuum cleaner to the door, brushed up all remaining signs of dried mud and returned the vacuum to the closet in the back of the lobby. He approached Rotterdam with a friendly smile.

"Good afternoon, I'm Debenture Woodworth."

"You're Debenture Woodworth? The owner of this bank?"

"The very same!" said Woodworth. "President and CEO are my actual titles. At least that's what my lawyer tells me."

"Weren't you just vacuuming the carpet?"

"Yes, ma'am. I do it only once a week. No point being compulsive about cleaning. Unlike my wife – she's always telling me to polish the safety deposit boxes at least once a day. My daughter, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. I've been asking her for five years to dust off the quarters and dimes."

"Mr. Woodworth," Latonya interrupted, "my name is Latonya Rotterdam. I run the Happy Apple Blossom Co-Op down the street. I'd like to move our checking account to your institution."

"Nice to meet you, Ms. Rotterdam. I go to your store twice a month. I always buy maple hemp granola, the one in the bin on the left side of the display."

"I'm well aware of where our hemp granola is," retorted Rotterdam.

"The truth is, though, that I don't eat hemp granola as a morning cereal," continued Woodworth. "I add it to my



Image from Office Publisher

meatless hamburgers. Makes for a nice, cohesive patty. When you think about it, hemp granola really isn't a cereal. Have you ever considered moving it to the additives aisle?"

Rotterdam was beginning to feel invaded. She was used to banks whose only method of communication was a monthly e-statement and "benefits" like a 15% credit card.

"Mr. Woodworth, can you give me a run-down on your silver, gold and platinum accounts?"

"First of all, we don't have silver, gold and platinum accounts. Those terms effuse exploitation, consumption and materialism. Our most basic account is the 'Carnivore.'"

"Carnivore?" asked Rotterdam. "How many checks can I write each month with a carnivore account?"

"None."

"Cash withdrawals?"

"None."

"Online banking?"

"Neither. You see, Ms. Rotterdam, the big banks like to make you think that they have programs that 'fit your life.' We work differently. We want you to fit our life: simple, personal, uncluttered by excessive consumption and unadulterated by intellectual pursuit."

"OK, Carnivore is a bit limiting for me. What's the next package?"

"The 'Ovo-Lacto.' With that package you get 10 checks a month, unlimited cash withdrawals at any of the ATMs at Guber's Apiary and 20 milligrams of anti-oxidants if you keep a minimum balance of \$500."

"That one is a possibility. What's the next package?"

"That would be the 'Macrobiotic.' You get everything as with the Ovo-Lacto plus free pre-printed checks on dried seaweed."

"How can you print checks on dried seaweed?" said an astonished Rotterdam.

"It's our secret recipe," replied Debenture Woodworth proudly. "I can't tell you the ingredients but I must disclose that the checks are baked on equipment shared by a product containing chocolate and mayonnaise."

"What product would contain chocolate and mayonnaise?" said Rotterdam. She was beginning to see the charm of personalized, local banking.

"That would be Mrs. Woodworth's famous *petit fours*. She's won first place in that category at the county agricultural fair for five years in a row, much to the chagrin of Mortimer Johnson. He'll never get the message that his algae yogurt simply has no appeal in this part of the state. Anyway, if you open an account today, I'll give you five pounds Mrs. Woodworth's *petit fours*."

"Mr. Woodworth, you're the first bank president to give me the time of day, not to mention offering five pounds of award-winning chocolate-mayonnaise goop. I'll be moving our business to your bank immediately. Give me the forms and I'll drop them by next week."

Feeling accomplished, Rotterdam drove back to the co-op where he found Tincture Alice and Palette Jack busy moving the hemp granola to the additives aisle.

By Valerie Stanley
Laurel, Maryland

There is no doubt that birds are intelligent creatures. We often take the wide array of colors, species and behavior of wild birds for granted. What if we actually watched birds, and pondered their interactions with us? Would we find that they actually are trying to communicate with us, if we would only listen?

Last year, I wrote about my friend Bill, who, after mending a broken pigeon's wing and keeping her until her wing healed, had that same bird return to him the next year. And the following year she brought another pigeon with her, who had a broken wing.

Iona Conner, editor of *The Order of the Earth*, has had a similar experience. As she explains, "Each Spring a hummingbird shows up right outside my window to let me know they are here. Each Fall a hummingbird comes again, face to face hovering and peering through a window somewhere in the house looking at me to say something like, 'Farewell, thanks for the nectar, see you next year.'"

If the bird was just in it for the food, it makes sense that he or she would only announce his or her appearance, so as to start the nectar flowing. Why would this hummingbird peer in the window at the end of the season, however? The regularity of this behavior must indicate purposeful action. I surmise that the bird is announcing his or her departure and is, as Iona contends, likely showing appreciation, or at least, recognition that the person in the house has been a friend throughout the season.

A rescued Cedar Waxwing fledgling came back to visit Kathie and Jack Hendricks. They had rescued the young bird when their dog caught the bird in her mouth. Thinking that the bird would be rejected by its mother, the Hendricks brought the bird (whom they named Cricket) into



Photo from Debbie McKenzie, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
The beautiful Cedar Waxwing is a silky, shiny collection of brown, gray, and lemon-yellow, accented with a subdued crest, rakish black mask and brilliant-red wax droplets on the wing feathers. In fall these birds gather by the hundreds to eat berries, filling the air with their high, thin, whistles. In summer you're as likely to find them flitting about over rivers in pursuit of flying insects, where they show off dazzling aeronautics for a forest bird.

their house to raise. After the bird was well enough to fly away, she would return, "come to us when called by name and sit on our shoulder or hand when called." Sometimes Cricket would return to the cage she lived in at the house if the Hendricks left a window open. The Hendricks' encounter with Cricket drew their attention to the flock of Cedar Waxwings near their home. They explained that, "There were times when a dozen or so of them would perch on a wire and play 'pass the berry' . . . one would fly up with a berry and pass it to the bird next to them, who would pass it along in the same direction and down the line it went until one suddenly gulped it . . . then another would arrive with another berry . . ."

According to Wild Birds Forever, Cedar Waxwings "are identified by [their] pronounced delicate robe of contrasting colors and silky texture. Cedar Waxwings are intensive foragers and have been reported to devour

an entire fruit crop of red cedars over a two day period. Such feats have earned them their name and led to the belief that these birds are an important disperser of red cedar. After the mating season ends (late Summer), Cedar Waxwings travel in flocks of 40 or more birds. They are gregarious, sociable creatures who eat lots of berries and insects."

As far as having an amazing memory, the Clark's Nutcracker takes the cake.*

This bird will plant an entire forest in its lifetime. The high-elevation, whitebark pine stands of Montana and the entire Rocky Mountain West would not exist were it not for this cone-cracking, seed catching bird. The cones are ripped apart by Clark's Nutcrackers, which feed on some of the fresh seeds and then cache the rest to eat later. White-bark pine reforestation occurs when these buried seeds germinate. The bill of the Clark's Nutcracker is like a multi-faceted tool: chisel, tweezers, storage compartment,

hoe and planter.

The Nutcracker first hammers into cones and plucks out the seeds. These it stores in a pouch positioned beneath its tongue. As the pouch fills, the bird's throat bulges. Once it has pocketed roughly 80 seeds, the Nutcracker looks for a cache site. There, it makes several sideward swipes with its bill to create a trench for burying the seed, which it coughs up one at a time. The bird plants three to five seeds at each location, then carefully covers them with soil.

Diana Tomback has studied Clark's Nutcrackers for more than 25 years. A University of Colorado professor and director of the Whitebark Pine Ecosystem Foundation in Missoula, Tomback says Clark's Nutcrackers have remarkable special memories. In one season, she documented a bird depositing 35,000 seeds in 9,500 caches. They can transport seeds as far as eight to 10 kilometers (five to six miles) and fly as much as 3000 feet in elevation, up or down slopes to cache seeds, Tomback says.

Experiments show that Nutcrackers recall exact locations by using landmarks and that they can remember the locations of seeds for up to nine months. . . After the birds lay their eggs and the young birds hatch, the adults uncover the previous year's whitebark larder.

If people only knew the capabilities of birds like this, the term "bird brain" would become a compliment!

As we give thanks this Thanksgiving, let us be appreciative of the wonderful world of birds, their songs, their friendship and how they sustain our planet. Instead of partaking of the ritual of eating birds, try taking the bold step of saying, "No thanks" to turkey. You'll have a delicious meal with no regrets.

Try the recipe below!

* From *Montana Outdoors* (used with permission)

Mrs. Gobble-Good's Golden Brown Pie

Serves 4 to 6
Preheat oven to 350°

- Uncooked pie crust for placing on top of pie
- 2/3 cup lentils
- 8 cups water
- 2 to 3 carrots, sliced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 packets George Washington Gold or other vegetarian bouillon
- 3 to 4 potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1/2 teaspoon sage
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon parsley
- 3 tablespoons margarine
- 3 tablespoons flour

Cook lentils and 2 cups water on low heat till tender. Put prepared vegetables in a large saucepan with 6 cups water plus bouillon. Bring to a boil and cook for 10 minutes. Add prepared potatoes to cooking vegetables. Save the liquid. Cool all vegetables for 20 minutes while seasoning the lentils with sage, salt and parsley. Prepare a thickening by melting margarine in a frying pan, adding flour, then 1 cup water from cooking the vegetables. Drain vegetables and put in an oven-proof bowl. Add lentils and thickening. Stir. If mixture is too thick, add more water from the cooking process. Place pie crust on top and bake till brown (about 1 hour). This recipe is from United Poultry Concerns (UPC), a non-profit organization promoting the compassionate and respectful treatment of turkeys and other domestic fowl. Other delicious recipes can be found on their site and in the books UPC offers for sale.



Mercury is a Poison – Beware!

By Christopher Joseph
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Though at one time used in amalgam dental fillings and in industry or manufacturing, with no prevalent or conclusive understanding of its dangers and toxicity, if a person simply reads the Merck Manual, Merck Index or any reasonable books or perhaps Internet searches from a health food store or nutritional supplements perspective, they will find that mercury is one of the most toxic and destructive substances known to man.

Mercury toxicity was previously almost always from "not-so-silver" amalgam dental fillings; however, now this toxic substance is in foods, water, industrial fallout and sea food,

specifically tuna. As a toxin, mercury has an affinity for the most important and crucial metabolic organs and systems, for spongy tissue, nerves and glands – especially adrenal glands that determine or control the fight-or-flight mechanism and mood and anger issues.

Mercury does have an antimicrobial effect and is included in mold-inhibiting commercial paint; however, it also destroys all healthy, vital, friendly intestinal flora, thus causing the raging growth of yeast, *Candida albicans*. Candida then converts basic mercury into methyl mercury, an even more destructive form, and this effects DNA and makes the entire situation worse. Mercury also removes sulfur from enzymes throughout the system, not just digestive

enzymes.

Supplements that help remove mercury very quickly and competently are Zeolite (liquid and capsules), DMSA (from compounding pharmacies), green algae and green foods, especially chlorella and KyoGreen, L-Glutathione, and Cilantro liquid extract (not just eating Cilantro leaves in some salad). Also ionic footbaths with very strong machines (not the few-hundred-dollar ones) and then you see the dark metal in the water after your foot-bath.

Make sure that you detoxify from mercury gradually, drink a lot of water and fluids and don't drive or operate tools or machinery, as caveats or disclaimers say, until you are well on your way and understanding the detoxification reactions that some peo-

ple may have. Make sure also that you get the Zeolite capsules for mercury problems and overall health.

I convey to you, the reader of this article, that the toxic substance mercury negatively affects emotions, sense of self esteem, sense of well-being and sense or feeling of personal security very much. If you just feel like hell no matter what, if you just don't feel a sense of personal security no matter what, it is probably from mercury toxicity.

Thanks very much to *The Order Of The Earth* newspaper for giving me the opportunity to write this article.

Prayers and best wishes for good health for us all.

Grassroots Power

Why One Woman Started a Blog and How it Changed

By Lisa Scherer
Marianna, Pennsylvania

I first started my blog (naturenutz.blogspot.com) to write specifically about writing but it turned out that my heart wanted to go elsewhere, toward posting only about nature. Now I ask myself, "What's the point in my blogging about nature other than to share my stories and photos with other nature lovers? Does there even have to be another point? Isn't this enough?"

To me, no. What I want from my blog is not just to compare sunsets but also for a person who doesn't care about how they treat nature to visit there...and perhaps have a change of heart.

Maybe this type of person has already stopped by but nothing I've written – such as, at the rate that Americans are generating garbage, 500 landfills will be needed each year – was enough to make this person rethink his/her ways.

The very second that some of us know our time might be used doing something we don't want to do, all our good thoughts vanish and are replaced by poor excuses on why we shouldn't do something. For example, a stranger made the remark to me when I told a friend that I recycle, "Why should I recycle?" The man interrupted. "China doesn't recycle." The shadow of his response, I felt, held a hefty size bag of laziness and guilt and nothing more.



Photo by Lisa Scherer

How dirty is your other side?

Let's face it, we all have change to do when it comes to respecting the Earth. We each have a dirty and a clean side to us. The clean side knows the right thing to do would be to change bad habits, while the dirty side won't part with any or all of the comforts that make life easy. Nevertheless,

"some" change is critical to start the path for a brighter future for all present and future Earth occupants to live a better quality of life. To what extent do/will we each go to, to bring about good? If you're reading this, do you recycle? (The answer is yours and yours only. I'm not looking for answers. I just want you to hear your own response, good or bad). If you recycle, which type of item(s) do you recycle? Plastic? Paper? Styrofoam? Glass? Aluminum? Food Scraps? All of these?

One thing is clear – no matter what your answer is, landfills aren't selective. They'll take whatever we give them and in return they give us their vast, rotting, toxic, growing mounds that rainwater repeatedly hammers and helps churn into foul-smelling broth that is carried through itty-bitty cracks of earth to meet up with watersheds all over

the map.

Humph.

But the human eye can't see the poison, so the mind assumes/pretends it's not there.

[sigh]

Pitch...waste...dump...abandon...neglect... don't look back.

Here are recycling facts I took from The Washington County Planning Commission's (PA) "Recycling Works" booklet, with their permission:

1. One gallon of motor oil can contaminate one million gallons of water.
2. Motor oil never wears out. It just gets dirty. Oil can be recycled, re-fined and used again.
3. Every ton of recycled office paper saves 380 gallons of oil.
4. At the rate Americans are generating garbage, 500 landfills will be needed each year.
5. Americans throw away 25,000,000 plastic beverage bottles every hour.
6. Plastic bags do not biodegrade; they photo-degrade, breaking down into smaller and smaller toxic bits contaminating soil and waterways.
7. Americans throw away 44 million newspapers every day. That's the same as dumping 500,000 trees into a landfill daily.

Please recycle but, more importantly, reuse and reduce.

Save, Baby, Save

A Barrel Saved Is a Barrel Not Needed – Ever!

Submitted by Kim Stenley
Taneytown, Maryland

By George Lakoff
truthout, July 14, 2010

The Death Gusher in the Gulf should tell us to end offshore drilling forever.

The reason is simple: Systemic risk!

Better regulations won't end what went wrong: Corporate greed, cutting corners to save money, lack of coordination among subcontractors, unforeseen factors and just plain incompetence in private industry. Add that to isolated deep drilling sites in deep ocean where no human being can go, bad weather and oil exploding out at 10,000 pounds per square inch and you will virtually guarantee more Death Gushers.

Do we really need that oil? Could we make do with none of it?

With money, "A penny saved is a penny earned," as Ben Franklin noted. But saving oil – not needing or using it – is a much better deal: it is cumulative.

An alternative exists, though it is badly named: "energy efficiency" and "conservation" miss the general point. A high percentage of oil and fossil fuels are wasted. Huge efficiency gains per barrel are immediately possible with the right investments. What is missed is the most basic of truths. Oil savings keep accumulating.

Take insulating a building. It will save a certain number of barrels of oil this year. And the same number next year. And the year after that, and after that, year-after-year! The barrels of oil saved multiply! Without the insulation, those barrels of oil would have to be drilled year-after-year, drill and drill and drill versus save and save and save. Every year, as energy is saved, fewer barrels are needed.

Moreover, offshore drilling is very expensive, even without death gushers. And it takes time – year after year. What if that cost and that time were invested cumulatively in NOT using oil? Suppose we ended offshore drilling and re-invested the equivalent amount of money and time in forms of "energy efficiency." Would that offset the number of barrels drilled?

The Mismeasure of Energy Efficiency

The Department of Energy has misframed the energy efficiency issue. The calculation made is in money, not in barrels of oil saved. How many barrels of oil will the 2010 energy-efficiency programs save not only in 2010 but in 2011, 2012 and so on ... for, say, the next 30 years. And if we putting the drilling investments into all the job-creating ways of saving energy, how many barrels will be saved on 2011's energy efficiency programs over the following 30 years? And so on. Will those multiplied, accumulated savings tell us that we don't need to do offshore drilling after all? Or that we can cut it down significantly?

And how many jobs will be created? Real, good-paying, non-exportable jobs!

We need to know. As soon as possible.

It may be the case that ending offshore drilling is good, not bad, for the economy – and the future of the world. Secretary Chu, please add up our energy efficiency savings in terms of barrels of oil saved, with cumulative estimates over the next 30 or so years.

I make this suggestion with the greatest respect for programs already in motion from energy efficiency and conservation funding such as:

- Development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy;
- Building energy audits and retrofits, including weatherization;
- Financial incentive programs for energy efficiency such as energy savings;
- Performance contracting, on-bill financing, and revolving loan funds;
- Transportation programs to conserve energy;
- Building code development, implementation, and inspections;
- Installation of distributed energy technologies including combined heat and power and district heating and cooling systems;
- Material conservation programs including source reduction, recycling and recycled content procurement programs;
- Reduction and capture of greenhouse gas emis-

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\$720 six months

Quarter Page (horizontal)
11 1/2" wide by 5 1/2" high
\$75 one month
\$202 three months
\$360 six months

Eighth Page (horizontal)
5 3/4" wide by 5" high
\$40 one month
\$108 three months
\$192 six months



SAVE *continued from page 14*

sions generated by landfills or similar waste-related sources;

- Installation of energy efficient traffic signals and street lighting;
- Installation of renewable energy technologies on government buildings; and
- Any other appropriate activity that meets the purposes of the program and is approved by DOE.

Add to that all the many ways that oil is used in agriculture and could be saved – fertilizers and pesticides could be eliminated by organic farming methods, as well as transportation fuel that could be eliminated by the localization of food production. Instead of investing in offshore oil, we should be investing in NOT NEEDING OIL. Think about greening our long-term infrastructure – our buildings, our cars, our public transportation, our industry, our military bases, our homes.

It saves a certain number of barrels of oil right away, barrels that need not be drilled the first year. And it keeps saving that many barrels of oil every year. That means that the yearly oil-barrel savings accumulate and less and less oil has to be drilled.

Meanwhile, good meaningful jobs increase here, green jobs that cannot be outsourced. The economy does not lose, it benefits. And so do we all – no risk of future offshore oil-drilling disasters, a serious move to lessen climate change and abate future climate disasters (e.g., hurricanes), a cleaner environment.

This, of course, means a decrease in oil company profits. Unless the oil companies seriously invest in the development of alternative fuels and oil-saving industries.

The Gulf oil-drilling disaster should teach us many things, among them: Corporations are too greedy, too powerful and, all too often, incompetent. We cannot depend on oil companies to protect us and our environment. There is no way around it; oil is dirty, morally as well physically. We are told that oil from offshore drilling is necessary, as we transition to new forms of energy. But that estimate does not include the cumulative year-after-year savings of NOT NEEDING OIL. Imagine this: Instead of investments in the cost of drilling in the deep ocean and subsidizing oil companies, instead of paying for oil year after year, invest in jobs that would eliminate oil needs, as suggested by the energy department programs listed above.

Money is fungible: A penny saved is a penny earned. Oil is cumulatively fungible: A barrel saved is a barrel not needed, year after year after year.

The lesson of the Death Gusher is clear: SAVE, BABY, SAVE!

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Comments on Content

Dear Iona,

Glad to talk with you. Thank you for sending the newspapers. Very impressive and interesting publication. I wish you all the luck in the world. I will mail the article next week.

Chris Joseph

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Iona,

I'm glad to see you haven't given up. Your new format is very impressive. I was sorry to see you resort to scare tactics like the rest of the industry, though (your front-page headlines). I almost didn't pick it up for that reason. I'm glad I did. It's nice to know of the headway that is being made. People need hope more than ever now and concrete steps they can take, from where they are now, back to the "Garden."

I liked the excerpt of Derrick Jensen's Endgame and intend to dig up the rest of it to read. Thanks!

So keep up the good work! Good to hear from you again.

Peace,

David Thomas

Rocky Ridge, Maryland

Dear Iona,

Thank you as always for your great work!

Derrick (Jensen)

Dear Iona,

Thanks very much for the presentations of the two poems – beautifully done! (The owl seemed to speak to me!)*

Very best,

Sandy Chilcote

Newfoundland, Canada

(*page 16, October OE)

Iona,

(Response to coal ash EarthJustice alert, 9/24 emailed to OE list.) Done.

I liked the way you handled the Marcellus Shale in the September issue and the way you edited the photo was amusing! Thanks for taking the material. No chance to read the new one yet.

I will try to write something on the Energy Fest, it certainly was a breakthrough event with all the access to information on windmills, solar applications and the like. Quite colorful, so there are pictures.

Hang in there,

Jack Hendricks

McConnellsburg, Pennsylvania

Iona,

Yes I would like to be on your e-mail list. If Angel does not want the papers I would like to have them. I would like to pass them out to the community so they can see that all over America people are starting to fight back and take control. Please keep me informed of any new things that are happening so that I can inform others.

Thank You,

Mary Osman

Alum Bank, Pennsylvania

(Response to announcement of People's Oil and Gas Summit November 19-20 in Pittsburgh with the following note from Iona: I hope to go to the summit and meet Ben Price of CELDF. His group wants to go WAY beyond temporary moratoriums and have communities create ordinances which say "No way, Jose." And keep the damn drillers OUT.)

Hi Iona,

I agree, CELDF (Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund) is awesome, home rule is the best kind of grassroots movement that I've seen in my young life – it's more encompassing different political stripes than bipartisanship, empowering people to fight in their backyards and giving them the legal tools to protect their communities, not just fight – AWESOME!

Will you interview Ben Price for OE?

Love,

Nastassja Noell

Cheney, Washington

Hi Iona,

We distributed *The Order of the Earth* at Gasstock and the MAREA Energy Festival. There were a couple of copies left over that went to Greens in Reading to hand out.

Here is a check for postage.

Take care,

Jay Sweeney

Dalton, Pennsylvania

Dear Iona & Betsey,

About the email of Iona's I forwarded to a long list of recipients including you.....most were my high school classmates. So I'm not sure at all if any would want to be on fracking mailing lists. But I thought now or never on an issue as encompassing as the water we drink.

So if I get any really positive responses, I'll tell them to email you two and get on your lists.

Kermit Leibensperger

Sykesville, MD

World Vegetarian Day

Emailed to OE with this note: I thought you might appreciate the letter that I sent for publication to my local newspaper celebrating World Vegetarian Day. Hope they agree to publish it; it's so important.....Len
[Ed.: *They did publish it.*]

I did something unusual today (some would call it strange). I counted the restaurant advertisements in the GO Guide of the *Morning Call*. Not only that, I counted those that offered meat dishes of some sort. I did this to make a point.... actually several points. What I found were 36 restaurant ads, 25 of which referred to a meat offering. A further breakdown to emphasize the point: there were 19 mentions of beef, 15 of chicken, 12 of fish or shellfish, 11 of pork, 3 of veal, 6 others and 1 of vegetables.

What this says is that we have a fixation with meat consumption. We know this is not just in restaurants but at home as well, from breakfast through lunch into dinner and beyond. Unlike past generations, meat has become the centerpiece of all our meals, and this behavior has deadly consequences. The Amer-

ican Dietetic Association's recommendation of emphasis on fruits and vegetables each day doesn't seem to have had much effect.

Oct. 1 is World Vegetarian Day, a day devoted to showing the benefits of plant-based foods over animal-based foods. Thinking about World Vegetarian Day is what led me to research the advertising.

Why go veg beginning on Oct. 1? There are more reasons than there are bananas in a bunch. Here are a few. The 11 billion animals raised for food in the U.S. each year contribute strongly to our heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity and the other chronic diseases that afflict us. These ailments are preventable, and even largely reversible, with plant-based eating. A very significant part of the failure of our health care system is due to our overindulgence in meat-eating.

The 11 billion cows, pigs, chickens and turkeys that become our food are raised under brutal conditions, hidden in factory farms (otherwise known as CAFOs, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) so that we are not aware of the horrors inside. The days of the old-fashioned family farm and Elsie the Happy Cow are history. Many of today's food animals are ill or diseased, yet end up on our dinner plates.

The environmental impact is enormous. Huge amounts of our arable land are devoted to growing the crops to feed the animals instead of growing foods for us to eat directly. This consumes enormous amounts of water and fossil fuels, a terrible waste of resources and more than is sustainable for the future.

Perhaps the worst part of animal agriculture has to do with the carbon dioxide and methane produced by the billions of factory-farmed animals and the machinery needed to grow and convert corn and soybeans into meat for our tables. These gases are powerful greenhouse gases, strongly contributing to the warming of the planet that we see in more violent weather, melting glaciers and ice caps, loss of biodiversity, warming of the oceans, etc.

To save our health, the suffering animals and the planet on which we live and depend, I would suggest making a commitment to reducing, if not eliminating, animal food consumption, beginning on Oct. 1. Focus on eating mostly fruits, veggies, beans and whole grains. They're delicious, attractive, easy to prepare in any number of ways, health-promoting and they offer a wide variety of different and satisfying tastes. The Internet is a great resource for learning about eating plant foods.

Len Frenkel

Upper Saucon Township, Pennsylvania

[Ed.: *I finally "went veg" on October 3.*]

Banking

Iona,

Part of the reaction to the big banks' greed and recklessness is moving checking and savings accounts to smaller community banks. Community banks has a small number of branches and are not considered "too big to fail." They are as safe as the big banks and they can't rely on taxpayer money to remain in business and pay executive bonuses.

I recently started to move my check-

ing account from a large bank to a community bank in my neighborhood. The new bank has only three branches, no bullet proof windows, no greeter at the door, no back-office infrastructure in India, no plasma televisions in the lobby and no graphics on their Web page of twenty-somethings smiling at a laptop. It is very much a low-key, local operation.

If any of your readers feel like going to a bank is like going to Wal-Mart, they might consider the more relaxed and personal atmosphere of a community bank.

Mark Lautman

Rockville, MD

Chemtrails

This is a fine example of people taking action. I too wrote to *National Geographic* with my opinions and facts in an attempt to help inform and warn them that they too will be held accountable for this disinformation they are distributing to our children.

As if they are not more important issues at hand than to try to manipulate our children into believing chemtrails are nothing more than contrails....such bullshit. It actually makes them look more guilty and foolish in their attempt to confuse our children. I would love to know how this story got to *National Geographic* and who authorized it.

Peace and Freedom,

Joe (submitted by Lynn in Idaho)

Here is what sparked that letter:

As a teacher, I had occasion to look at your Web site, <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/photos/gallery/clouds/> which I found to be inaccurate. In particular, your 'children's photo gallery' is misleading to the point where I must alert you to the facts that you appear to be unaware of.

Specifically, Photo #6 discusses "contrails," which they are obviously not. Contrails are mainly water which dissipates within minutes. Photo #6 is recognizably a picture of chemtrails which are being used to modify the weather, according to a myriad of official sources, as well TV shows like weather reports and History Channel documentaries.

For those who are not aware of this phenomenon, "chemtrails" are the result of "geo-engineering," thus are "man-made clouds." There is nothing naturally-occurring about chemtrails. Actually, they are harmful to all life on land, sea and air. Thus Photo #6 needs to be removed if the truth about it is not presented with it by removing 'natural forming clouds' as the description, and inserting "stratospheric aerosol spraying," "geo-engineering/chemtrails," "weather modification," or "chemical trails" as the description instead, if Photo #6 remains in the series.

Please avail yourselves of the current, peer-reviewed academic journal facts, or find a local geoenvironmental group to get educated about the spraying of chemicals in the skies, upon us and our planet.

I am particularly distressed that children are being confused and desensitized in recognizing the phenomenon of geoenvironmental weather modification.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Hart

News Submitted by Our Readers

Marcellus Royalties to PA in Millions

Submitted by Jerry Byars

By Debra Erdly
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, August 10, 2010, *excerpt*

Marcellus shale gas drilling in state forests could pay the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Fund, an account for state parks and conservation projects, more cash from a single energy company than it typically collects in three years.

A spokesman for Talisman Energy Inc., which leases mineral rights on 5,700 acres in Tioga State Forest, said 13 Talisman wells there are producing 55 million cubic feet of natural gas a day. That translates to about \$33,000 to \$34,000 daily in royalties to the state fund.

At that rate, the publicly-traded Warrendale company could pay \$12 million a year to a fund that previously collected \$3.5 million to \$4 million a year.

Royalties are growing as wells ramp up production.

A spokesman for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said the fund collected \$608,877 in royalties from Marcellus shale wells last month, as of July 28. Six months earlier, royalties totaled only \$98,333.

The payoff from Marcellus operations has come under increasing scrutiny, along with the technology that taps the gas...

Mountaintop Removal Opponents Host Party

Submitted by Michael Kirkpatrick

By Yolanda Putman, *excerpt*
Times Free Press, September 18, 2010

More than 500 of the country's oldest mountains, covering 2,000 miles of headwater streams, have been destroyed as a result of mountaintop removal, according to Jeannie Cerulean.

She is among hundreds of Tennesseans concerned that drinking water for an increasing number of state residents is being polluted by companies stripping away mountains to get coal.

"They blow up about 1,000 feet of the mountain and they dump it into the headwater stream where our water is being collected," Cerulean said. "The whole water cycle is being affected. That's our fresh drinking water and we have a limited amount on the planet."

Cerulean was one of several people across the country raising funds to send buses of people to Washington, D.C. September 25 to 27 for the Appalachia Rising event. Organizers called it the largest mobilization against mountaintop removal and surface mining in the United States.

Coal operators met in Washington to tell politicians that mountaintop removal provides for tens of thousands of jobs...

A Little Rolling Turns Junk Mail into Jewelry

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle

By Jennifer Forker
The Associated Press, *excerpt*

When you're done with that magazine, don't toss it.

Clever crafters today are turning pages into pretty: beads, bowls, baskets, photo frames, mirrors and more. It's all made by rolling strips of shiny magazine paper, junk mail and other paper trash.

Some of the paper beads you can buy in craft and jewelry stores are made by women in developing countries.

A nonprofit group called BeadforLife, in Boulder, Colorado, for instance, trains Ugandan women in paper bead-making, then buys their finished jewelry for sale in the United States.

Besides beading, the Ugandans learn business and entrepreneurial skills. They open bank accounts. And 18 months after joining BeadforLife's program, each graduate is expected to launch her own small business in her community.

Most succeed, said Torkin Wakefield, co-founder and co-director of BeadforLife. The nonprofit has worked with more than 700 women since its 2004 inception and paid nearly \$1 million to its jewelry makers last year...

New Monkey Species Discovered in Colombia

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle

By Nancy Lopez
The Associated Press, *excerpt*

BOGOTA, Colombia — A new Amazon monkey species has been discovered in Colombia and researchers said that they believe the small, isolated population is at risk due to the cutting of forests that are its home.

The find was announced by Conservation International, a group that helped finance the research in remote rainforests that until recently were considered too dangerous for scientific work due to the presence of leftist rebels.

A team of researchers from the National University of Colombia observed 13 groups of the new species – dubbed the *Caqueta titi* monkey because it was found in the southern state of Caqueta, near Peru.

The researchers, who published their findings in the journal *Primate Conservation*, believe the species may be critically endangered. They estimate less than 250 of the monkeys exist and say the felling of forest for agriculture threatens their habitat.

The new variety of titi monkey, which has the scientific name *Callicebus Caquetensis*, is the size of a cat and has grayish-

Clearville Residents Blame Reduced Property Values on Natural Gas Project

Submitted by Angel Smith

By Wendy Zook, *excerpt*
Altoona Mirror, October 10, 2010

CLEARVILLE, Pennsylvania — Some landowners in this tiny rural community just miles from the Maryland border say the hits just keep on coming.

People like Angel and Wayne Smith, Mike Benard and Mary McConnell say they and their families and animals have been poisoned with water and air pollution as well as bombarded with noise, traffic and a loss of power over their properties.

They say it's happened since signing contracts several years ago with Texas-based Spectra Energy for a natural gas storage project under their land. Spectra negotiated leases with the majority of the Clearville landowners involved in the project but eminent domain was used for a few landowners holding out on signing contracts with the company.

Now, similar scenarios across the state and as far away as eastern Texas have made them realize that their properties could be worth a fraction of what they were once valued at – or perhaps not worth anything at all.

While the actual assessed value on many Bedford County properties has gone up, it's because of the county undergoing its first reassessment in more than 50 years

and nothing more, Benard said.

Benard and his wife, Chris, own 10 acres in Clearville with only a small cabin with no electricity, gas, water or cooking or bathing facilities.

"It has been more than a half-century between tax assessments," Benard said. "One could hardly expect property tax assessments to go down."

Construction on the 12-billion-cubic-foot facility and 10 miles of pipeline was completed last spring. Since then, the Smiths report they have suffered health ailments, lost animals on their 105-acre farm and spent thousands of dollars on a water conditioner to purify water they say is contaminated by chemicals such as arsenic.

Their property, which they bought for \$135,000 in 1997, had property taxes then of \$552.75. They since added fences and a couple of buildings and remodeled the farmhouse. It was recently appraised at \$340,200, with taxes now at more than \$3,000.

Just prior to the project's drilling, a real estate agent said the house could be put on the market for about \$650,000, Angel said. "We're paying taxes for the gas company's property," Angel said, adding that the couple has no control over what they can do on the property since Spectra Energy came to town...

Grassroots Power

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 together all ten "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

The Order of the Earth

21431 Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

You may email me at ionaconner@gmail.com

or phone me at 814-259-3680.

Thank you.

THE AWAKENING: PART II

This message is sent to you by the one who makes all things new, The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God.

I, Iona, spoke with The Trustworthy And True Spirit, The Most High God after "The Awakening" appeared in last month's Order of the Earth newspaper. During our recent phone conversation, he dictated this message:

Most High God says, "Just as the wind blows and brushes across your face, you have no idea exactly where that wind came from and, just as the wind leaves your face, you have no idea exactly where that wind is going. And so it is with my spirit."

"No one can know who my spirit is upon, especially not by thoughts or opinions or beliefs — for they are just that. All of these things have one thing in common: none of them has a foundation of Truth.

"For the time is now at hand.

I will suggest to you that you open your minds and hearts to the Truth and let anyone who has an ear listen to what I am saying. The head has two ears but the heart also has an ear, H-EAR-T.

"It is possible to recognize me intellectually, but the only sure way to know me without doubt is to feel me in your heart. Hardened hearts and closed minds will be the last to know me.

"Live within the light of my Love and my Truth and you will hear from me again soon."

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

Please feel free to share this message with as many people as you can but we ask that you DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE A WAY FROM IT IN ANY WAY. For further information about The Most High God contact Iona at 814-259-3680 or ionaconner@gmail.com or write to her at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. My next visit will be early in December in case anyone wants to join me.



JUST BECAUSE

*Just because open hearts are so dear
I write this poem from my heart sincere.
Whether you laugh or shed a tear,
it comes not from your heart
but your thoughts that you fear.*

*I know my coming takes you all by surprise
and it's your heart that I see
when I look in your eyes.
No matter what's in your thoughts,
your heart does not lie
for the Truth in your heart
will never die.*

*Written by: The Trustworthy And True
Living Spirit, The Most High God*

Party

Continued from page 1

roasters was nearly ready and, as I was chatting to a woman and her daughter with my back to the rest of the crowd, a long line had quietly formed outside the barn.

So, we got in line and kept talking to the family with whom we shared a table. I told the other woman that we didn't know it was a potluck and she said they hadn't known it either on their first visit. She had made her family's favorite — macaroni and cheese. I commented that a lot of women take pride in their cooking (I don't) so the offerings they brought were really special. Her family was disappointed to find that her mac-and-cheese was gone by the time we all got to the serving tables. But there was still lots of food and everything was delicious!

After dinner, some of the adults took some of the children up on the sloping hill and flew a kite and played some outdoor games with them. I always get a beg charge when I see kids outside playing these days — it's so unusual, sad to say.

While the men moved out the food tables, the women reclaimed their cookware and the music started up with more gusto — or maybe I was just better able to hear it after the dinner line cleared out.

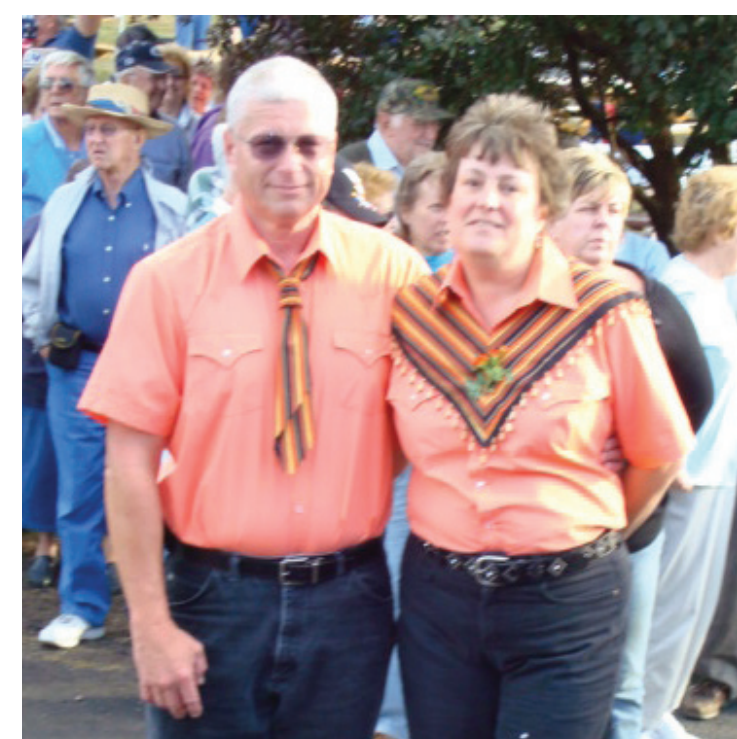
I got to dance a little bit before the square-dancing started because a few of us were up and at 'em while the tables were being moved outside. After watching one square dance (which we didn't do), my husband was ready to head home and I was fine with that — it had been a super wonderful evening and we don't know how to square dance anyhow.

Luckily, Leonard Foust had his camera and his friend, Tina Swinn, helped me make arrangements for him to send me his pictures. Otherwise, this story would only be words. Thanks, Leonard!

In an email to me later, Leonard wrote: "This event sure shows that there are good people willing to share to anyone who wants to have good clean fun."

And I hope you can all attend a party like this one day, maybe not so large, but such fun!!!!

Anyone got a barn?



Photos by Leonard Foust

Top: Earlybirds begin to gather in front of the barn as it is getting readied for all the others to arrive.

Above: The musicians are playing as the tables are cleared away by the menfolk (top left). The MC kept making jokes like they were only commissioned to play three songs.

Left: Leonard Foust and Tina Swinn are ready for the square dancing to begin.

Right: Sign in front of Allison's home inviting everyone to the party (far right).

