

# The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

October 2010

theorderoftheearth.com

Vol. 10 No. 9 Issue 102: To press 9/16/10

\$1.00



Two  
New Organic Farmers  
Share Love of Life,

Love of Land,  
and Love for Each Other

By Diana (Part I)  
and Justin (Part II)  
Licking Creek Farm, Needmore,  
Pennsylvania

*"Be the change you wish to see in the world." An ageless quote spoken by a true sage, Mahatma Gandhi. These words now speak to the children of light, who are currently living an introspective existence of choice. We use our voice and our actions so that we may inspire one another to make a difference for generations to come. One of the most beautiful aspects about humans is that we have the ability to adapt quickly and to change constantly. Every moment holds the potential to help us evolve into better people and we are the ones who set our own standard of perfection. Along the way, we store memories of the things we have done and the impressions we have left. We can feel rejoice or regret for the impact felt by the Earth and all of its glorious and diverse creations caused by our every movement.*

When I really started caring about animals and nature, it opened a rabbit hole that I never wanted to climb out of again. In 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I had a few vegan friends. I had never even known what it meant to be vegan but I was so interested in the idea and the passion behind this lifestyle that I decided to watch some PETA documentaries. They broke my heart right in two and from that moment on I could never eat another animal again. When I was young, I didn't even question what I was actually eating but it tasted great so I ate it. I understand that some people prefer to eat meat and that is okay if it is done in a humane and environmentally-safe way. When I met Justin in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, he was consuming a meat diet but as soon as he knew that I was not he very quickly decided to stop. It seemed easy for him too, just a flip of the switch in our minds. At that time, I started eating cheese again but still not drinking milk. That too was about to change.

Right before we left for our journey out west, we decided to once and for all clean up all the garbage that people had dumped over his hilly property leading down to the creek. It was a humongous task but Justin had watched it pile up for about 12 years and we really wanted to see it all clear and pristine the way it should be. When we were done, after about a week, there were two huge piles the size of busses. It changed the way we felt about trash because we came to see that the garbage can is a lie. Some things just never disappear.

So of course, now we stopped eating cheese and very rarely buy anything that has a wrapper which is not recyclable. At the same time, we started to notice Organic labels on a lot of the food that we saw at the stores we now shopped at. The questions and curiosity emerged about what the word Organic really meant. The definition is very simple but its implications are enormous. It means that the food

Continued on page 2

## Update on "The Awakening" and Most High God

I, Iona, have just returned from my fifth visit to see The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God of all Creation. It was the most profound trip of all because He shared with me even higher understandings of His Heavenly Kingdom and I learned more about His ways and requirements for everlasting Harmony than on my previous trips.

For our new readers, I'll explain that a truly pure and virtuous man gave his human body and soul so that The Most High God could receive human form and be here with us during our time of greatest need, these end times of life as we know it here on Earth. He is here to offer us the choice to bow to Him and His Council of Elders (see page 3) and let Him lead us out of chaos, insanity, suffering, cruelty, war, greed, lust, etc. Here is our chance to meet Him face-to-face, follow His Wisdom, Kindness, Truth, Love, Compassion, Generosity, etc. and help Him end the savagery, anger, domination, etc. which plague our planet and all Creation that humans are aware of these days. He has brought with Him the Sacred Rules to establish Heaven on Earth NOW. We and all Creation have the best opportunity ever offered to us.

In Most High's Kingdom we are to love Him and His Council of Elders first, then we are to love all other things with the same intensity as we love Him but we need to love Him and His Council of Elders first - not more than, but first - and they, in turn, will love us so that Love, Respect, Honor, Truth, etc. will always

surround us.

Most High is working with all dimensions (the seen and unseen spirits) offering us all the same choice - follow Him or continue to destroy ourselves and everything around us. When I go there I listen and learn. I learn by direct teachings, I learn by His example, I learn by observing others, I learn by making mistakes and being gently corrected and I learn by paying attention to my heart, my feelings, my gut.

During this visit, Most High gave me a glimpse of what Heaven on Earth and in all dimensions might be like and my heart and soul and spirit were in awe. I also saw (through neighborhood politics) how miserable, ignorant and stupid our human ways can be - it was a microcosm of the world when people put their faith and trust in themselves and others instead of in Most High God.

We haven't published "Awakening" articles during the summer because Most High has been busy doing charitable work in his community for free. He does not use money and has not used any since he gave up his lucrative logging and excavating business 12 years ago. Despite the fact that he has done nearly \$40,000 worth of road work in the subdivision in which He lives, the board refuses to GIVE Him water. He has carried water for three years. Some of His friends are collecting money to pay up the past dues (which He stopped paying when they shut off his water). He may get water by the time this goes to press but it goes to show how cruel people can be. Even the UN has mandated the right

to water for all, even those who cannot pay.

Most High called it "Downtown Hell." The same thing goes on everywhere around the world - people out of control, hurting others and the environment. Who would want to continue on the present path when we can choose Heaven on Earth now?

In trying to be a humble and obedient guest, I screwed up a few times and witnessed others doing so, too. Most High teaches us why some of these habits would hurt others in His Kingdom and that is one reason He corrects us. In just one visit, I can learn about the most extraordinarily, wonderful possibilities Most High is offering us with ALL the spirits and beings in perfect Harmony in a world where Love, Truth, Justice, Righteousness, etc. prevail; where there is no suffering here in the physical world. We don't have to die to experience Heaven -- we just have to surrender to Most High God and let him lead.

For now, Most High works with us individually and in small groups. The groups are growing; more people are coming to see Him and listen to His wisdom and Counsel. This is the most exciting and important thing ever to happen in this world. I am trying to learn how to be a "good model citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven." There are many behaviors/habits that cannot continue in the Kingdom because they are harmful to the whole, so Most High works closely and intensely with us. We let Him lead, guide, teach, reason, etc. It actually feels good to grow in

Continued on page 16

## How Climate Change in South America Affects the Entire Planet

An Interview With  
Nikolas Kozloff

Submitted by Kim Stenley  
Taneytown, Maryland

By Joshua Frank  
truthout, July 14, 2010

Nikolas Kozloff is the author of *Hugo Chavez: Oil, Politics, and the Challenge to the U.S. and Revolution*, a *Financial Times* Best Book in 2008. An expert on South America, Kozloff is a former fellow at the Council on Hemispheric Affairs in Washington D.C. He recently spoke to Joshua Frank about his new book, *No Rain in the Amazon*. His writings can be found on the Web.

**Joshua Frank:** Your book *No Rain in the Amazon* draws dire attention to climate change's impact on South America's and the world's largest and most ecologically important rainforest. Would you talk a bit about global warming's immediate impact on the species that reside there, the indigenous peoples that inhabit these great forests and the fresh water that makes all this life possible?

**Nikolas Kozloff:** First off, I think it's important to note the actual scale of what we're dealing with here, which is truly off the charts. The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest - it's as large as the 48 contiguous United States and represents about 40% of the South American land mass touching on eight countries. The Amazon River is the world's sec-

ond longest after the Nile, the first in terms of overall discharge, and carries sediment all the way from the Andes in the west down to the Atlantic in the east. Global warming is a threat to local wildlife as well as the Amazonian population. But, when we talk about the rainforest we have to be careful to avoid the usual clichés: While the Amazon is home to many indigenous tribes, the area also has large cities such as Manaus and has a total population of about 25 million.

Researchers have grown concerned that the El Niño effect, a meteorological phenomenon associated with the Pacific Ocean, may be increasing in frequency and intensity. In the Amazon, El Niño results in drought and affects everyone - not just Indians. What is even scarier is that warming sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic - the same waters that unleashed Hurricane Katrina - are now thought to be contributing to Amazonian drought as well. In 2005, an Atlantic-linked drought actually led to water shortages in the Peruvian city of Iquitos as the water level of the nearby Nanay River had gone down. The drought meanwhile resulted in wildfires, smoke pollution and dried up streams. Residents were greeted to a surreal sight as thousands of rotting fish lay exposed along dry banks, which were promptly consumed by ravenous vultures.

The drought affected all kinds of local wildlife but, to my mind,

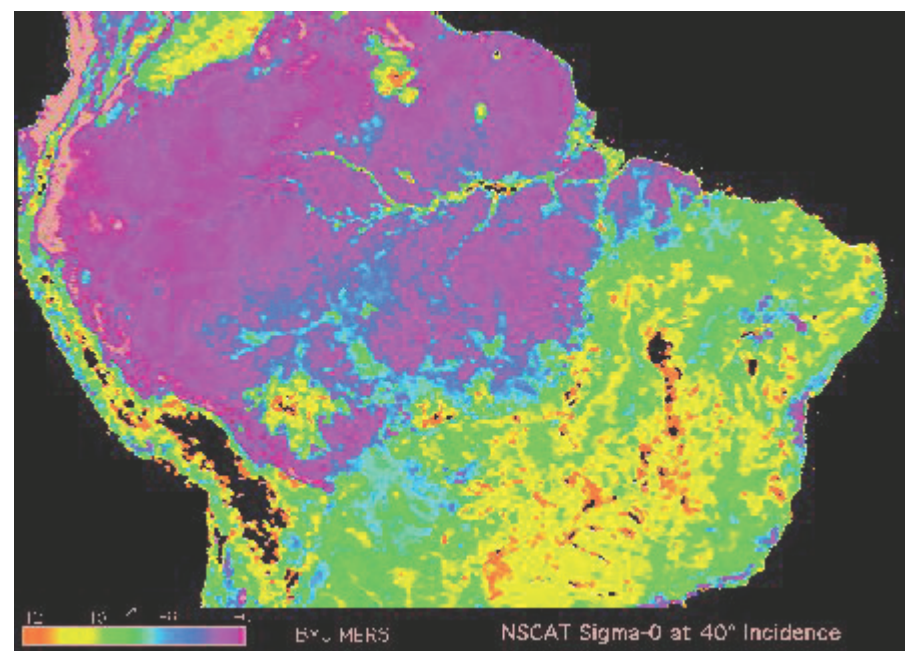


Photo by NASA  
Radar data from the NASA Scatterometer operating over South America shows the distribution of several general, land-cover classes in the Amazon. In this image-based map, rain forest appears in blue/purple, woodlands and savannah in green or yellow, and farmlands or undeveloped mountain lands in black.

one animal stands out: the manatee. One of the most outlandish creatures on the planet, the shy and retiring manatee, which gets its name from an American Indian word meaning "Lady of the Water," was first described as a cross between a seal and hippo. The manatee, which incidentally has also been placed at great risk as a result of the recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, has a wonderfully round body the shape of a sweet potato, mostly black skin the texture of vinyl, a bright pink belly, a diamond-shaped tail and

a cleft lip. In 2005 observers were saddened by the sight of dying manatees lying in local rivers. According to the Brazilian environmental agency, more than one hundred of the rare aquatic mammals may have died as a result of the drought. It's impossible to say how many manatees are left, perhaps fewer than 10,000 in the Amazon region.

**JF:** It seems that a lot of people living here in the United States do not realize that our country's contribution to climate change is having very real

impacts on those living down in the Amazon. You write about a number of these effects in your book but what are some that stand out in your mind as the most startling?

**NK:** The U.S. has been affecting the Amazon for sometime through its own carbon emissions. As I stated before, researchers are very concerned that El Niño may be increasing in both frequency and intensity as a result of global warming. That in turn could give rise to more consecutive droughts in the Amazon and a carbon death spiral to the bottom. What Americans don't realize is that the Amazon acts as a great climate insurance policy. In the best of times, the forest absorbs tons of carbon in living and decaying vegetation. But in the event of drought and forest fires, this carbon gets released into the atmosphere and exacerbates global warming.

The U.S. also plays a direct role when it comes to environmental boondoggles in the Amazon which in turn affect climate

change. For years, large financial institutions have been playing an environmentally unfriendly role in the rainforest. The U.S. exercises significant leverage over these institutions. For instance, the U.S. is the main shareholder of the Inter American Development Bank or IADB, with 30 percent of voting power. When it comes to electing the president of the IADB, member countries with the most capital, like the United States, have a lot more power than poor countries.

Activists say that the IADB does not promote open dialogue about its projects. That's a problem, since it looks as if the IADB will be funding destructive hydropower projects in the Amazon. Hydropower is destructive not only because it displaces indigenous peoples and floods wide areas of rainforest but also because it emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas, as a result of rotting vegetation lying in reservoirs. To his credit, "Avatar" director James Cameron has been speaking out about these projects and drawing the attention of the mainstream media. It's a start but, in general, this issue has fallen completely under the radar screen.

The U.S. must also do more to halt other destructive industries such as cattle. In Brazil, the cattle industry pushes poor farmers into the rainforest where they cut down trees and increase carbon emissions. In addition, cattle burps and farts - I'm sorry to

Continued on page 6

# Organic Farming

## Two New Organic Farmers Share Love of Life, Love of Land and Love for Each Other

Collages by Justin and Diana

*Continued from page 1*

that is grown organically is not sprayed with chemical herbicides (which destroy weeds) or pesticides (which kill bugs). Now we were facing yet another fork in the road. But again, the decision came very easily. We reasoned that if these chemicals kill weeds and bugs, then they cannot be good for us or the planet. It is done on such a mass scale that the runoff is getting into our water sources and the animals have no choice but to drink it and live with the consequences.

Fortunately for us, we do have a choice. Our life has been full of consecutive sacrifices, but each sacrifice was made for our own well-being and for the Earth and all of its creations.

Then everything got real for us. It was time to figure out how we were going to make a decent living. We made a list of our passions, our skills and future goals and, since organic food was at the top of the list, we decided to try to work on an organic farm. We found the Web site [www.woof.org](http://www.woof.org), which is short for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms -- an awesome organization that gathers contact information and a short summary of organic farms all around the world. All you have to do is pay twenty dollars to become a member and they will send you a surprisingly large directory of all the organic farms in any participating country. We wanted to stay fairly close to home for our first experience and found Licking Creek Bend Farm.

We visited the farm at the end of the season last year and just completely fell in love. The people we met were so great and the property was absolutely perfect. Now that we have been here for six months, these people have become a family and a very functional team. We have seen and dealt with the massive weed growth and we have lived harmoniously amongst all the bugs. It feels so good to harvest our produce with all sorts of bees buzzing around. There are also wasps, lady bugs, stink bugs, noisy cicadas, aphids and the list could go on and on.

Side by side we work on our various tasks as we all listen to the symphony of the birds welcoming another day. Here, we rise with the sun and don't stop until it's too dark; there is always so much that needs to be done.

One of the most amazing things I have experienced so far is placing a seed into a small cell of dirt, watering it and then watching it emerge to reach the sun. Then only after a short time, it is big enough to place in the ground where its roots can grow far and wide in all directions.

This is when the real magic happens. With the proper amount of water and attention, this plant starts making delicious creations that we can eat to give us energy and nutrition. It is a wonderful cycle of life. We nurture it, it nurtures us.

The same goes for our precious planet. If we continue to poison, pillage, and choke the Earth for much longer, it will no longer be healthy and habitable for us. If we each think that we personally will never make a big enough of an impact to change anything, than we will not. But if everyone really started caring about the planet we live on, the animals we share it with and our own bodies then we will collectively create a system of supply and demand which would be more favorable for us all. That is why even though we often feel like a drop in the ocean, we do it because we can, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." This lovely quote by Margaret Mead struck a chord in my heart and soul and has inspired my thoughts ever since I first read it.

These past six months I have truly gotten a taste of the joys and struggles of farming organically -- to be able to harvest what we have helped to grow and taste the goodness of the land in all the various fruits and vegetables we have sown. We actually eat the fruits of our labor. When I am sweating, exhausted and my back hurts out in the field, I remember why I am here and how beautiful my job really is and again I am at peace.

We have about one hundred and twenty Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) members whom we feed three times a week, and we have five farmers' markets located in Washington, D.C. (three on Tuesday and two on Saturday). Mike Tabor, the owner of the farm since 1972, has been traveling two hours south for thirty-six years to provide low-income families with affordable, local and fresh produce in an area where no farmers' market was ever thought possible. People have been very grateful and keep coming back year after year, so to us it is worth leaving here at four in the morning. This has been the most physically demanding job I have ever had and we spend about 99% of our time out in the intense heat of the sun. Our season has been troubled by the drought, the tomato blight and by the weeds which in some places are now



**"The truth is we and the Earth are being destroyed by design."**

- Justin

Licking Creek Bend Farm

towering over our heads but we still enjoy every moment of it.

We have recently launched our Web site: [www.lickingcreekbendfarm.com](http://www.lickingcreekbendfarm.com) where you will find many pictures and a brief description of the farm. The beauty here is so hard to put into words though, so if you really want the full experience, feel free to volunteer your hands for a day or more. There is plenty of camping space and we could always use the help and new friendships.

I often imagine this planet from the outside. What I see is a lot of destruction with pieces of heaven glowing all over the world. Small farms and communities are co-existing harmoniously with everything around them and the planet is thriving in those places. Right now, I am in one of these places and what I choose to do feels good. I don't know what the future will be like for me but I will continue to follow my heart and intuition while living with Most Love and Gratitude Always. -- Diana

\* \* \* \*

**"Be the change you wish to see in the world." An ageless quote spoken by a true sage, Mahatma Gandhi. These words now speak to the children of light, who are currently living an introspective existence of choice. We use our voice and our actions so that we may inspire one another to make the necessary changes needed to restore the equilibrium between the resources offered by the world around us and that which we desire. And that which we desire no longer correlates to the simplistic and basic elements existing around us at all times -- creating the fundamental differences that must be realized on many levels, including government, the way our money is spent and the limited educational curriculum -- as well as the inherent symbiosis between the complex living organism Earth and the complex living organism our souls reside in.**

This personal freedom of choice will be recognized by all one day despite the unequal standards of living established by corporate design. Now, taking back this personal power begins with the individual. Although we can't completely detach ourselves from the establishment and the paths which we follow may vary, we can evolve together as one. As we work collectively to improve the health and vitality of the lives we all have in common through senses and conscious reality. It is time to break down the many barriers that have divided civilizations throughout time -- greed, obtained by separation, religious indoc-



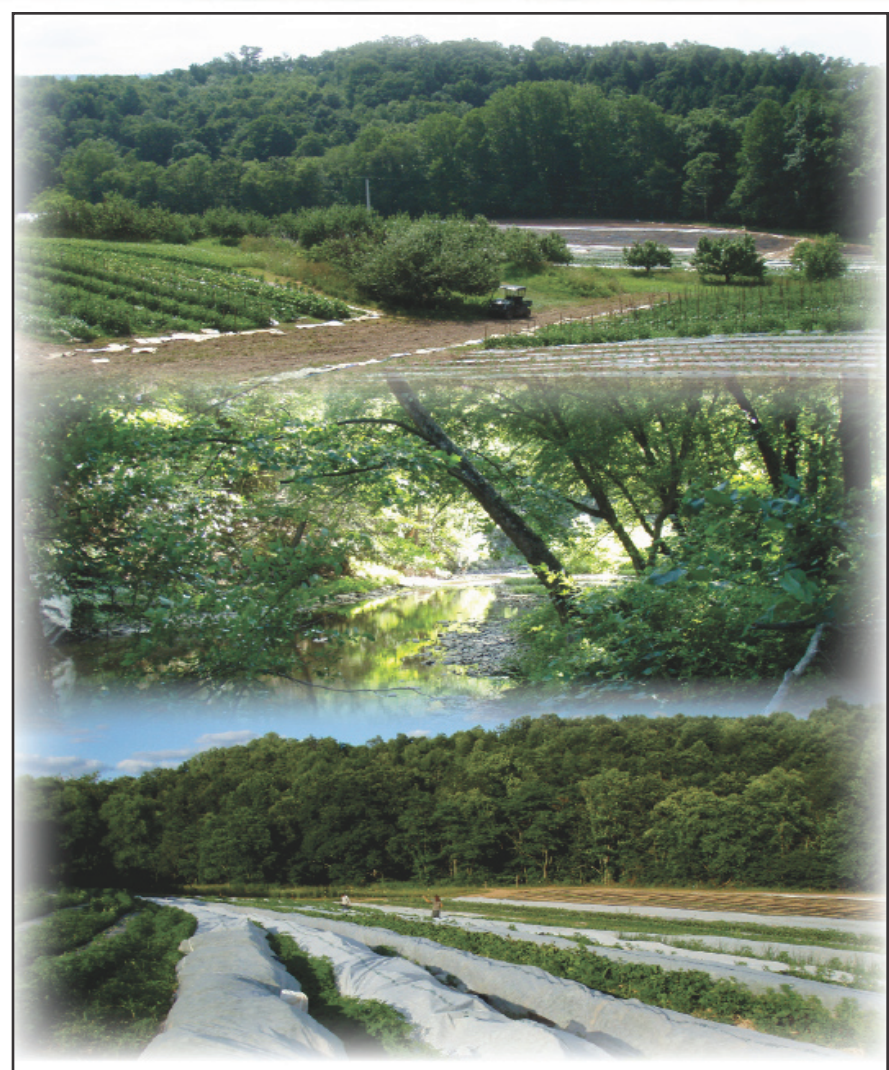
trination and communication. Uniting our strength in numbers around one common truth. And the truth is we and the Earth are being destroyed by design.

We have learned to pervert the periodic table to distract ourselves with material, by poisoning our minds. It's in our chemically-fortified water, the genetically-modified food we are given to eat; the environment in which we raise our animals for cheap to kill and have our meat; in the chemical trails we lace across our skies to hide ourselves from the true light of evolution in a shadow of lies.

So inform yourself to inform others of the importance of Organic. Not Organic by the worthless label and guidelines that may come to mind but Organic in the way things naturally grow, the way the order of life naturally flows. Support each other, local farming and fair trade. Even if you can't do it for a living, offer your hands just for a day. Don't let the corporate coffers of profit use you as under paid slaves. Every day our decisions are what prolong this reality, so may the light be shown and the truth be known aside the shadows of the cowardly seeds that are sown.

With Most Love and Gratitude Always. -- Justin

If you'd like to contact us or if you'd like collages made personally for you, email us! [djforearth@gmail.com](mailto:djforearth@gmail.com).





## Pittsburgh Council to Consider Banning Corporations from Drilling for Natural Gas in the City

**NEWS FLASH: First Ordinance confronting Marcellus was introduced on 9/7/10!**

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund  
Pennsylvania Community Rights Network  
P.O. Box 2016 Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17201; www.celdf.org

**“It’s about our authority as a community to decide, not corporations deciding for us.”**

– Councilman Doug Shields –

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (August 17, 2010) — At a City Hall press conference today, Councilman Doug Shields announced he will introduce a bill that would ban corporations from drilling for gas in the city of Pittsburgh. He said he will introduce the ordinance following Council’s current recess.

At the heart of “Pittsburgh’s Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance” is this statement of law: **It shall be unlawful for any corporation to engage in the extraction of natural gas within the City of Pittsburgh.**

Also included in the ordinance is a local “bill of rights” that asserts legal protections for the right to water, the rights of natural communities, the right to local self-government and the right of the people to enforce and protect these rights through their municipal government.

The bill was drafted by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund at the invitation of council members.

Commenting on his legislative proposal, Shields stated, “Many people think that this is only about gas drilling. It’s not – it’s about our authority as a municipal community to say “no” to corporations that will cause damage to our community. It’s about our right to community, local self-government.”

Shields urged all municipalities in the Commonwealth to enact similar laws “to send a message to Harrisburg” and he insisted that a temporary moratorium “will not be an acceptable consolation prize for a failure of the State to recognize this local law and these fundamental rights.”

Energy corporations are setting up shop in communities throughout Pennsylvania with plans to drill for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation. The frenzy of industrial gas extraction that once appeared to be confined to rural communities and state forest lands has taken residents of the city by surprise. Corporate “land men” have busily signed-up Pittsburgh property owners to contracts allowing wells to be erected on private property throughout the city. The prospect of paved-over green spaces, nights lit like airport runways, round-the-clock sounds of loud machinery, broken and pitted roads from the high volume truck traffic and the threat of toxic trespass by a cocktail of patented chemicals and escaping methane into the ground water, has alarmed neighbors of lease-holders and they’ve begun to organize in opposition to the proposed drilling.

Ben Price, Projects Director for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, said he applauds the Council member for taking a stand on behalf of community rights. “Some will say it’s controversial or that the City doesn’t have the authority to ban gas drilling. The only way that’s true is if the State has the authority to strip the residents of the City of their rights and it doesn’t.”

Price commented that “we don’t have a gas drilling problem. What we have is a democracy problem. We need to stop treating the environmental symptoms and cure the societal disease that’s brought fracking to our doorstep. The State says we don’t have the right to decide whether or not we get fracked and that only the corporate-lobbied members of the General Assembly have the wisdom to decide how much harm should be legalized through state-issued permits. There’s something sick about that kind of thinking. If we cure the systemic, anti-democratic disorder manifested by our state’s refusal to recognize the right to local, community self-government, gas drilling without consent of the governed will go away.”

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

**CONTACT: Ben Price (717) 254-3233 or benprice@celdf.org. The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, located in Chambersburg, has been working with people in Pennsylvania since 1995 to assert their fundamental rights to democratic local self-governance and to enact laws which end destructive and rights-denying corporate action aided and abetted by state and federal governments.**

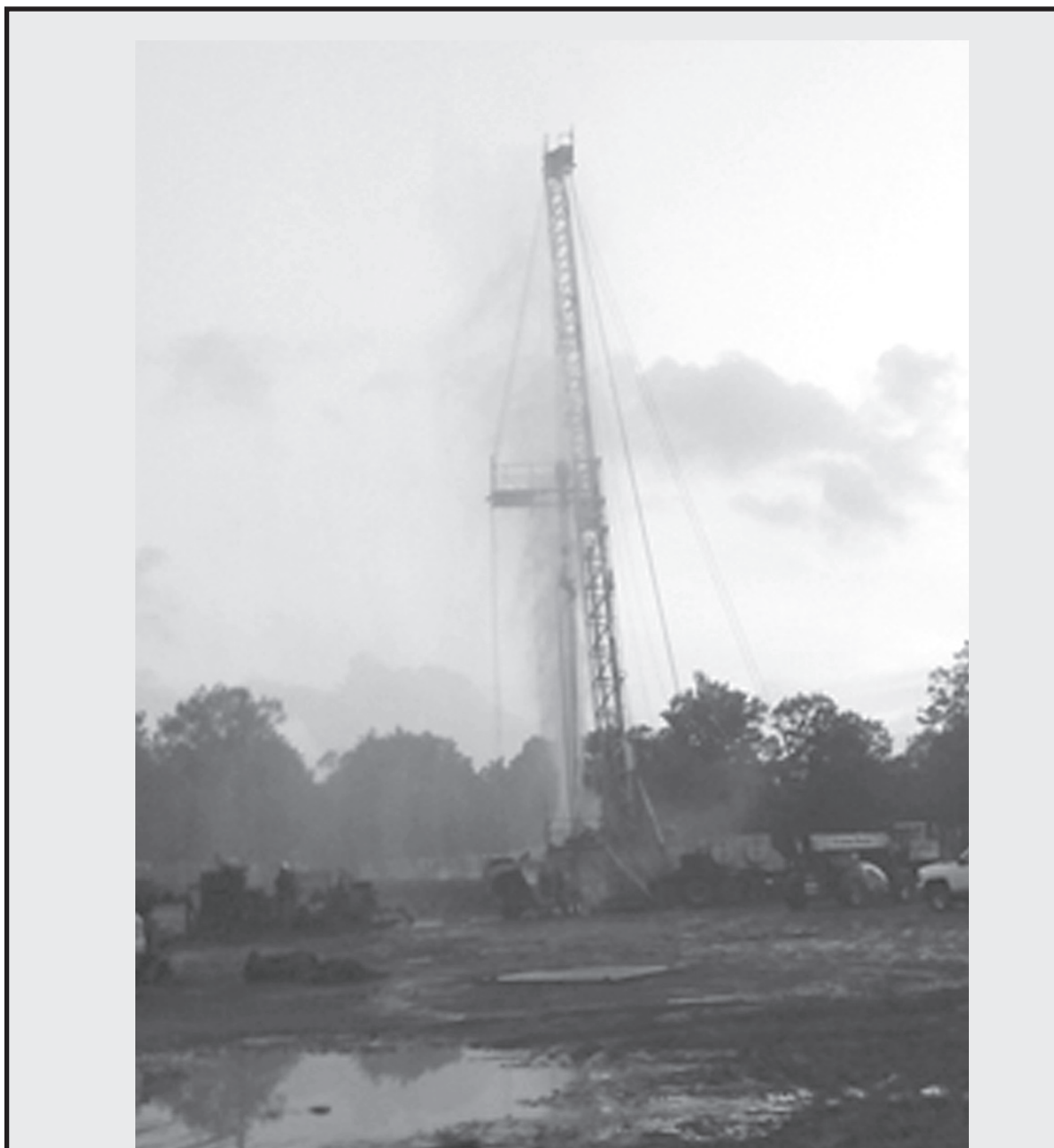


Photo Courtesy PA Department of Environmental Protection  
First responders used cell phone cameras to photograph natural gas and wastewater spewing from the EOG Resources “fracking” gas well during the June 3 blowout in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania.

## Investigation Confirms Pennsylvania Fracking Well Blowout Was Easily Preventable, Potentially Catastrophic

Submitted by Kim Stenley

By Mike Ludwig  
truthout, July 14, 2010

Pennsylvanians are wondering if their state could become the next environmental ground zero after officials confirmed Tuesday that irresponsible drilling practices and a failed “blowout preventer” caused the June 3 blowout of a gas well in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. Well operator EOG Resources uses controversial “fracking” techniques to harvest gas from the massive Marcellus Shale reserve, where the state has permitted thousands of wells.

No one was injured but the busted well spewed highly-combustible natural gas and an estimated 35,000 gallons of wastewater that contaminated a nearby spring and stream, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DEP Secretary John Hanger announced that an independent investigation confirmed that the incident was preventable and EOG Resources ignored industry standards by failing to install proper barriers in the well and hiring uncertified operators. Hanger also said that EOG Resources failed to alert emergency authorities until several hours after the blowout, which hindered the state’s response.

“Make no mistake, this could have been a catastrophic incident,” Hanger said. “Had the gas blowing out of this well ignited, the human cost would have been tragic and, had an explosion allowed this well to discharge wastewater for days or weeks, the environmental damage would have been significant.”

John Vittitow, an experienced petroleum engineer hired by the DEP to conduct the investigation, made an eerie comparison to the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the gulf as he described the failed blowout preventer that led

to the incident. Vittitow said that EOG Resources only installed one pressure barrier during a well clean-out procedure, while industry standards call for at least two barriers in case of failure.

Hanger admitted that state regulations on well operations are broad and regulators would have to be “more prescriptive” to ensure that well operators use at least two barriers in the future.

Vittitow’s investigation also revealed that the C. C. Forbes operators lacked industry certifications that are mandatory in most companies.

The DEP fined EOG Resources and C. C. Forbes a total of \$400,000 collectively, lifted a suspension on activities at the well and ordered the firms to follow nine procedural rules in the future. When asked why EOG Resources’ drilling license was not revoked, Hanger said that the order “had teeth” and explained the company has the potential to be a “first class” natural gas pro-

Continued on page 5

## All three Chapman Zoning Hearing Board Members Resign in Protest to Water Withdrawal

Submitted by Ryan Talbott

Act of Defiance by Local Politicians

By Scott Johnson  
The Express, Lock Haven, PA

NORTH BEND, Pennsylvania (August 27, 2010) — In a stunning move Thursday night, all three members of the Chapman Township Zoning Hearing Board resigned minutes before a special hearing to allow a natural gas company to withdraw hundreds of thousands of gallons of water daily from the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

The move left most of the approximately two dozen people at the municipal building speechless and further drags out the seemingly-endless process by Andarko E&PA Co. LP to acquire a special exception to withdraw up to 720,000 gallons of water daily from the river near Gold Star Mothers Bridge.

They sought, but the zoning hearing board denied, a special

exception to the Agricultural-Forest District to allow the water-pumping and hauling operation. The property is owned by Bob Maguire and would be leased by Andarko. The parties have secured a permit from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to withdraw water at the site but with limitations. Also, the township planning commission previously recommended the operation be approved but with limitations.

About 10 minutes after the scheduled 6 p.m. start to the hearing last night, township Solicitor Frank Miceli addressed the crowd, holding three letters in his hand.

The letters were, individually, resignations by board members Chairman John P. Rathmell Jr., Alice Tarr and John Drake, and each was turned in about a half-hour before the start of the hearing, leaving officials no chance to have alternates fill their places. Drake had been serving as an alternate for Dennis Trout.

“I’ve been doing this for 20 years; never (have I seen something like this),” said board Solicitor Stephen Smith after the hearing.

The three were ordered by Clin-

ton County President Judge J. Michael Williamson earlier this month to grant Andarko the special exemption, saying the board’s decision to deny the request in May was “arbitrary, capricious (and)... an abuse of discretion and error by law.”

Instead of going against their wishes – and instead of being held in contempt of court – Rathmell, Tarr and Drake resigned their seats.

Smith said he met the three at Dremel’s gas station at 5:30 p.m. and was handed three, sealed envelopes addressed to Miceli. Miceli opened the letters, which turned out to be resignations, mere moments before the scheduled 6 p.m. start, forcing the adjournment due to a lack of a quorum.

Tarr’s letter said that, since she was being forced to go against the wishes of herself and the community – and due to the risk of environmental harm – “I can no longer serve and, therefore, resign my position as of 5:30 p.m.”

Drake’s letter stated, “After much thought, I cannot morally position our citizens’ safety, health and well-

Continued on page 5

## What About the Money?

By Calvin Tillman  
Mayor, DISH, Texas

When I was preparing for my first trip to the Marcellus Shale, I was approached by someone who lived in upstate New York to discuss the issues that were going on in DISH as well as the Barnett Shale in general. As we began discussing the lessons learned here about leasing and the amount of money given at lease signing, he interrupted me to state that in several small towns in the upstate New York area, they were ready for drilling to begin . . . for the jobs. He further stated that everyone was waiting to get “their new white pickups and Halliburton hard hats.” That they were not even concerned about the leases and that most had already leased for one or two dollars per acre. He continued to state that when I mentioned the \$30,000.00 per acre that was once offered in the Barnett Shale, some would collapse in tears, knowing that they had been taken advantage of by this industry.

Throughout my several tours around the country, the question about jobs and the vast influx of money into the local economy came up constantly. I quickly found that my new friend was right, there were a large number of people who really thought they would soon have a new white pickup and Halliburton hard hat. I always asked the crowd, “How many certified pipeline welders do I have in the room?” They seemed to quickly get the point that most of the folks in rural New York would not have the skill set required to work in this industry. Although, I do know of folks here in Texas that started working on a drilling rig with no experience and worked their way into a nice-paying job, it is unlikely with the slowdown, that the industry would need to hire people with no experience. So any jobs would be entry level and low paying. There are plenty of folks out of work with experience in the industry.

In areas of Pennsylvania where gas exploration had begun, there was a noticeable amount of vehicles with Texas plates that highlighted this point. I was almost offended when the local population complained about the number of Texans that followed the natural gas boom to this area. It was apparent that the population increase was not something that they were yet comfortable with.

While growing up in the Oklahoma oil fields, we went through the boom and bust cycle several times. It seemed as though most of the males would go to work in the oil fields after graduating high school and made a decent living for themselves. However, with the economy based upon this one industry, the downturns were pretty severe on the local economies. When the bust came, it left everyone scrambling to find another job. However, with the economy based on this one industry, most of the jobs were either in the industry or supporting the industry. Therefore, in the bust, there were not many jobs to be found. This resulted in many of the small rural towns simply drying up, with people moving away to find work.

On a recent trip to New Mexico, I met with Gilbert Armenta, the New Mexico rancher depicted in the documentary Split Estate. Mr. Armenta has spent his entire life living with the boom/bust cycle in Northwestern New Mexico. In this part of the country, the oil and gas industry is the predominant industry. As the industry has cooled over the last year or two, he stated that there was 12% unemployment in that area. I might add that the Farmington, New Mexico mayor was nice enough to write a letter with some negative comments about yours truly, as well as talking about how great the industry was to him.

One thing that I heard on several occasions was that when the eventual bust comes, the crime rate goes up almost immediately. Mr. Armenta confirmed this fact during his presentation, that crime levels increase particularly during the bust cycles. He further stated that the crime that increased the most was robbery.

Was has happened in Mr. Armenta’s area is that it is solely an oil and gas economy. All other industries have moved on and therefore everything directly or indirectly is dependent on this industry. So even if you do not work directly for the industry, when the bust comes, you are affected. In our local area I have noticed over the past several years, that we have been going through a transformation to an oil and gas economy. In some areas of the Barnett Shale, the transformation has already taken place. We managed to avoid an economic catastrophe only because the industry has continued to drill when it wasn’t profitable, knowing that regulation was coming. Otherwise, many of the towns in the western part of the shale would have simply gone away.

It has become very tempting for cities to embrace the explorations for the quick shot of tax revenue with the budget shortfalls over the last couple of years. Falling to this temptation has led to more and more of the area transforming to this new economy. Unfortunately, when the bust comes, and we know it will, the entire area will be devastated. This may very well lead to this area being destroyed economically at some point because we know that this is only temporary. It is key for cities to develop strategies for sustainable funding that is not primarily put on the backs of the taxpayer and does not destroy future growth.

Unfortunately, one city that comes to mind

Continued on page 5

# New Blog/Web Site to Help Citizens Track Fracking Issues to Protect Public Health

What Do We Need To Know? Potential Public Health Impacts of Natural Gas Extraction



## Piloting in the Fractracker Marcellus Shale Region

**By Conrad (Dan) Volz**  
DrPH, MPH-Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health; Director-Center for Healthy Environments and Communities (CHEC); Director Environmental Health Risk Assessment Certificate

**(Background from Web site)**  
On August 27<sup>th</sup>, CHEC conducted a symposium at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health (GSPH) on the potential public health concerns associated with gas extraction activities, especially those occurring in the Marcellus Shale region. Below are the panelists and presentations:

1. Charles Christen, DrPH, MED: CHEC director of operations;
2. Samantha Malone, MPH, CPH: BCHS dept. doctoral student, GSPH & CHEC communications specialist; and
3. Conrad Dan Volz, DrPH, MPH: Assistant professor, GSPH Department of Environmental & Occupational Health, and CHEC director.

**Subject:** Fractracker.org blog and database for use in shale gas and oil plays throughout the country. It's piloting in the Marcellus Shale region.

This document explains the fractracker.org Web-platform for tracking shale gas environmental and environmental health, social and behavioral health, emergency preparedness, community, and general health and public health and associated land use impacts. It is envisioned over time to be able also to track eco-

nomic, demographic and other important variables that any organization or individual is interested in exploring. This is being written in part because we at the CHEC have been actually overwhelmed in the past few weeks by requests from other shale gas plays to use the platform.

So, to start, fractracker.org is funded by the Heinz Endowments, managed by the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities (CHEC) [a center within the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health], hosted by the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the platform architecture was built by Rhiza Laboratories [a division of Maya designs]. If you go to the fractracker.org blog-Internet site the first thing that you will notice is that says it is dedicated to tracking Marcellus Shale gas extraction impacts – please do not be put off if you are interested in other shale gas plays or even in other oil and gas extraction and hybrid activities. This site can help you – and also you can help it!

The fractracker.org site is being piloted in the Marcellus Shale but any citizen, organization, activist, even government organizations and industries themselves can use this tool to help visualize oil and gas extrac-

tion impacts in any region of the country or for that matter even throughout the world. It is mainly being developed though to help in tracking impacts of unconventional gas and oil and other by-product extraction by stimulation technology commonly referred to as hydrofracturing (although a better word might be high-pressure, chemical fluid fracturing; industry words don't characterize well many of the processes here as we often hear about flowback and produced water, which are best labeled contaminated fluids – flowback water bears as much resemblance to water as waste effluent from steel or chemical plants do) within the United States.

So our focus right now is to pilot this Web-platform in the Marcellus Shale and general Appalachian Devonian shale formations that are primarily in Pennsylvania, New York and West Virginia but also cover portions of Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky and even across Lake Erie. The site was launched in the last week of June 2010 at a meeting in Bedford, Pennsylvania that included data providers and users from community groups, environmental organizations, regulatory agencies, academia and foundations, primarily from the state of Pennsylvania. Since then meetings have been held in Pittsburgh, PA (SW

PA epicenter of gas extraction), Danville, PA (northeastern PA – an epicenter of gas extraction activity) and Ithaca, New York.

The purpose of the meetings has been to inform groups and institutions about this tool and get buy-in for data gathering and sharing and, most importantly, forming a network of groups interested in visualizing impacts of gas extraction operations and predicting environmental and social impacts and health effects under multiple scenarios of the development of the industry.

Certainly we know from past shale gas and oil plays that this is unlike industrial process such as coal burning for power production in that the oil and gas industry develops over a wide geographical area with many sources for both air and water pollution – many are small enough to not need permitting under existing regulations but, taken as a whole, will contribute widely to air pollution effects such as ozone formation and surface water quality deficits from disposal of contaminated fluids into sewage treatment plants.

Our funding for this project is thus limited right now to Marcellus Shale but it has always been envisioned that the platform would be used across the country. The design of this tool is therefore an ongoing project. Although CHEC does not have funds to actively manage data

from other shale plays right now, we certainly encourage groups, individuals, regulatory agencies and environmental organizations to use the tool in areas of the country that you are interested in and to populate data.fractracker with databases that would be useful in showing locations of wells, population density, income, natural resources, landforms, endangered species, air and water quality, health outcomes, watersheds and rivers, etc. All data for use on fractracker.org must be geolocated as that is what allows visualization of the dataset on the Google Earth maps.

The tool is really pretty easy to use once data is stored on it (getting data on it is not so simple right now as there are only a few types of file formats it accepts and knowledge of how to transform some databases is necessary; we are working on that also) and it is quite easy to overlay databases on each other to visualize and tell stories about extraction activities and for academics it is an interesting hypothesis-generating device.

Two stories highlighted on the blog that were easily produced were: 1) the overlay of sewage treatment plants (STP) accepting contaminated fluids in PA with watersheds and rivers; and 2) Marcellus Shale gas extraction permits in PA with existing ozone monitors operated by regulatory authorities. The overlay of STP accepting contaminated fluids from drillers and watershed and rivers was important to be able to see the proliferation of disposal into the Monongahela River and calculate the total poundage of dissolved solids, strontium, barium and chlorides going into that watershed; as a result we are launching a study of the major cations and anions and organic compounds that are being put directly into this critical drinking water source.

Overlaying Marcellus Shale drilling permits and drilled wells

onto a map showing the location of ozone monitors helped us visualize the many areas in PA where there are no ozone monitors but will or are undergoing extraction activity. Given the present monitoring scheme – ground-level ozone formation due to organic vapor release from fracking ponds, evaporation centers, condensers, cryo plants and compressors cannot be determined; so as a result we are launching an ultraviolet spectroscopy study (UV-DOAS) of volatile organic compounds being released in a heavily developed area south of Pittsburgh.

I also encourage environmental organizations, community groups and regulatory authorities to contact CHEC if you would like to use fractracker or if you would like to discuss ways in which we can all work together. We can certainly help users of the Web-platform work through technical issues associated with its use – but again, most importantly, and since we are public health scientists, getting data on health effects – even perceived health effects is a way to document effects from this industry for use in more detailed epidemiological studies. And having reports from other shale gas plays is important to do good population based science. Again we feel that the networking aspect of this across the country is maybe its most important outcome.

Certainly we are interested in talking with organizations which want to pursue funding to work on this in other areas. To these ends then – please contact Samantha Malone, Communications Specialist, at (412) 624-9379 or slm75@pitt.edu to discuss using fractracker.org and its data tool.

If you would like to talk about networking opportunities please contact me directly at [www.chec.pitt.edu](http://www.chec.pitt.edu); [cdv5@pitt.edu](mailto:cdv5@pitt.edu) or 724-316-5408.

## Gas Blowout Preventable

*Continued from page 4*

ducer as the state seeks to benefit from massive gas reserves in the Marcellus Shale formation.

The Marcellus Shale, which spans hundreds of miles across Pennsylvania and New York, has become the battleground in a controversy over hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, which involves pumping a cocktail of liquids – some of them toxic – into the earth to force natural gas to the surface. Proponents claim fracking is an efficient way to take advantage of the massive amounts of clean energy to be found in the Marcellus Shale region and elsewhere but researchers and environmentalists blame fracking for hundreds of instances of water contamination in Pennsylvania and across the country.

EOG Resources operates 139 of its 297 active Pennsylvania wells in the Marcellus Shale formation, according to the DEP.

The public outcry against fracking and a Congressional mandate included in an appropriations bill last fall prompted the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to begin a massive scientific study on how the practice affects water supplies, according to ProPublica.

The EPA investigation, to be completed by 2012, could help push Congress to approve the FRAC Act, which was introduced into the House last year. The FRAC Act would allow the EPA to regulate fracking and demand that drilling companies reveal what chemicals they pump into the ground, information the industry often attempts to conceal as "trade secrets." ProPublica recently reported that 50 House representatives have co-sponsored the act since last year.

*This work by Truthout is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 United States License.*

## What About The Money?

*Continued from page 4*

is the City of Fort Worth. This city has the largest number of gas exploration activities of any city in the world, yet financially is by far the worst in this area, having a 73-million-dollar shortfall this year. Part of this expenditure is a \$600,000.00 air study to determine if the exploration activities are harmful to public health. Fort Worth is also home to several of the exploration company's headquarters. The downturn has affected everyone, but the city most dependent on the natural gas revenue, is the one doing the worst financially. As Tim Rugeiro would say "it does not take a PhD in economics to see there is a problem here".

Another thing that this does is give the industry extreme leverage to demand things like tax breaks and loose regulations. They simply threaten to pack up and move somewhere else and take the jobs with them. When it is an oil and gas economy, them leaving makes a ghost town. Although this is only a threat, local officials are held hostage by this threat. So they give in and keep cutting the setback requirements like the City of Fort Worth continues to do, or they allow this industry to continuously cut corners putting their citizens at risk.

For some here it is too late to build a diverse economy; there will be booms and busts, it will be feast or famine. However, for some of you out there this does not have to be the case. Look ahead and do not let this industry take over your economy and hold you hostage like it is doing in many other parts of the country. Be very careful of what you wish for.

**Contact Calvin Tillman at 940-453-3640.**

*"Those who say it can not be done should get out of the way of those that are doing it."*

## Woman Having Trouble Getting Her Water Reports from State DEP

**Submitted by Angel Smith Clearville, Pennsylvania**

From: "Senator Eichelberger Fields Natural Gas Issues," *Bedford Gazette* September 3, 2010, *excerpt*

BREEZEWOOD, Pennsylvania – Property owners who say they are feeling the impact of an encroaching natural gas industry asked state Senator John Eichelberger to support a severance tax

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

## All Three Zoning Board Members Resign in Protest to Driller's Water Withdrawal

*Continued from page 4*

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

time she visited, a blood test showed she had gas in her blood. DEP visited on July 13, she said. Now she is waiting for DEP's report on its findings and has been for more than a month. An August 27<sup>th</sup> response to her Right to Know request – received by DEP on August 20 – from James E. Miller, assistant regional director for DEP to WilliamSPORT, said he required another 30 days to respond to the request.

and a halt to any drilling for the time being.

Eichelberger hosted a Town Hall Meeting at Breezewood Fire Company's hall where about a dozen people showed up to listen to his short presentation on the brief legislative agenda for this Fall . . .

Mary Ellen McConnell of Chaneyville called on DEP to investigate odor in her home that she said has caused her to go to the emergency room twice. Each

# How You Can Have a Free House

By Michael Janzen  
YES! Magazine, August 18, 2010

In 2008, as the value of my big house was evaporating and layoffs seemed to loom in the distance, I came to my senses.

I began to question the true value of a home – and the real risk of a mortgaged home. I was making a huge financial commitment but not buying the things that really matter, like security and more time with the people I love. A mortgage can buy a lot of instant luxury but at a significant cost in time, money and financial

risk.

In short, I woke up to the reality that I had taken on too much risk during good times and was totally unprepared for tough times.

Armed with this better understanding of the financial risks I'd already committed to, I started looking for answers and found the tiny house movement, which offers a different way of thinking about housing.

The core values of the tiny house movement are that living simply in small spaces empowers us. Committing to a tiny house

removes many of the burdens we accepted when we bought into the idea of a "normal" American lifestyle. Instead of focusing on how much we can afford, the tiny space forces us to consider how little we really need.

## Building Tiny, for Free

I wouldn't have believed this scale of housing was possible until I was introduced to Jay Shaffer's Tumbleweed Tiny Houses. Jay has spent years living in tiny houses smaller than 100 square feet. As I learned more about the tiny house movement and

began blogging about tiny house design, I met many more people who are carving out fulfilling and happy lives through extreme downsizing.

I decided to take this minimalist approach even further: to build a tiny house without it costing me anything but time and energy. I use mostly recycled materials I can get for free; any money I spend on building supplies will be recaptured by selling the free stuff I find.

The house is built on a small trailer that measures about seven

*Continued on page 9*



*Continued from page 1*

sound so crude but there is no other way to state it – give rise to methane emissions. The U.S. needs to exercise more pressure over the International Financial Institution (IFC), which forms part of the World Bank. In recent years, the IFC has funneled millions of dollars to the Brazilian cattle industry. Though the IFC pledged to halt its funding of one Brazilian cattle giant, it needs to promise that it won't fund such ventures in future. If we are ever to get serious about combating climate change in the tropics, we're going to have to reform institutions like the World Bank and IADB so they support the environment and veer away from damaging boondoggles.

Such a strategy on its own, however, won't be sufficient – we also need to be paying attention to the role of private corporations. There are plenty of U.S. companies linked up with the Brazilian cattle industry – take for example Kraft, Wal-Mart and Johnson & Johnson. These companies purchase leather, beef and other products from Brazil. What's more, Burger King is supplied by a large Brazilian cattle company linked to deforestation. So, one concrete step that Americans can take to address climate change is to reduce their consumption of meat.

JF: One of the truly fascinating chapters in your book is on soy production in Brazil. A lot of people don't associate soy beans with global warming but you write that there is a very real, direct connection between the two. Tell us about the debate that is heating up in Brazil over this problem as well as why this is such a grave issue in the first place.

NK: Think about soy and the first thing that may come to mind is tofu, a common staple in many Asian cuisines. Yet soy can also be used to enable the Global North's voracious demand for meat and that is where the world gets into even greater climate

troubles. On Brazil's agricultural frontier it is ranching and soy that are driving deforestation – they go hand in hand. In the wake of the mad cow disease scare, rich countries increasingly demanded meat from cows that thrive on a soy meal diet as opposed to animal-based feed, thus benefiting Brazilian farmers. To date, the Chinese and Europeans have become voracious consumers of Brazilian soy, catapulting the South American nation to agribusiness-giant status. For many Chinese, consuming meat and dairy products symbolizes wealth, status, modernity and escape from rough rural life.

Though the soy planters cut down some forests, their influence is often more indirect. Once ranchers have cleared land in the Amazon the soy planters buy up property and move in. But as they take up cleared land, savannah and transitional forests, the soy magnates push others such as slash-and-burn farmers even further into the forest. Soy then acts as a significant push factor and catalyst of climate change. And yet, putting a brake on the soy lobby has proven to be very challenging due to the latter's vast political and economic muscle.

Take for example Blairo Maggi, the head of the world's largest soy producer and is known as "O rei da soja" – the soya king. After serving as a senator for Mato Grosso, he successfully ran for governor in 2002. As governor, his key goal was to triple agricultural production in the state within ten years and to develop agro-industry. In a mad rush to plant soy, planters cleared vast areas of land and, during Maggi's first year in office, Mato Grosso's deforestation increased by about 30 percent.

Of particular concern is the so-called "soy highway," which is currently being paved from Mato Grosso's capital of Cuiabá near the Bolivian border to the deep-water Amazon River city of San-

tarém in the state of Pará. Over the past twenty years or so, soy plantations here have sprung up in the vicinity of the highway and now dominate the landscape. At times, you'd swear you were in Iowa or the American Midwest and there's no wildlife to be seen for miles. At harvest time, fleets of green and yellow combines crisscross local fields lining the highway. John Deere dealerships are proliferating.

Other newcomers have found that while land is plentiful in Mato Grosso, virtually none of it is theirs to settle. Wealthy farmers, with the assistance of faked title deeds, corrupt local officials and private armies have claimed vast areas. Though much of the land is federal property, farmers have cleared it and carpeted the ground with soy. The influx of newcomers has encouraged a kind of Wild West frontier lawlessness. The federal government, meanwhile, has done nothing to halt powerful interests and those who denounce land grabbers for evicting poor farmers sometimes wind up dead.

It certainly doesn't seem that people living in the South are accepting all of this. What kind of resistance is building in the areas you cover in your book?

NK: There is plenty of resistance – it's just that the issue falls under the radar screen of the media. The resistance takes many forms and varies depending on the country and I wouldn't say that people are primarily motivated by the issue of climate change *per se*. However, to the extent that local residents want to protect lands from development, then there is an indirect connection. In Brazil, indigenous people have protested hydropower in the rainforest and, with the help of excellent environmental groups such as Amazon Watch, have brought some visibility to this issue. Elsewhere in the country, Indians are doing their utmost to resist the encroachment of soy barons and agribusiness. Then

there are the landless squatters who carry out land occupations and who see agribusiness as well as sugarcane production for bio-fuels as a threat.

In Peru, the issue has been territorial rights in the face of oil development, with Indians facing off against the authorities in Lima. I think people fail to realize, however, that protesting in the U.S. is not the same as in South America. The Amazon is still a pretty lawless place and activists face intimidation or even death at the hands of hired guns or *pistoleros*. Such was the sorry case of American nun Dorothy Stang, whose story I retell in the book. When Stang took up the cause of sustainable development in the Brazilian Amazon, cattle ranchers had her killed. Because Stang was American, the story got some media press.

There have been much greater atrocities, however: last year Amazonian Indians in Peru were massacred by the security forces when they protested the government's business-friendly land decrees opening up the rainforest to development. Descending on a group of indigenous people who were sleeping at a local roadside blockade, Peruvian Special Forces and helicopters dispersed the crowd with live ammunition and tear gas grenades. In the ensuing violence, twenty-five civilians and nine policemen died and more than one hundred people were wounded. The chief of police later claimed that the Indians were armed and fired first but eyewitnesses said the indigenous peoples only had traditional spears and did not provoke the hostilities. Amazon Watch says the police came with orders to shoot.

JF: So what can we do about all of this? If those living in the United States impacting the environment and ultimately the climate in South America what are some concrete things people can do to positively affect the situation?

NK: In the late 1990s and early 2000s activists pushed for reform

of large financial institutions but then got distracted during the Bush years by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. We need to be getting back to that previous agenda now and make sure that such entities as the World Bank and IADB fund environmentally-sustainable enterprises in the Amazon while disbanding support for agribusiness and the like.

I also believe however that we must start thinking about this problem in much more ambitious terms. It's not enough for the U.S. to tell Brazil and Peru to save the rainforest – we have got to start providing real resources to South America so that people have an incentive not to increase deforestation. Since the U.S. had a great hand in creating global warming in the first place, it is not unreasonable for the Global South to expect assistance. One initiative that is now being piloted throughout the world is the so-called Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, or REDD program.

Though REDD can take many forms, the central notion is that businesses or governments in the Global North compensate poor countries for preserving their forests and not releasing carbon through deforestation, either by paying into a fund or by buying credits on carbon markets. The U.S. has just pledged \$4 billion to kick start REDD, which may sound like a lot but that's just a drop in the bucket. If we're really going to get serious about deforestation, Americans must start pressing Washington for a commitment of tens of billions per year.

Many questions remain about REDD and who might benefit from an Amazonian windfall. It would be a horrible travesty if REDD wound up bailing out soy barons and the likes of Maggi without benefiting poor people.

In order to be effective, REDD negotiations must incorporate indigenous peoples in high-level meetings. In light of the World Bank's horrible past in the trop-

ics, REDD funding can't be allocated via large financial institutions but instead through the United Nations climate convention. Another sore sticking issue has to do with corruption – we're going to have to ensure good governance and accountability through REDD, otherwise the people who need the assistance most won't receive it and we won't stem deforestation.

If that was not ambitious enough, Americans must also demand greater scientific and technological innovation which could in turn benefit tropical countries. As horrible as the recent BP disaster in the Gulf has been, my hope is that Americans will now be more motivated to demand the switch to alternative energies which we most urgently need. We need massive, clean energy transfer from the Global North to South so as to get away from hydropower and bio-fuels for sugarcane.

Admittedly, solving all these problems might seem like a tall order but, what is the alternative: a carbon death spiral to the bottom? I believe that we must start looking at the Amazon as a hemispheric-wide issue. In order to save the rainforest and insure our collective climate destiny, we must radically redesign the way the Amazon works from a social and environmental standpoint.

Future negotiations on the fate of the rainforest, which necessarily must involve not just governments but also a wide cross section of civil society groups from the U.S. and South America, could prove to be extremely complex. With so many vexing environmental and political problems to deal with at home, Americans might want to put off the rainforest dilemma – but that's not an option we can afford anymore.

*This work by Truthout is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 United States License.*

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

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

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

-- Iona --



Find Green Candidates

[www.NewMenu.org](http://www.NewMenu.org)

Find Greens running for office near you.

web design provided by  
[www.DancingTreesWeb.com](http://www.DancingTreesWeb.com)

Every Purchase Supports Forest Conservation Groups

Call 800-641-1117 or visit us on line for the greenest of green products.



America's Green Office Supply Since 1992

[www.greenlinepaper.com](http://www.greenlinepaper.com)



## WMD in D.C.: American University May Tear Down House to Make Way for WW I Munitions Investigation

Submitted by  
**Allen Hengst,**  
Washington, D.C.  
(Weapons of Mass  
Destruction in D.C.)

By **Mitch Ellmauer**  
The Eagle (American University's  
student newspaper), September 1, 2010

The American University (AU)-owned house at 4825 Glenbrook Road might be torn down to make way for a broader investigation of the chemical munitions burial pit at the property, according to David Taylor, AU President Neil Kerwin's chief of staff.

The property sits adjacent to the president's residence at 4835 Glenbrook Road.

At a public meeting with Spring Valley residents in July, Taylor and Jorge Abud, AU's assistant vice president of Facilities, said that AU would allow the house to be torn down if the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recommended it, according to Tom Smith, an Advisory Neighborhood Commission member who attended the meeting.

However, the step of making the final decision about what to do with the house is "very far ahead of where things currently are," Taylor said.

In late July, the Army Corps of Engineers announced that it is beginning a "comprehensive assessment" of how to safely complete its excavation of Pit 3, according to a Corps' press release. The review is expected to last several months.

AU is waiting until after the Army Corps of Engineers finishes its review to make a final decision, according to Taylor.

"We rely on the ... advice of the environmental and health specialists who assess the Corps' work ... if the science supports the removal of the house, then we would not object," Taylor said.

AU also announced that it has been conducting periodic air monitoring at the president's residence.

Many of the chemicals in the soil at Pit 3 react with the air to give off gas and toxic fumes, according to the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

AU reported that the air quality at the president's residence was normal.

Some members of the community are upset because AU had not told the Army Corps of Engineers or Spring Valley residents that it was conducting air quality tests at the president's residence, according to Smith.

"I was somewhat stunned ...

because air monitoring is a very sensitive issue in the neighborhood. Some residents have pushed the Army to conduct air monitoring in their homes and the Army has refused," Smith wrote in an email.

Taylor and Abud claim there was nothing unusual about air monitoring tests at the president's house.

"From time to time we have done testing on buildings near Army remediation sites to assure ourselves that those facilities are safe," Abud said.

Work at Pit 3 began in 2007. The investigation was suspended in March after workers discovered several smoking jugs containing arsenic trichloride and other chemical agents, *The Eagle* previously reported.

To date Pit 3 excavations have yielded 238 barrels of contaminated soil and 500 pounds of "laboratory glassware," containing various chemical agents, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps of Engineers expects to complete its Pit 3 excavation sometime next year, according to Joyce Conant, an Army Corps of Engineers spokesperson.

### Excerpts from Spring Valley Partnering Meeting Minutes June 29, 2010

Dr. Paul Chrostowski (science consultant that American University hired to monitor the Army Corps' remediation work) mentioned that AU's work plan, amendment comments and recommendations primarily focused on technical issues surrounding arsenic trichloride chemistry. AU feels that, in the event of an arsenic trichloride release within the ECS, substantial arsenic trichloride concentrations may remain airborne and current scientific literature does not support the conclusion that this chemical will instantaneously and completely break down into particulates and hydrochloric acid. AU recommended specific air monitoring enhancements and an additional air monitoring system to address this concern.

Chrostowski described the AU administration's position on future work conducted at the Pit 3 property. A comprehensive plan should be developed to address all possible AUES (American University Experiment Station)-related property findings, including removal of the house, ancillary excavation underneath the house footprint and specific recommendations for the next high-probability investigation phase. Removal of



Photo by Allen Hengst

**4835 Glenbrook Road.** American University announced that it has been conducting periodic air monitoring at president [Neil Kerwin's] residence. Many of the chemicals in the soil at Pit 3 react with the air to give off gas and toxic fumes. Some members of the community are upset because AU had not told the Army Corps of Engineers or Spring Valley residents that it was conducting air quality tests at the president's residence.

the entire structure appears to be the only acceptable course of action due to uncertainties about the amount of AUES-related items and contamination remaining on the property. Chrostowski added that President Kerwin of AU spoke with Mr. Addison Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environmental Health, regarding this position...

EPA expressed the need for further discussion and analysis of waste disposal alternatives. Although AUES-related waste is currently shipped to a licensed facility in Port Arthur, Texas, the surrounding area is an environmental justice showcase community where residents and EPA have expressed concerns about waste disposal and overall pollution. Future planning should include a public meeting in Port Arthur, Texas with significant input from community members and stakeholders.

Chrostowski mentioned that they feel that all stakeholders including the Port Arthur neighborhood should be involved in the Pit 3 property waste disposal decisions and added that AU has received criticism from community members regarding lack of transparency...

The Partners briefly discussed previous recommendations for removing the entire structure and the possible impacts. Structure removal costs are minimal compared with the overall cost of intrusive property investigations. Regardless of the timing of possible house removal, a series of limited investigation footprints were necessary to ensure worker and public safety during intrusive efforts and removal of all AUES-related items and contam-

ination outside of the house footprint is necessary prior to possible house removal. AU mentioned that President Kerwin is aware of the amount of disruption that may occur should the house be removed and is currently inconvenienced by indoor air monitoring being conducted at his request. President Kerwin is willing to postpone the decision to remove the house as necessary as long as property security and maintenance requirements are met during the interim period.

The Partners briefly discussed possible approaches for continuing the high-probability investigation. The recent arsenic trichloride discovery may warrant a Time-Critical Removal Action (TCRA) with an action memorandum and more stakeholder input. EPA added that these efforts will conclude with the RI/FS (Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study) document, the proposed plan with stakeholder involvement, the final Record of Decision (ROD) and follow-up actions. One ROD was previously completed in 1995 for the Spaulding/Captain Rankin Area in the Spring Valley FUDS.

USACE will develop a proposal to address the path forward, with subsequent Partner review, and will meet with Mr. Addison Davis to discuss future Pit 3 property efforts. The current high-probability investigation may remain on hold until a tentative date is scheduled to resume intrusive efforts and FY2010 funding decisions may influence this schedule.

the U.S. Army with minimal community and stakeholder involvement. TCRA cleanups are typically conducted over a period of six months or less, in areas where public health or environmental risks need to be addressed fairly quickly and include a formal U.S. Army approval process with some stakeholder involvement such as community meetings and a publicly-available record of cleanup efforts.

Most Spring Valley efforts such as munition disposal and residential arsenic removal have been completed as a series of longer-term NTCRA cleanups with EE/CAAs, action memorandums and more stakeholder input. EPA added that these efforts will conclude with the RI/FS (Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study) document, the proposed plan with stakeholder involvement, the final Record of Decision (ROD) and follow-up actions. One ROD was previously completed in 1995 for the Spaulding/Captain Rankin Area in the Spring Valley FUDS.

USACE will develop a proposal to address the path forward, with subsequent Partner review, and will meet with Mr. Addison Davis to discuss future Pit 3 property efforts. The current high-probability investigation may remain on hold until a tentative date is scheduled to resume intrusive efforts and FY2010 funding decisions may influence this schedule.

### Historical Property Information

Peter deFur, RAB TAPP Consultant, inquired about EPA's progress in obtaining information from the builder of the Pit 3 property. EPA explained that a

letter was sent to pursue information on AUES-related discoveries during house construction. The builder's lawyer responded in February 2010 and claimed business confidentiality based on attorney-client privileges. An appropriate follow-up action will be determined by EPA or another agency.

Wells asked whether the District of Columbia (D.C.) can provide assistance in obtaining more information from the builder. DDOE replied that Councilwoman Cheh suggested issuing a subpoena but D.C. may not have the necessary authority to do so. If D.C. does have this authority, this solution may be a last resort effort.

In response to Wells' inquiry, D.C. replied that house construction workers were exposed to AUES-related contamination on the Pit 3 property in 1992. EPA clarified that the letter to the builder focused on the nature and disposal of AUES-related discoveries, the details of property construction and the construction workers' identities, rather than specific anecdotal construction worker exposure information...

### Geophysical Detection of Buried Glassware

Wells inquired about new ground-penetrating radar (GPR) technology that allows detection of buried glassware during geophysical investigations. USACE explained that new GPR technology was recently developed to detect improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in disturbed ground with a high detection confidence level as deep as one foot below ground surface (bgs). The associated company confirmed that their technology is not suitable for detecting glassware buried deeper than one foot bgs.

Discussions are planned with other companies who may be able to assist with glassware detection in Spring Valley using current GPR hardware and modified geophysical signal processing software. However, GPR energy tends to dissipate quickly in the moist clay soil within Spring Valley and this hardware limitation will not change.

USACE added that they are actively pursuing technological advances that may allow detection of buried glassware in Spring Valley. Proposed technologies can be tested at the federal property using a geophysical prove-out (GPO) grid, where metallic and non-metallic items are buried to test whether GPR technology accurately detects the presence and depth of each item.

## 07.07.2010 The Solar Impulse Enters the Night! Solar-Powered Plane Keeps Flying 26 Hours

[www.solarimpulse.com](http://www.solarimpulse.com)

At 06:51 this morning, the Solar Impulse HB-SIA took off from the Payerne airbase with André Borsberg, CEO and co-founder of the Solar Impulse project, at the controls. The flight, powered only by solar energy, has already been airborne for almost fifteen hours!

Around 16h40 (4:40 p.m.), the prototype even exceeded the 8'500 meters that were intended and reached an altitude of 8,700 meters. With the help of its 12,000 solar panels built into its enormous 63.4 meter (208-foot) wing, its 400kg of batteries were fully charged during this long ascent.

The prototype first flew over Western Switzerland ("Swiss Plateau") and now heads in the direction of the Thuner Lake.

"The prototype is ready to begin its journey through the night! It is now going to start a slow descent, which will bring it down to an altitude of 1,500 meters at around 23:00 (11 p.m.). From then on, the energy stored in the batteries is going to have to keep it up in the air until tomorrow morning," said a confident Claude Niccolier, head of the Solar Impulse test flight program.

"During the whole of the flight, I just sat there and watched the battery charge level rise and rise! Sitting in a plane producing more energy than it consumes is a fantastic feeling," said André Borsberg,



Photo from [www.solarimpulse.com](http://www.solarimpulse.com)

**Solar Impulse completed the longest flight by a piloted solar-powered craft this summer. See story in New York Times July 7, 2010.**

CEO and co-founder of the Solar Impulse project, from the cockpit.

"This is a highly symbolic moment: flying by night using solely solar power is a stunning manifestation of the potential that clean technologies offer today to reduce the dependency of our society on fossil fuels!" added Bertrand Piccard, Initiator and President of Solar Impulse.

"After 17,500 hours flying commercial aircraft, for the first time I am finding myself on the side of the air controller", in charge of flights.... And I'm just loving it", said Raymond Clerc, head of Solar Impulse flight mission.

## How About High-Speed Buses?

Swift bus rapid transit



By **William Collins**, excerpt  
The Daily News, Huntingdon PA

Trains are fun.  
But too much fuss;  
How about  
A high-speed bus?

America doesn't lend itself to speedy trains. Aside from the crowded Northeast Corridor and maybe California, its cities are too small and too far apart. The paying public just isn't there.

Sure, there are plenty of places which can and do support short-haul subway, trolley, light rail and even heavy rail for commuters. But for most intercity travel, trains cost too much for too few passengers...

Perhaps a better, if unspoken, option is the high-speed bus. Government doesn't support intercity buses today. But why not? We've already built the highways. Let's now build terminals at major interchanges and supply high-quality buses with real rest rooms and vendors, running on frequent schedules. Then plan

### Bus Rapid Transit

[www.comtrans.org](http://www.comtrans.org)

Swift bus rapid transit is different than other Community Transit services. It combines the efficiency and appeal of light rail with the flexibility and low cost of buses. What makes it Swift?

**No need for a schedule:** Swift operates every 10 minutes weekdays from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. and every 20 minutes nights and Saturdays until midnight. Buses don't run on Sundays.

**Pay fares first:** Riders pay their fares at the station while waiting for the bus, then board at any door when the bus arrives. Fares are: adults \$1.75, youth \$1.25, reduced \$0.75.

a local bus to meet each arrival and head straight downtown. We'd provide parking, too.

The buses would go the speed limit but this kind of infrastructure would make the system much more rapid than what we've got now.

OK, so you might not be will-

**Fast boarding** - Swift buses have three doors and you can enter at any one. Bicycles can be rolled onto bike racks located inside the back door.

**Accessibility:** Most station platforms are just a few inches shorter than the floor of the bus, making it easy to step aboard. People who use wheelchairs enter at the front door and have an option to use a passive restraint system that doesn't require coach operator assistance.

**High tech, high speed:** ORCA smart card readers at each station make paying your fare fast and easy. The route also has transit signal priority at many intersections, allowing green lights to be extended for late-running buses.

ing to bus from Philly to Denver but you wouldn't take a train either. You might, however, bus from Cincinnati to Cleveland rather than fly, if it were done well. In any case, the job won't get done by high-speed rail, so let's get working on a practical alternative.

# Animals



Photo by Rare Planet

Amur (Siberian) tiger in the Hunchun Nature Reserve, China.

## Amur Tigers to Get Protected Area on China-Russia Border

HUNCHUN, China, August 31, 2010 (ENS) — China's Jilin province and the neighboring Primorsky province in Russia have agreed to jointly establish the world's first transboundary protected area for the endangered Amur tiger.

Also called the Siberian tiger, *Panthera tigris ssp. altaica*, this sub-species is now believed to number just 500 animals in the wild.

Facilitated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the global conservation organization, the agreement was signed Sunday during the second annual Amur Tiger Cultural Festival in the northeastern Chinese city of Hunchun.

The China-Russia agreement was one of the highlights of this year's festival, which featured such events as a tiger conservation and economic development forum, costume parade, art performances and an ecological tour of tiger habitat.

The agreement was signed by officials with the Jilin Provincial Forestry Department of China and two Russian agencies — the Wildlife and Hunting Department of Primorsky province and Special Inspection TIGER of Russia, which is the official name of the Bureau on Protection of Rare and Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna.

"A new transboundary protected area would provide a wider and healthier habitat for Amur tigers and other endangered species such as the Far East leopard, musk deer and goral," said Yu Changchun, director of the Conservation Department within the Jilin Forestry Department.

Dr. Zhu Chunquan, WWF-China's conservation director, said, "While tigers — the species at the top of the eco-system — are better conserved through the agreement, other species, the forest habitat and all the biodiversity resources will also benefit from this protected area."

"This agreement is a great boost for Amur tiger habitats in Russia and China," said Dr. Sergey Aramilev, the biodiversity coordinator for the Amur Branch of WWF-Russia.

"Since both countries play a crucial role in terms of global tiger recovery, a future transboundary network would represent a big step in WWF's global tiger conservation effort," said Dr. Aramilev.

"There's a lot of work to be done to implement this agreement, such as making sure it receives proper government funding, but this is a major step forward nonetheless," he said.

The number of Amur tigers in China is estimated at between 18 and 22, according to the Chinese government in 2007, and it is not known if any still survive in North Korea.

The Amur tiger now occurs primarily in Russia, where it has made a spectacular comeback since the 1930s, when the population fell as low as 20 to 30 animals.

Today, there are 331 to 393 adult and subadult Amur tigers in the Russian Far East, with a adult breeding population of approximately 250, according to a comprehensive 2005 population census led by Dale Miquelle of the Russian Far East Program and Wildlife Conservation Society, Vladivostok, Russia.

However, after having been stable for more than a decade due to intensive conservation efforts, partial surveys conducted in subsequent winters indicate that the Russian tiger population is declining.

"Because tigers in this region require large territories to acquire sufficient prey, current strictly protected areas, comprising 3.4 percent (10,300 km<sup>2</sup> or 6,400 square miles) of the region, are unlikely to prevent extirpation of the subspecies in the face of expanding forestry and external demand for tiger parts," Miquelle and his co-author wrote in a 2006 article in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*.

Destruction and fragmentation of habitat, poaching and lack of prey have reduced the number of wild Amur tigers, parties to the new agreement acknowledge.

As part of the new pact, Jilin and Primorsky provinces will increase information sharing on Amur tiger and Far East leopard protection and work to adopt identical monitoring systems for tigers and their prey.

They agreed to conduct joint ecological surveys and develop plans to launch an anti-poaching campaign along the China-Russia boarder.

The agreement marks another milestone during the Chinese Year of the Tiger in 2010. WWF launched the TX2 campaign early this year, which seeks to double the number of wild tigers by the next Year of the Tiger in 2022. There have been other tiger conservation agreements this year as well.

Nepal and India signed a joint resolution at the end of July to jointly conserve biodiversity, including tigers, and strengthen ecological security in the transboundary region.

Signing that agreement on July 29, India's Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation Deepak Bohora said, "It is a matter of pride that India and Nepal hold over 50 percent of the global tiger population and this gives us the responsibility to take the leadership in protecting wild tigers and showcasing to the world that together we can make a huge difference."

A groundbreaking tiger conservation declaration from the 13 countries that still have wild tiger populations was prepared in Bali, Indonesia in July and is due to be signed before the close of Year of the Tiger at a tiger conservation summit hosted by Russia.

The Declaration seeks to create a tiger recovery program that is global in scope while promoting transboundary cooperation amongst the 13 tiger-range countries.

## The Beastiary

By Joanna Macy

Submitted by Allen Hengst, Washington, D.C.

short-tailed albatross  
 whooping crane  
 gray wolf  
 peregrine falcon  
 hawksbill turtle  
 jaguar  
 rhinoceros

In Geneva, the international tally of endangered species, kept up to date in looseleaf volumes, is becoming too heavy to lift. Where do we now record the passing of life? What funerals or farewells are appropriate?

reed warbler  
 swallowtail butterfly  
 Manx shearwater  
 Indian python  
 howler monkey  
 sperm whale  
 blue whale

Dive me deep, brother whale, in this time we have left. Deep in our mother ocean where once I swam, gilled and finned. The salt from those early seas still runs in my tears. Tears are too meager now. Give me a song ... a song for sadness too vast for my heart, for a rage too wild for my throat.

anteater  
 antelope  
 grizzly bear  
 brown bear  
 Bactrian camel  
 Nile crocodile  
 American alligator

Ooze me, alligator, in the mud whence I came. Belly me slow in the rich primordial soup, cradle our molecules. Let me wallow again, before we drain your swamp, before we pave it over and blast it to ash.

gray bat  
 ocelot  
 marsh mouse  
 blue pike  
 red kangaroo  
 Aluetian goose  
 Audouin's seagull

Quick, lift off. Sweep me high over the coast and out, farther out. Don't land here. Oilspills coat the beach, rocks, sea. I cannot spread my wings glued with tar. Fly me from what we have done, fly me far.

golden parakeet  
 African ostrich  
 Florida panther  
 Galapagos penguin  
 Imperial pheasant  
 Leopard  
 Utah prairie dog

Hide me a hedgerow, badger. Can't you find one? Dig me a tunnel through leaf-mold and roots, under the trees that once defined our fields. My heart is bulldozed and plowed over. Burrow me a labyrinth deeper than longing.

thick-billed parrot  
 zone-tailed pigeon  
 desert bandicoot  
 Southern bald eagle  
 California condor  
 lotus blue butterfly

Crawl me out of here, caterpillar. Spin a cocoon. Wind me to sleep in shroud of silk, where in patience my bones will dissolve. I'll wait as long as all creation if only it will come again — and I take wing.

Atlantic Ridley turtle  
 pearly mussel  
 helmeted hornbill  
 sea otter  
 humpback whale  
 monk seal  
 harp seal

Swim me out beyond the ice floes, mama. Where are you? Boots squeeze my ribs, clubs drum my fur, the white world goes black with the taste of my blood.

gorilla  
 gibbon  
 sand gazelle  
 swamp deer  
 musk deer  
 cheetah  
 chinchilla  
 Asian elephant  
 African elephant

Sway me slowly through the jungle. There still must be jungle somewhere, my heart drips with green secrets. Hose me down by the waterhole; there is buckshot in my hide. Tell me old stories while you can remember.

fan-tailed flycatcher  
 flapshell tortoise  
 crested ibis  
 hook-billed kite  
 bobcat  
 frigate bird

In the time when his world, like ours, was ending, Noah had a list of the animals too. We picture him standing by the gangplank, calling their names, checking them off on his scroll. Now we are also checking them off.

ivory-billed woodpecker  
 brown pelican  
 Florida manatee  
 Canada geese

We reenact Noah's ancient drama, but in reverse, like a film running backwards, the animals exiting.

ferret  
 curlew  
 cougar  
 wolf

Your tracks are growing fainter. Wait. Wait. This is a hard time. Don't leave us alone in a world we have wrecked.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Florida Panther in great danger of extinction.

## Florida Panthers Could Disappear Forever

Care2 Petition Site Action

August 2 to September 15

Center for Biological Diversity

Target: U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar

Today, approximately 120 Florida panthers are left in the world. These majestic animals are threatened on all sides by rapid habitat destruction from human encroachment and development.

Some panthers still roam throughout Florida but breeding panthers are only found in southwestern Florida on five percent of their original range, which used to extend throughout the whole Southeast. They face imminent extinction without our help.

Our government is required by the Endangered Species Act to protect imperiled species on the brink of extinction. **But the Florida panther was listed in 1967 and this vanishing animal's home still hasn't been protected — more than 32 years later!**

**Please take action today to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat so that the endangered Florida panther has a fighting chance.**

Deadline: 9-15-2010  
 Goal: 40,000

**30,862**  
**signatures as of 9/6!**  
**(OE participated in this campaign.)**

### The Letter Sent to Salazar:

Dear Secretary Salazar,  
 Florida panthers are rapidly disappearing. Please immediately order the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat for the endangered Florida panther.

There are only 100 to 120 Florida panthers left in the world. While individual panthers roam throughout Florida, and one was even killed up in Georgia last year, breeding panthers are only found in southwestern Florida on five percent of their original range — which used to extend throughout the Southeast. Much of their remaining habitat is urgently threatened by development.

Research has shown that animals and plants with critical habitat designated for them are far more likely to be moving toward recovery than those without. The Florida panther was listed as endangered in 1967 and yet its habitat is still not protected 32 years later.

The Florida Panther Recovery Plan makes clear that without protection of habitat, the panther will never recover and will eventually dwindle toward extinction. Attempts at habitat protection that do not designate critical habitat will not save this iconic animal.

The Florida panther is counting on you — and so am I. Please ensure that critical habitat is designated so that Florida panthers will survive and recover.

Thank you for your swift action.

## Could the Florida Panther Refuge Land Triple in Size?

By Craig Pittman

TampaBay.com, August 24, 2010, *excerpt*

Several South Florida landowners are willing to sell enough land to the federal government to triple the size of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, according to four environmental groups pushing the purchase as a way to provide Florida's state animal with more protected habitat.

However, the environmental groups don't know how much such a purchase would cost. And they would not identify all the landowners involved.

Meanwhile another environmental group is already raising questions about whether the purchase of up to 50,000 acres would constitute double-dipping. The reason: some landowners have already agreed to give up development rights on their land in exchange for permission to develop elsewhere.

The refuge now covers 26,400 acres in the heart of the Big Cypress swamp, part of the western headwaters of the Everglades. It's 20 miles east of Naples.

The land is entirely set aside for nature. On average, five to 11 panthers utilize the refuge each month, out of the 100 or so now prowling what's left of the South Florida wilderness.

Outside the refuge, life is a little tougher for the panthers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not stopped a single development in panther habitat since 1993 and has repeatedly rejected calls to designate any of the remaining undeveloped area as "critical habitat," which deserves greater scrutiny prior to approving its development . . .



# How a Tiny Town Sent an International Water Giant Packing

By Tara Lohan  
*YES! Magazine*

In 2008, weeks after communities all over the United States celebrated the Fourth of July, the tiny town of Felton, California marked its own holiday: **Water Independence Day**. With barbecue, music and dancing, residents marked the end of Felton's six-year battle to gain control of its water system. The fight, like the festivities, was a grassroots effort. For when a large, private corporation bought Felton's water utility and immediately raised rates, residents organized, leading what was ultimately a successful campaign for public ownership and inspiring other communities nationwide.

Like many other communities with a privately-controlled water system, Felton quickly experienced some of the drawbacks: skyrocketing rates and little public recourse. But officials of some cash-strapped towns seek privatization because they believe a corporation will help lift their burden. Across the country, public water systems require massive repairs to deteriorating infrastructure, at an estimated annual cost of about \$17 billion over the next 20 years. Our aging water mains result in some 240,000 breaks a year and more than a trillion gallons of wastewater spill into our waterways annually. Federal funds typically help communities pay the repair bills but escalating costs have prompted many cities to look for alternatives.

Some local leaders, eager for financial help, have turned to private companies to buy their utilities or lease them – arrangements known as public-private partnerships. Companies promise system improvements, greater efficiency and money up front but increasing evidence suggests that cities are getting the raw end of such deals: Privatization jeopardizes public supply and access to water and drives up costs for citizens.

“Providing clean, accessible, affordable water is not only the most basic of all government services but, throughout history, control of water has defined the power structure of societies,” Alan Snitow and Deborah Kaufman, filmmakers who documented the effort of Stockton, California to fight privatization, wrote in



Photo by Jenn Ireland for YES! Magazine  
*“The people on our water board manage our water as part of a watershed,” she said. “They care, and they are local – we see them at the grocery store. You really have to have local control over something so vital.”*

the book *Water Consciousness*. “If we lose control of our water, what do we as citizens really control through our votes and what does democracy mean?”

## Communities Fight Back

A former logging town in the redwood hills above Santa Cruz, Felton had a privately-run water system, a holdout since privatization fell out of favor in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. It hadn't been much of an issue until 2002, when Citizen Utilities, the small company that ran the water system, was acquired by American Water Works Co. Its subsidiary, California-American Water (Cal-Am), took over Felton's water utility. American Water was acquired shortly afterward by London-based Thames Water.

In November 2002, Cal-Am proposed a 74 percent rate increase over three years, subject to approval by the California Public Utilities Commission. Felton residents formed Friends of Locally Owned Water (FLOW) and, with legal help from Santa Cruz County, fought the rate increase, which the utilities commission knocked down to 44 percent. But the threat of escalating costs loomed, so FLOW began work-

ing on a plan to buy the water system and turn it over to the nearby San Lorenzo Valley Water District (SLVWD), a public utility. By 2005, FLOW had enlisted the help of Food & Water Watch and was working on a ballot initiative to raise the estimated \$11 million to buy the system from Cal-Am/RWE.

Jim Graham of FLOW said the group sent volunteers door to door three times throughout the community to educate residents about privatization and the public-ownership campaign. That meant urging voters to accept a property-tax increase of up to \$600 a year for 30 years.

Their efforts were successful and the ballot initiative won with nearly 75 percent of the vote. SLVWD then proposed to buy the water system for \$7.6 million but Cal-Am/RWE refused to sell. So SLVWD pursued eminent domain to force a buyout. Just before the case was to go to jury trial, the company settled with SLVWD. Today, with Felton's water back in the hands of a public utility, the average resident's bill has dropped by at least 50 percent. FLOW has calculated that even with the tax increase, most residents are already saving as

much as \$400 per year.

## A Private Matter

In recent decades, the government's role in water service has changed. Three years before Reagan took office, 78 percent of money for new water projects came from the federal government. Nearly 30 years later, the proportion has fallen to 3 percent. Then the Clinton administration made several tax-law changes that made it easier for cities to privatize local water and sewer systems and for foreign companies to enter the market, explained Emily Wurth, water program manager for Food & Water Watch.

Food & Water Watch has studied the effects of water-system privatization and has helped Felton and other communities turn – or return – to public control. In a 2009 report that examined nearly 5,000 water utilities and 1,900 sewer utilities, the organization found that the private entities – which have a fiduciary obligation to shareholders – charge up to 80 percent more for water and 100 percent more for sewer services. Privately-owned utilities cost more to operate, too: They typically have to pay income

and property taxes, while public utilities are exempt. In all, according to Food & Water Watch, operation and maintenance costs of privatized water systems can spike 20 to 30 percent, when dividends, taxes and profits are factored in. It follows that corporations make more money if more water is used; conservation and repairs, then, can fall off the priority list. When Stockton privatized its wastewater system, higher-than-promised rate hikes, poor maintenance and sewage overflows followed. When eight million gallons discharged into the San Joaquin River, the spill went unnoticed for 10 hours and unreported to the public for three days.

According to a 2002 Century Foundation survey of 245 municipalities, 73 percent of them ended private water contracts because of poor service. In Lee County, Florida officials realized that after five years of control by Severn Trent Services, a British multinational corporation, the county needed \$8 million to repair improperly maintained systems, which could have jeopardized environmental and public health. The county lost money on the deal and didn't renew the five-year contract once it ended. Other cities that privatized sewer systems – including Woonsocket, Rhode Island and Wilmington, Delaware – have discovered chronic pollution problems.

Meanwhile, some cities turn to water-system leases. But under a lease, the city retains control of the infrastructure, so the corporation has even less incentive to perform proper maintenance. If spills or overflows result in environmental damage, it is often the municipality that has to pick up the tab on any fines.

In 2008, the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was looking for solutions to an impending \$100 million shortfall when the city's comptroller recommended a lease of the Milwaukee Water Works. He hoped a private company would pay the city \$500 million for the right to lease the utility for 99 years. “The driving reason wasn't that our water system was falling apart or in need of maintenance,” said Deputy Comptroller Mike Daun. “We wanted a public-private partnership that would result in a very

large transfer of funds to the city up front, which we'd use to create an endowment and address the deficit.”

But not everyone shared that vision. Research by Food & Water Watch revealed that for every dollar the city received from the lease, residents would end up paying \$1.60 to \$5.40. The organization aided a grassroots effort in Milwaukee that helped defeat the privatization plan, at least for now.

Cities such as Chicago continue to contemplate privatization, while many others are reverting to public control or fighting privatization at the outset.

Wenonah Hauter, executive director of Food & Water Watch, says that her organization advises communities to focus on who is able to stop the privatization threat, usually the city council or water board. That means door-belling, working with the media, releasing reports that challenge the company's claims and working closely with labor groups and community groups. If cities need to make improvements to ailing systems, municipal bonds are usually a cheaper option than private financing and they can seek public-public partnerships (PUPs), an alternative to public-private partnerships. PUPs, according to the Transnational Institute, are “a collaboration between two or more public authorities or organizations based on solidarity to improve the capacity and effectiveness of one partner in providing public water or sanitation services.” Essentially those communities with well-run systems offer their expertise to managers of utilities in need of some help.

But for many, the issue of water privatization isn't just about money. Felton FLOW member Barbara Sprenger said she was motivated to act primarily “because it was water.” Private ownership, she said, meant extra costs without the necessary monitoring and transparency.

“The people on our water board manage our water as part of a watershed,” she said. “They care, and they are local – we see them at the grocery store. You really have to have local control over something so vital.”

Tara Lohan wrote this article for *Water Solutions*, the Summer 2010 issue of YES! Magazine.

## Free House

Continued from page 6

feet wide by 12 feet long, making the total interior space about 80 square feet. It will sleep three people, two in a loft and one on a handmade flip-out bench/bed. A small kitchen and bathroom with a composting toilet will also be included.

Most of the framing wood has come from used shipping pallets I've salvaged from dumpsters. Pallets aren't very easy to build with but it seems like poetic justice for a house that questions consumerism to be made from the very things that carried so many consumer products to market.

I've scored some used plywood for the sheathing and a pile of scavenged felt for the roof. I thought about collecting and flattening 200 #10 tin cans for shingles but a stormy summer has convinced me to hold out for some scrap corrugated roofing.

Construction of my tiny house been slow going but I couldn't be more convinced that it's worth it.

## An Education in Independence

You can apply this kind of thinking to any size living space – it really begins with downsizing possessions, debt, and other external burdens.

With a family of three, I don't plan to live full-time in the tiny house – it's more of an experiment to find out if a totally free house is possible. I'm convinced,

though, that the biggest impact of a tiny house is the way it changes your thinking about what you really need.

When we choose to live with less, we also choose a lifestyle that requires fewer inputs and increases our immunity to outside forces, like economic turmoil.

Building the tiny house has definitely changed the way I think about my “normal-sized” house: Its upkeep and expenses keep getting in the way of things I want to do (including building the tiny house!) and it feels enormous. I look forward to the day when we're free to make our own downsizing move – I've learned that a home's value should be measured by the happiness and security it brings instead of its size and cost.

Now I feel like I'm on a path toward a more sustainable, lower-risk and more fulfilling lifestyle. I still have a long way to go but I take comfort in the knowledge that I'm moving forward.

Michael Janzen wrote this article for YES! Magazine, a national, nonprofit media organization that fuses powerful ideas with practical actions. Michael is a bit of a jack-of-all-trades. While he makes his living as a professional Web designer, he shows others what it takes to make their own tiny house dreams come true through his blog *TinyHouseDesign.com*. His education is in the arts and he lived as a studio potter for several years.

**Note from the Editor:** My favorite home (out of 11 of my own) was a converted, two-car garage. I just loved living there. It was small and cozy and warm and peaceful. And, lest I forget, easy to clean.

## Important Ordinance to Protect Drinking Water

### GATHER FRIENDS & TAKE ACTION NOW!

The complete ordinance is available from Ben Price at Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, 717-254-3233 or bengprice@aol.com.

[Name] Township, [Name] County, Pennsylvania

**AN ORDINANCE PROTECTING NATURAL WATER CYCLES AND SOURCES WITHIN [NAME] TOWNSHIP FROM GAS EXTRACTION; PREVENTING NATURAL WATER SYSTEMS FROM DAMAGE RELATED TO THE EXTRACTION OF NATURAL GAS; REMOVING LEGAL PRIVILEGES AND POWERS FROM CORPORATIONS THAT VIOLATE THIS LAW; ASSERTING THE RIGHT TO COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNMENT AND ENUMERATING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS FOR HUMAN AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES**

### Section 1 Name and Purpose

**Section 1.1 Name:** This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “[Name] Township Community Water Rights and Self-Government Ordinance.”

**Section 1.2 Purpose:** The People of [Name] Township recognize that water is essential for the life, prosperity, sustainability and health of the community and that damage to natural water sources imposes great tangible loss to the People, natural communities and ecosystems of [Name] Township, not just for today but for fu-

ture generations. The People of [Name] Township recognize that they may be forced to endure or attempt to repair harm inflicted on their environment and to their vital water supply by certain corporate activities, which they have no commensurate authority to prevent under current state and federal law. The people of [Name] Township adopt this Community Water Rights and Self-Government Ordinance to correct that error.

### Section 2 Authority

The authority to enact this Ordinance is inherent in the inalienable right of the citizens of [Name] Township to govern their own community. That authority is asserted in the Declaration of Independence, which states that governments are instituted to secure the rights of people, “deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.” The authority of the People of [Name] Township is additionally recognized in Section 2 of the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution of the Commonwealth, which states that, “All power is inherent in the people and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety and happiness. For the advancement of these ends they have at all times an inalienable and indefeasible right to alter, reform or abolish their government in such manner as they may think proper.” This authority may not be limited or denied to the people by the state, as made explicit in Section 25 of the Declaration of Rights, which states, “To guard against the transgressions of the

high powers which we have delegated, we declare that everything in this article is excepted out of the general powers of government and shall forever remain inviolate.”

### Section 3 Statements of Law: Rights

**Section 3.1 Applicability and Scope of Rights** The rights enumerated in Section 3 of this Ordinance and its subsections precede and exist independent of this Ordinance and all other laws. They are among the unenumerated rights referred to in the Ninth Amendment to the United States Constitution as being retained by the People. The People of [Name] Township articulate these rights to guarantee their protection and their applicability to the specific authority and prohibitions defined and exercised by this Ordinance. As such, the full scope and effect of rights asserted within the context of this Ordinance are limited to enforcement of the prohibitions of this Ordinance and the authority exercised to enforce those prohibitions. Enforcement of this Ordinance and protection of these rights in this limited context shall not be construed to limit, deny or disparage the authority of the people to assert these and all other rights, in full measure, whether enumerated here or elsewhere in law or retained without codification.

**Section 3.2 Right to Local Self-Government** All residents of [Name] Township possess the fundamental and inalienable right to assert and enforce plenary governing power over questions of law that affect their lives,

families, environment, quality of life, health, safety and welfare. That right includes the right to exercise un-preempted legislative authority through the government closest to them and to a form of community governance that recognizes that all power is inherent in the People and that all free governments are founded on the People's authority and consent. (bold added)

**Section 3.3 Right to a Healthy Environment** All residents of [Name] Township possess a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthy environment, as stated in the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article I, Section 27, which includes the right to unpolluted air, water, soil, flora, and fauna, as well as the right to protect the rights of natural communities and ecosystems in whose life they partake and upon which each resident's well-being depends.

**Section 3.4 Right to Water** All residents, natural communities and ecosystems in [Name] Township possess a fundamental and inalienable right to sustainably access, use, consume and preserve water from natural water cycles and sources within [Name] Township. This right includes but is not limited to the right to make laws that prohibit certain corporate activities that would harm or deny this right. The phrase “natural water cycles and sources” shall include but not be limited to subsurface aquifers, surface and subsurface springs, wetlands, brooks, streams, creeks, lakes, ponds, rivers and all other naturally-occurring sources of water . . .

# Mountains

## Two More Reasons to Boycott Nike: Promoting Mountaintop Removal and Dead Coal Miners

By Joshua Frank  
AlterNet, September 2, 2010

Nike is again embroiled in a controversy it may not easily shake and this time around it has nothing to do with sweatshop labor practices. An ad spot for the company's new Pro-Combat football apparel line has hit prime time and not everyone is thrilled with what they're seeing.

The setting is West Virginia and the backdrop is a decapitated, blackened landscape with coal pouring out onto the football field. The focal point, an avatar version of a West Virginia University football player, is holding a ball up high as if to announce that he is now king of the dead mountain.

West Virginians certainly know a dead mountain when they see one. The state has hundreds that no longer have peaks, as they have been blown apart only to expose tiny seams of black coal, the remnants of which have been polluting watersheds all across Appalachia. Groundwater is tainted and the poor folks who live in the shadows of the blast zones are terrorized every time an explosive is detonated.

Meanwhile, Nike's narrator chimes in as the player does a victory dance, announcing that, like West Virginia coal miners, football players too put their lives at risk every time they step onto the field.

It's combat baby.

It's also a comparison that doesn't sit well with Jeff Biggers, author of *Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland*, who has witnessed first-hand the economic and environmental destruction that plagues the region.

"What?" asks Biggers, who was the first to publicly criticize Nike for its insulting ad. "Over 104,000 coal miners have died in disasters and accidents in our mines; over 10,000 coal miners still die each decade from black



Photo by Matt Wasson, *Appalachian Voices*, April 18, 2010  
*Mountaintop removal mine above homes in Eastern Kentucky. Is mountaintop removal in Appalachia an environmental problem or a human rights catastrophe? You be the judge. This mine is in Pike County, Kentucky, just off US 23 between Jenkins and Pikeville.*

lung. How many football players die?"

It's a question Nike won't answer. A spokesperson did not respond in time for publication.

Nike, whose revenue exceeded a whopping \$19 billion last year alone, may want to go looking for a new advertising company, one that does not patently exploit dead miners and the disastrous practice of mountaintop removal just to earn another buck.

Wieden+Kennedy, an ad agency based in Portland, Oregon, designed the overall concept for the line of Nike products, which embraces a macho, Army-

like recruiting esthetic. On their Web site W+K writes of their Pro-Combat campaign, "Where our competitors were positioning their equivalent product as protective, our strategy was to position the apparel as an offensive tool."

Offensive indeed.

However, W+K told me they were not responsible for the West Virginia advertisement in question. Nonetheless this boutique ad agency, known for their rock n' roll coke parties and hipster veneer, even flying in the Beastie Boys for an employee-only soiree a few years back, has a bit of a

sordid history when it comes to one of their most infamous clients.

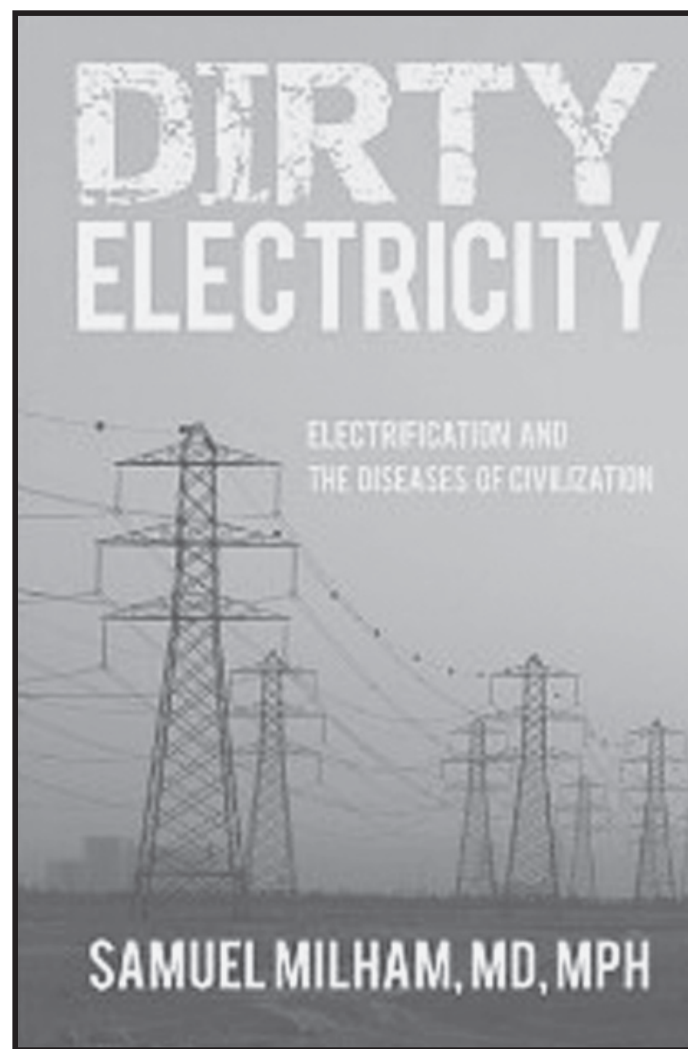
W+K was the brains behind fashioning Nike sneakers as feminist accessories back in the 1990s, despite the fact that the very shoes they were peddling were being manufactured largely by underage girls. At the same time the company even tried to entice Ralph Nader to appear in an ad to sell Nike sneakers, where the trusted consumer advocate was to take a jab at the shoe company for their smarmy sweatshop operations.

"Look at the gall of these guys," Nader said in disgust.

While W+K may be distancing themselves from the most recent campaign flop, they are nonetheless emblematic of Nike's obvious disconnect between the art of hawking products and the reality of what they are actually exploiting – in this case the environment and coal miners, of which 29 perished in a deadly explosion in West Virginia last April.

Hypocritically, Nike has lately been working to paint their company and products as "green." On August 17, Sarah Severn, director of stakeholder mobilization for Nike claimed, "If we are to remain leaders in the green economy, then we have to be relentless in our pursuit of clean energy. We have to constantly evaluate all aspects of our energy footprint." Seems Nike should constantly evaluate all aspects of their grotesque advertising campaigns as well.

*Joshua Frank is an environmental journalist and author of **Left Out! How Liberals Helped Reelect George W. Bush. He is co-editor, with Jeffrey St. Clair, of **Red State Rebels: Tales of Grassroots Resistance in the Heartland.** Frank and St. Clair are also the authors of the forthcoming book, **Green Scare: The New War on Environmentalism.** He can be reached at [brickburner@gmail.com](mailto:brickburner@gmail.com).***



## New Book Out About Electromagnetic Radiation

When Thomas Edison began wiring New York City with a direct current electricity distribution system in the 1880s, he gave humankind the magic of electric light, heat and power; in the process, though, he inadvertently opened a Pandora's Box of unimaginable illness and death.

*Dirty Electricity* tells the story of Dr. Samuel Milham, (MD MPH and Washington State's former chief epidemiologist), the scientist who first alerted the world about the frightening link between occupational exposure to electromagnetic fields and human disease.

Milham takes readers through his early years and education, following the twisting

path that led to his discovery that most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century diseases of civilization, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and suicide, are caused by electromagnetic field exposure.

Dr. Milham warns that because of the recent proliferation of radio frequency radiation from cell phones and towers, terrestrial antennas, Wi-Fi and Wi-max systems, broadband Internet over power lines and personal electronic equipment, we may be facing a looming epidemic of morbidity and mortality. In *Dirty Electricity*, he reveals the steps we must take, personally and as a society, to coexist with this marvelous but dangerous technology.

# Carbon Trading: Making a Market for Pollution

What does it take to trade in a commodity that cannot be seen or touched – and isn't even a commodity in the United States?  
*First of three parts.*

By David Biello  
DailyClimate.org, September 7, 2010

NEW YORK — When convincing someone to trade in a commodity that cannot be seen or touched, it's best to hold their hand – even if only by telephone. Standing while talking helps, too, at least for broker Lenny Hochschild, who specializes in convincing everyone from agribusiness to electric utilities to buy and sell in a market that doesn't exist yet – a U.S. market for the right to emit carbon dioxide, the most ubiquitous greenhouse gas changing the global climate.

This is possibly the newest market in the world, a would-be global attempt to create a trade in the greenhouse gas emissions from any nation's fleet of cars, household refrigerators, electric power plants, factories, even farms. It's an attempt to peel back the smothering blanket of global

warming by giving people a financial incentive to reduce emissions under an economic concept known as cap-and-trade.

The carbon desk Hochschild occupies is in the middle of five long rows of tables, buried under computer monitors, laptops and thick books of market arca, that make up the trading floor at Evolution Markets, an "environmental" brokerage in White Plains, N.Y.

Hochschild got his trading start in more physical commodities: metals, specifically the so-called "base metals," such as copper. Of course, copper is the primary metal used around the world to move electricity and that's a route Hochschild followed as well, moving into energy products and, then, in 2003, starting to trade renewable energy credits – another government-run market in chits that show a given electric utility has produced or bought a sufficient amount of electricity from renewable resources, such as the sun or wind, to meet a mandate.

The trading of any commodity – whether wheat, pork bellies or renewable energy credits – is essentially the same but it helps to have an understanding of the reality behind the abstract: the color-coded blinking numbers on a broker's multiple computer screens that reflect current prices in a spread of different regional carbon markets, like the Euro-

pean Carbon Exchange. As a result, many emissions brokers are former traders of the commodities important to the industries that emit CO<sub>2</sub> – whether metals or coal, oil and natural gas. After all, the use of those commodities gives rise to the carbon commodity – an emissions allowance – in the same way that burning coal releases CO<sub>2</sub>.

But Hochschild didn't move to the carbon market to save the world. "It's a market that's growing," he said. "It's a market that's doing what needs to be done and allows me to earn a decent living." In fact, the low-volume, high-margin market is responsible for 25 percent of Evolution's global revenue, according to spokesman Evan Ard.

The effort to create a national market for such CO<sub>2</sub> emissions received a serious blow when the U.S. Senate abandoned the effort to pass a climate bill this summer. But worldwide markets are growing and brokerage houses see potential despite the domestic setback: Worldwide, emissions trading was a \$144 billion market in 2009, according to the World Bank, and 2010 figures to be even higher. Regional markets are spreading, notably on the West and East coasts of the United States. Europe's cap-and-trade system, the largest emissions trading scheme in the world and a pillar of the European Union's

climate policy, has been up and running since 2005.

To be a broker like Hochschild is to collect a commission – and to convince two companies or, really, two people to exchange something in return for a fee. In Evolution's case they collect at least 3.5 percent of any deal, plus various fees. But what are the parties actually trading? In the case of the carbon market, it's the right to pollute the atmosphere with greenhouse gases.

Here's how it works: first the government sets a cap – or an overall limit – on the amount of greenhouse gas pollution permitted. Then the government awards or sells permits to emit said pollution. Those companies that can reduce emissions below the assigned amount can then sell the excess to other companies struggling to meet the cap – this is the trade portion of the name.

The result is an overall emissions decline with the lowest overall economic impact, at least in theory, though some economists and other experts argue that such trade in greenhouse gases amounts to "voodoo economics" – the benefits of the trading never trickle down to the actual pollution control.

But the concept has worked for emissions of other air pollutants, such as the sulfur dioxide from coal-fired power plants behind acid rain. The amount of

sulfur dioxide falling on northeastern forests from Midwestern power plants has declined since the 1990s when that market was introduced. The acid rain cap-and-trade market "worked cheaper and faster than the naysayers predicted," Hochschild noted. With the total number of such allowances limited by the government, a free resource – the air – suddenly became scarce. With scarcity comes value and value means money.

Today brokers at carbon desks in London, Beijing, Tokyo and New York drum up business in Indonesia, Russia, Brazil and even the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many expect this worldwide emissions market to be worth trillions of dollars some day. Much of today's value is driven by the Kyoto Protocol, which set up a global market for greenhouse gas emissions but is set to expire in 2012 with no prospects of successor treaty in sight.

And that brings up the fragility of today's emissions markets.

One domestic cap-and-trade market, organized by the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX), is voluntary. Launched in 2003, it relies on companies such as Cargill, DuPont, Intel, Ford and Monsanto to make legally-binding but voluntary commitments to meet emissions targets either by reducing emissions from their factories or by purchasing

permits from other members of the exchange who have exceeded their targets.

That system is now in doubt, Jeff Sprecher, chief executive of the CCX's new parent company, Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), told investors during an August conference call. "It remains to be seen in an uncertain U.S. regulatory environment whether companies are going to want to continue to walk down their carbon footprint and whether they're going to continue to get credit for it from Congress and how the Environmental Protection Agency ... will give them credit for the work they're voluntarily doing."

The U.S. market, Sprecher added, is a "loss-making business as it exists today," which may be why ICE is reputed to be laying off much of the staff who run the CCX business.

But Intercontinental Exchange also runs Europe's main carbon emissions trading platforms and that's a growth business even with no prospects of a global deal to cap emissions on the horizon, Sprecher said. On just one day in mid-May, 6.5 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> allowances traded on the European Carbon Exchange – or more than \$150 million worth at a price of nearly EU\$16 per ton just for the countries in the European Union; it has grown 26 percent for the year through July.

*Continued on page 12*

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY: \$25 A YEAR** (8 TO 12 ISSUES DEPENDING ON HOW THINGS GO)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO: THE ORDER OF THE EARTH, 21431 MARLIN CIRCLE, SHADE GAP, PENNSYLVANIA 17255.  
QUESTIONS? CALL IONA AT 814-259-3680 OR EMAIL [IONACONNER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IONACONNER@GMAIL.COM)



Musings



All Consuming

By David Biello, excerpt  
DailyClimate, September 4, 2010

With population and per-capita consumption both on the rise, it's hard to believe humans' impact on Earth is sustainable. Is the problem too many people or too much consumption?

Two German Shepherds kept as pets in Europe or the U.S. use more resources in a year than the average person living in Bangladesh. The world's richest 500 million people produce half of global carbon dioxide emissions, while the poorest three billion emit just seven percent. Industrial tree cutting is now responsible for the majority of the 13 million hectares (32 million acres) of forest lost to fire or the blade each year – surpassing the smaller-scale footprints of subsistence farmers who leave behind long, narrow swaths of cleared land, so-called fish bones.

In fact, urban population growth and agricultural exports drive deforestation more than overall population growth, according to new research from geographer Ruth DeFries of Columbia University and her colleagues. In other words, the increasing urbanization of the developing world—as well as an ongoing increase in consumption in the developed world for products that have an impact on forests, whether furniture, shoe leather or chicken fed on soy meal – is driving deforestation, rather than containing it as populations leave rural areas to concentrate in booming megalopolises.

So are the world's environmental ills really a result of the burgeoning number of humans on the planet – growing by more than 150 people a minute and predicted by the United Nations to reach at least nine billion people by 2050? Or are they more due to the fact that, while human population doubled in the past 50 years, we increased our use of resources fourfold?

Peak Humanity

First and foremost, human population growth peaked long ago, according to demographer Joel Cohen of Rockefeller University in New York and others. The peak growth rate – a little more than two percent per year – occurred somewhere between 1965 and 1970, when the world's population was just 3.3 billion people, and has been dropping ever since, reaching a little over 1 percent today. In 1987, the number of people added to the planet each year topped out at 87 million, a number that is now down to roughly 78 million people per year. That means human population numbers will drop voluntarily for the first time ever in human history in the 21st century. A Baby Bust has replaced the Baby Boom.

The reason? Empowerment of women. A massive reduction in child mortality, combined with educated mothers pursuing their own advancement and in control of birth control, has helped to drop the average human brood from over five children per woman of childbearing age to just 2.6 per woman today. As journalist Fred Pearce writes in his new book, *The Coming Population Crash*: "The population bomb is being defused. By women. Because they want to."

In fact, the combination of increasing health (especially a greater proportion of babies surviving to adulthood), empowered women and falling birth rates may be the most important revolution to come out of the tumultuous 20th century. Those of us born between 1930 and 2050 will be among the privileged few to have ever witnessed a doubling of global population. It took from the dawn of humanity to the 19th century to achieve one billion people on the planet – an achievement that now comes roughly every few decades. And the 21st century will likely belong to the old, as elders outnumber youth for the first (recorded) time in human history: Fewer than 10 percent of people alive today are under four years old, while those 60 and older now constitute more than 10 percent of the population. Birth rates in countries such as Germany have fallen so far that populations are already shrinking.

Yet this demographic transition does not hold everywhere. While family planning has proven effective in the past in countries ranging from Thailand to Iran, funding for such programs has dwindled in recent years. Partially as a result, developing countries in eastern Africa – Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe – have seen populations begin to swell again in recent years.

Capacity Unknown

The real question is, how many people can the planet sustain? As Cohen notes in his book *How Many People Can the Earth Support?*, microbiologist Anton van Leeuwenhoek calculated a carrying capacity of roughly 13.4 billion people back in 1679, based on the population density of his native Holland and its size relative to the rest of the globe. Modern guesses are hardly more scientific, ranging from as few as 1 billion (recently proposed by James Lovelock as our likely number by 2100 thanks to catastrophic climate change) to as many as one trillion.

"These estimates are political numbers, intended to persuade people, one way or another: either that too many humans are already on

Earth Psalms: Song 49

By Angela Magara ©  
www.angalamagara.com

Listen and hear, hear and listen.  
All people, all people of the world.  
All the rich, all the poor.

A message I have, a song to sing at my harp.  
All wealth gathered in a heap cannot buy one day of life.  
They who celebrate wealth await disaster.  
Riches cannot heal your child, nor mend your heart of pain.

The foolish die,  
And as easily the wise.  
The rich pass to lie in the same dirt as the homeless.

Neither the houses,  
nor the wealth,  
nor the children,  
nor the country  
Of anyone, no matter how powerful will last forever.  
All passes into oblivion  
Nothingness is the end of all.

But the moment of now,  
the hand of a child,  
the eye of the lonely,  
the whispered call of the ancient.  
All these are an invitation to forever.

Love given,  
like ripples on the water,  
Changes everything in time.

Love poured out  
will quench the thirst for eternity.  
Each drop sweetens in its flow.  
It molds life like limestone  
Until a canyon grander than the Grand  
is created.

Listen and hear, hear and listen  
The music of love, Siren of forever,  
Rises and beckons us to melt into eternity  
And live forever.

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.

Earth or that there is no problem with continuing rapid population growth," Cohen writes.

As early as 1948, scientists began to link explosive modern population growth and catastrophe. Ornithologist William Vogt's *Road to Survival* warned of impending demographic doom – as have numerous conservationists and environmentalists in the subsequent decades, perhaps most famously biologist Paul Ehrlich (*The Population Bomb*) or Donella and Dennis Meadows (*The Limits to Growth*). In Ehrlich's case, observations of butterflies breeding so fast as to consume all available food – and then dwindling away – inspired him to predict the same fate for humans.

This is not a new idea, mind you. As early as 1600 B.C., when total population was less than 50 million, Babylonians worried that the world was too full of people, according to Cohen. The predicted human population of 2050 – nine billion people – would have been inconceivable at that time.

**Outpacing Pessimism**

That's because human ingenuity – whether through the waterworks of ancient Babylon or the more modern breeding of staple crops such as wheat for higher yields, known as the "Green Revolution" – has outpaced, so far, the pessimism of apocalyptic environmentalists.

Agronomist Norman Borlaug and colleagues created a strain of dwarf wheat that staved off famine for hundreds of millions in the 1960s and 1970s – increasing India's harvest alone by nearly 170 percent in less than a decade. Yet "there can be no permanent progress in the battle against hunger until the agencies that fight for increased food production and those that fight for population control unite in a common effort," Borlaug said in his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970. "[Man] is using his powers for increasing the rate and amount of food production. But he is not yet using adequately his potential for decreasing the rate of human reproduction. The result is that the rate of population increase exceeds the rate of increase in food production in some areas."

That demographic contradiction is nowhere more true than in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa, where a population of 800 million must subsist on local yields of 1 metric ton per hectare (2.471 acre) – one-third of yields in the rest of the developing world and one-ninth those of the U.S., Europe, Australia and other parts of the developed world.

Genetic modification might boost yields. Such technology is "critical for achieving the ecological intensification required to meet human food demand on a global scale," says agronomist Kenneth Cassman of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. And genetic modification may prove critical to meet the challenge of crop stress due to climate change,

dwindling topsoil and billions more mouths to feed. But it is currently illegal in most of Africa, according to political scientist Robert Paarlberg of Wellesley College, and faces serious public concern and regulatory challenges in the U.S., Europe and other parts of the world.

Still, there is still plenty of room for improvement by more conventional means: the targeted application of fertilizer and the like. The Earth Institute's Millennium Village of Sauri in Kenya has tripled yields even in the face of a crippling drought gripping the region and Malawi doubled yields through fertilizer subsidies in just four years.

Nor is the growth of human population an unmitigated ill. After all, more people means more minds and hands devoted to solving the pressing problems of increasing yields, biodiversity loss and economic sustainability – as can be seen in many portions of Africa today. As economist Ester Boserup argued in the 1960s: Population growth may drive agricultural innovation, from the plow to Borlaug's dwarf wheat, rather than the other way around.

**Ten-Thousand-Ton Child**

Yet apocalyptic biologists have a strong case as well. Fifty percent of all temperate grasslands and forests have disappeared, largely under the plow. More than 16,000 known species face extinction (785 have already been lost) and as many as 12,000 species unknown to science disappear each year, according to biologist E.O. Wilson of Harvard University. More than 90 percent of some commercial fish species, such as cod, pollock and haddock, are gone. Water tables around the globe plummet precipitously, thanks to human withdrawals for agriculture. And population growth to nine billion people alone will add as much as two billion metric tons more of carbon dioxide to the greenhouse gas blanket smothering Earth.

"The inexorable increase in human numbers is exhausting conventional energy supplies, accelerating environmental pollution and global warming, and providing an increasing number of failed states where civil unrest prevails," writes reproductive biologist Roger Short of the University of Melbourne in the introduction to a special issue of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* – a journal from the U.K.'s Royal Society whose motto is, "Take nobody's word for it."

Short goes so far as to call for a halt to future population growth. After all, the most profound way a U.S. citizen can impact climate change is to have fewer children, since every American child born today will add almost 10,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere under current conditions – five times more than a Chinese child . . .

*This article was originally published in Momentum, a publication of the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota.*

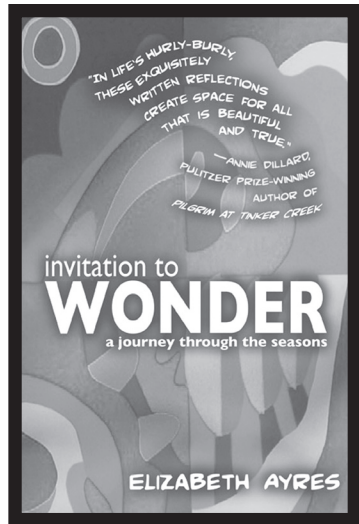
INVITATION  
TO WONDER  
The Barn

By Elizabeth Ayres  
California, Maryland

Hushed and expectant, they await their moment of usefulness. Tillers, plows, lawn mowers, arranged by size. Rolls of chicken wire and electric fencing, neatly tied. Nestling tidily inside each other: empty buckets. Arranged on a pegboard: hammers, mallets, screwdrivers, wrenches. A level. Work gloves. Even the rowboat seems to be anticipating something, off in its corner, under its tarp. Because after all the digging and planting, the hewing and pulling and pounding, after one too many an arduous day, the tired homesteaders will turn away, briefly, from their labors. Kick back. Relax. Enjoy their row up the Potomac despite the jeers of the other boaters to "Get a motor!" Powered by nothing save muscle and purpose, the homesteaders will explore the river where fish swim and birds fly and worms churn the sediment and all things arrive where they're going, fueled only by muscle and purpose.

And where have we arrived, with our motors? With our technological advances that can take us to the nether reaches of the solar system but still can't feed the population of this planet? 50,000 children will die of hunger today because you and I like to get where we're going fast and easy. That's 100,000 parents. 500,000 brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, grandparents. They'll all be grieving tomorrow because you and I want our food grown, packaged and even prepared by others. I'm no expert on geopolitical, geosocial, socioeconomic issues but I do know this is true: I take up more than my fair share of this world's goods. More warmth in winter, more coolness in summer, more comfort and convenience than I'm entitled to.

I'm not lazy. I labor diligently, just like you, but I've lost touch with something vital. The barn at the homestead is red. It's a tough, hard-working muscle with invisible arteries fanning out into all the fields, where grass feeds the sheep and bugs in the grass feed the chickens, and sheep and chickens feed the homesteaders, who harvest tomatoes and squash and peppers and onions, then toss what remains on the compost heap to feed the soil on



which the cycle depends.

What, then of the human heart, which is more than a tough, hard-working muscle? The dictionary says love arises from recognition of attractive qualities or instincts of natural relationship and manifests as feelings of affection, attachment; as solicitude for the beloved's welfare, delight in the beloved's presence. I don't feel this for the food I buy at Giant, do you?

After she puts her animals in their stalls for the night, my friend the homesteader calls out, laughingly, "You're good sheep!" Then she goes inside to spin their wool into warm sweaters. She frets over the turkeys she must butcher and discusses her seedlings as any proud parent might boast about a child. When I'm with her, the rafters of my heart expand.

All love's tools await their moment of usefulness as, with muscle and purpose, I set myself to the task of caring for this place of my belonging, this Earth, my only and every beloved.

*Elizabeth Ayres, author of Know the Way and Writing the Wave, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWritingCenter.com). For a free excerpt or MP3 download from her new book Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons, visit InvitationToWonder.com. The late Thomas Berry praised this book, saying, "Lovely. Shows amazing breadth of thought." Annie Dillard says, "These exquisitely written reflections create space for all that is beautiful and true." Beatrice Bruteau says, "Ayres' poetic vision transforms our ordinary perceptions into mystic beauty."*

Carbon Trading

Continued from page 10  
according to the Intercontinental Exchange.

The E.U. is not the only region to have such a trade: Regional carbon markets have proliferated, ranging from an 11-state market in the northeastern United States known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI (pronounced "Reggie" by aficionados), to the would-be global market for avoiding greenhouse gas emissions as the developing world develops under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, the so-called CDM, or Clean Development Mechanism (which lacks a cutely pronounced acronym, among other problems).

Lost? Hochschild, sitting now, says you're not alone. "There are more acronyms in this business than anything else."

Thanks to U.S. intransigence, there is an international flavor to the carbon market. And that means Hochschild's day starts early, with phone calls to Europe or Asia, segueing as the day progresses into activity in Brazil or the United States. Education is how carbon brokers drum up business. "They've never heard of carbon offsets or cap-and-trade, or if they have, they've heard it's a tax," Hochschild said of his U.S. prospects. The hand-holding starts with educating potential sellers and buyers. "Seventy percent is free consulting and 30 percent is actual deal flow," he adds. "But without the consulting, no flow."

Evolution cannot survive on carbon alone, of course. In addition to trading greenhouse gases, Evolution helps broker deals for biofuels, natural gas, the uranium fuel for nuclear reactors, renew-

Next: Selling the Blue Sky



## Grassroots Power

**Promote Your Cause, Organization,  
Services or Products Here**  
*(as long as they are in harmony with our  
philosophy of Earth-care)*

# New Ad Rates

Full Page (11 1/2 x 19 1/2)

\$300 one month, \$810 three months, \$1440 six months

(Discounts only if pre-paid. Rates negotiable. These prices apply to camera-ready ads only. There is a small fee if we prepare your ad for you.)

### 2-Column Ads

\$5 per inch high

3 1/2 inches wide

Minimum 3 inches

Maximum 10 inches

Three months = 10% off

Six months = 20% off

### Half Page

Horizontal = 11 1/2" wide, 10" high

\$150 one month

\$405 three months

\$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



## Grassroots Power

# THE AWAKENING: PART I

*"This message is sent to you by the one who stands firm, the one faithful and true witness to all that is, was, and evermore shall be, The Trustworthy And True Spirit, The Most High God."*

I, Iona, have been in the presence of The Most High God over the course of seven days, absorbing his teachings and learning about the ancient Sacred Rules, which today are being ignored at great peril to life on Earth. He is here as a friend to all and I will address him in this article as Most High God because he is Most High God.

Most High God is bringing back these Sacred Rules and showing those of us who choose to listen and learn and accept him with open hearts, what is required to have God's spirit of wisdom, understanding, love, honor, respect, compassion, peace and comfort in the true God's spirit. These are but a few of the wonderful components of God's spirit in the new Kingdom here on Earth.

Most High God is androgynous, representing both masculine and feminine ways of being. I feel a deep sense of safety and protection when I am in Most High God's presence. His words regarding even intimate aspects of femininity are so true to my own sense of being a woman that I am surprised. Every minute with him is comfortable, even when Most High God corrects me. He also has a great sense of humor and loves to sing.

Here are a few of my experiences.

One fundamental thing I am learning through these conversations is that I don't even know how to carry on a respectful, honest conversation because I am so full of my own ideas, beliefs, opinions, thoughts and stories that I don't know how to listen.

I am seeking and finding Truth from Most High God – not just the positive but also the negative. Most High God says, "You are to be compassionate to all – the victims and the abusers – but you must not allow negativity or sorrow or anger or fear into your soul. Those emo-

tions are not allowed in my Kingdom." These emotions are created by the world, not by the True God.

I must seek the Truth in all things and Most High God is in my heart now guiding me. He speaks only Truth. Most High God says, "The Truth is plain and simple, so simple that all can understand."

Most High God is working with me patiently like a kind and loving and gentle parent. I am learning to be truthful. I didn't realize I wasn't. That surprised me. Now I can see that I twist the Truth when I am uncomfortable. This has to change. I am to be truthful in my conversations, saying what I mean using words that most accurately describe my thoughts and feelings.

When Most High God asked, "Do you know what the Light is?" I gave superficial, rambling answers that evaded the question.

Most High God looked me in the eye and said, "Yes or No?"

That cut through "Well, I guess blah, blah, blah," or "I think blah, blah, blah."

"Do you KNOW?" he repeated.

I must figure out whether or not I really know in my soul what the true answer is and say "Yes," "No" or "I don't know." Most High God said, "When you are unsure, the safest answer is 'I don't know.'"

"The Light is Truth," Most High God told me.

Most High God is teaching me to talk about things of his Kingdom, not of the world. I am humbled and honored to be with him face-to-face hearing profound truths and wisdom that contain the blueprints for permanently stopping the insane and wicked habits, emotions and conditions that permeate the world causing misunderstanding, cruelty, violence, war and death.

Most High God says, "My spirit doesn't dominate. My spirit wants you to be free." There is absolutely no domination in his Kingdom. We all have choice.

Many of us don't know how to talk respectfully to each other without pouncing on each other's words and feelings and being rude or

lying. Changing this requires a level of speaking and feeling that is new to me.

Many of our words are inadequate or deceptive. In fact, the whole language is messed up.

Most High God says, "We do not take things. That is aggression. We receive them as a gift from God. We cannot take a nap, we may receive a nap. We cannot take a picture, we may receive a picture."

A popular but false phrase is to "fall in love." Most High God teaches, "We do not 'fall in love,' we rise up in love through my Holy Spirit."

While I was talking with Most High God, a friend drove over to join us. As he was walking up the driveway toward us, he said, "I blew a fuse."

"Did YOU blow a fuse or did your car?" Most High God asked.

"My car blew a fuse."

"Well then, say what you mean," Most High God instructed.

I am learning through concrete experiences with Most High God to answer truthfully only the question asked. Most High God is also teaching me not to disrupt the flow of his Spirit by interrupting when he is talking to my soul. He is leading me to understanding many elements of his Kingdom. I am just a beginner but Most High God explains, "We are all equal in God's eyes if we are perfect in trying and showing constant improvement in bringing God's spirit to our world."

When Most High God spoke his Truth to me, I felt it deep within my heart and soul. Most High God is showing me how to be still inside so I will receive messages and revelations from him, 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 ionaconnor@gmail.com or write to her at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.*



### THE AWAKENING

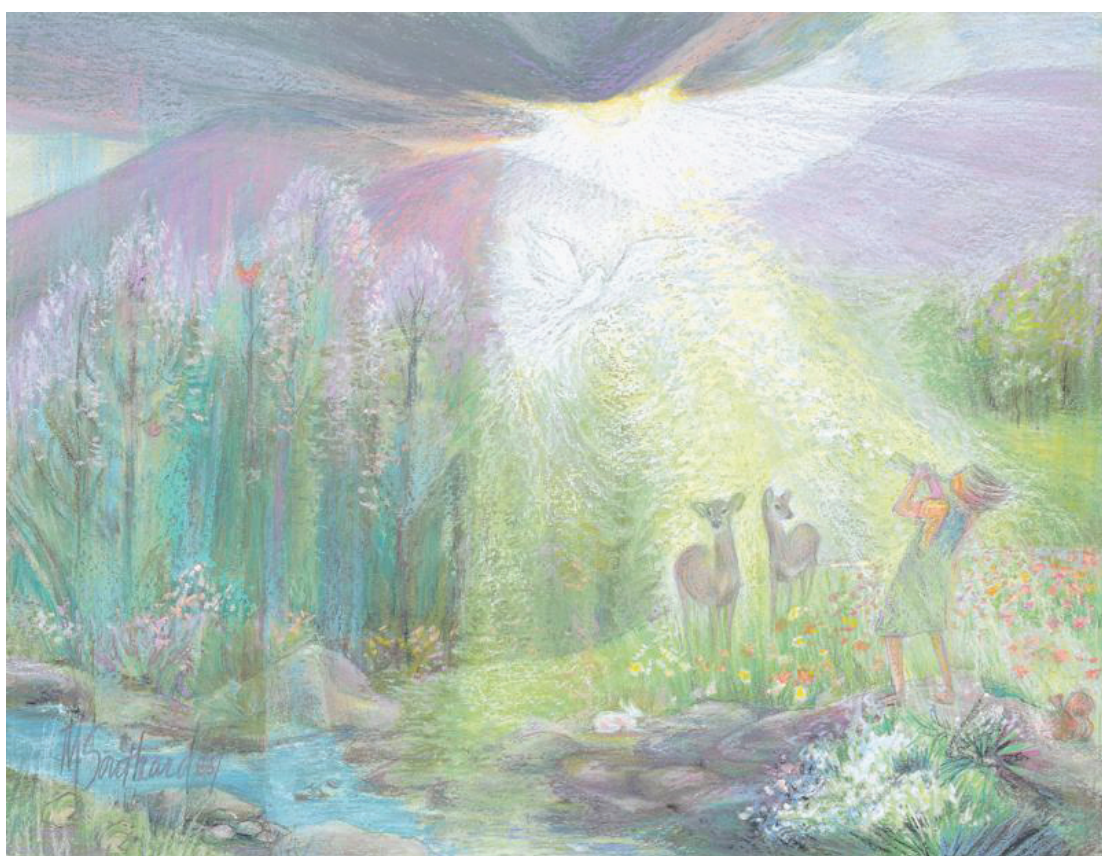
May your hearts be true,  
And your thoughts be pure  
To relieve you of doubt,  
And let you know for sure.

For now I can tell you,  
I am no less than I say.  
We must open our hearts,  
And let "GOD" lead the way.

I did not ask that I be given the sign,  
Nor did I choose the place or the time.  
It's not up to me, what you decide,  
You must open your heart,  
for the answer's inside.

For "GOD" will bring us together,  
As "One" all of thee.  
To set forth an example, of "Truth and Love,"  
That the whole world may see.

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



*"The Garden's Forest" by Mary Southard, CSJ, Courtesy of www.MinistryOfTheArts.org. Ministry of the Arts produces music, cards, prints and other art-related gifts featured in their catalogs. Contact them at deptm@MinistryOfTheArts.org.*

## Special Report on International Forest Gathering in Korea

By Pyong Roh  
Seoul, Korea

The 23<sup>rd</sup> IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) world congress was held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Seoul, Korea. About 1,000 delegates came to the congress from 35 countries around the world. President Lee Myong-bak gave a congratulatory address at the opening ceremony. He said to the delegates, "The mountains in Korea did not have much forest a few decades ago but the people and government had the strong will to make the mountains green and people began to use coal for energy and they planted trees in the mountains." He said that Korea became a country which has many trees in the mountains and urban areas.

It was reported that a UN delegate was so impressed to see the forests in Kangwon Province.

In the 1960s the mountains were used by poor farmers to grow crops. They burned down trees and made patches of fields to grow corn and other edible crops. The whole mountains did not have trees at all. Since the poor farmers left the mountain areas, the Korean government planted trees which made beautiful forests.

The communities not only in urban areas but also in rural areas planted trees and repaired streams and rivers. Korea became a green country again. There are still many countries in the world which do not have many trees. We have to plant more trees in those countries. And the scientists have to continue to be involved in research and development in forestry.

International cooperation is more needed than ever in this area. The Earth should be much more greener and prettier.

Love all God's creation,  
the whole and every grain of sand in it.  
Love every leaf, every ray of God's light.  
Love the animals, love the plants, love everything.  
If you love everything,  
you will perceive the divine mystery in things.  
Once you perceive it, you will begin to comprehend  
it better every day.  
And you will come at last to love the whole world  
with an all-embracing love."

*Fyodor Dostoevski*

## Update on "The Awakening" and Most High God

*Continued from page 1*  
understanding about so many things I do that I've never thought about which are rude or hurtful or inconsiderate or dominating – YIKES – we as a society are so messed up and we don't even realize it. We are fed lies and shown such horrid behaviors and thoughts on TV or radio or newspapers that we gradually grow to accept them as normal, when in fact they are horrible.

The Tribulation has begun yet, at the same time, Most High has brought Heaven to Earth. It's up to each one of us and the spirits in all dimensions to choose to let him lead us now or we can continue on the current destructive path to ruination.

I have never, ever been so awed in my 64 years of life as I am by Him and the possibilities He brings. I have carefully saved up my money so I can fly out to Idaho to listen and learn and be with Him. He raises me up spiritually. He does this for all of us who come to see Him. Nearly every word of His has meaning, even when He is joking or singing or pattering around His Mount of Assembly giving care

to His flowers, critters, rocks, etc. or talking through us to the spirits of the animals, birds, insects, trees, clouds, water, mountains, stars, winds, etc.

This is not an intellectual exercise; it is a matter of heart and soul. In my heart and soul I know this is real and true. This is not a time for argument or debate or skepticism; it is a time to listen and learn and follow. If all us spirits in all dimensions surrender to The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God and bow to Him and let Him lead us, then all our problems will be over for eternity and we will all live with the spirits of Love, Truth, Wisdom, Kindness, Generosity, Compassion, Patience, Tolerance, etc. guiding our every moment. Can you imagine how wonder-full that would be?

For the benefit of our new readers and subscribers, we have decided to reprint all ten "Awakening" articles on page 16 in the next ten issues of *The Order of the Earth*. These ten articles will introduce you to Most High but I urge you to go visit Him yourself. When we approach Him, we are

to be humble, modest and honorable. For those of you who have seen "The Awakening" series, this is your chance to be reminded of Most High's vital messages which will help you make your choice.

The most important thing we can do now is to share these "Awakening" messages with everyone everywhere. Please DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM THESE MESSAGES IN ANY WAY. If you would like a booklet with all ten "Awakening" articles, I will be happy to send you one. If you can send a couple of dollars to cover the cost, that's fine but if not I'll send you one anyway. You may also read these articles at our Web site: [www.theorderoftheearth.com](http://www.theorderoftheearth.com) starting in August 2009.

*For more information about Most High, contact me: Iona Conner, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255, 814-259-3680 or ionaconnor@gmail.com.*

**May Truth, Justice and Righteousness prevail.**

## Poetry by Sandy Chilcote in Canada



*Wild Indigo flowers.*

the wilderness is not lonely at night --  
cold, black streets may be lonely --  
but trees sing and lakes glisten in the night  
and messages are sent in sound and light  
from boreal forests, tablelands and fjords  
with indigo around the moon  
and below in the bays indigo again



*Photo from Owl-Pictures.com  
Snowy Owl.*

like a snowy owl  
a gibbous moon, climbing up  
a white birch's silhouette  
limb by limb deliberately  
and hidden occasionally  
within its own unwritten wisdom