

Earth News

October/November 2011

iLoveEarthNews.com

Vol. 4, No. 7, Issue 39: To press 9/19/11

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About 80% Less Gas in Marcellus than Previously Thought

USGS Releases New Assessment of Gas Resources in Marcellus Shale, Appalachian Basin

By Iona Conner, Publisher
Based on USGS Press Release: August 23, 2011 and *The New York Times*: August 24, 2011 article by Ian Urbina called "Geologists Sharply Cut Estimate of Shale Gas"

The Marcellus Shale contains about 84 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered, technically-recoverable natural gas and 3.4 billion barrels of undiscovered, technically-recoverable natural gas liquids according to a new assessment by the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS).

"This is drastically lower than the 410 trillion cubic feet that was published earlier this year by the federal Energy Information Administration," writes Ian Urbina of *The New York Times* on August 24th.

The press release by the USGS was confusing to me so I called Alex Demas there and asked him why their press release stated: "These gas estimates are significantly more than the last USGS assessment of the Marcellus Shale in the Appalachian Basin in 2002, which estimated a mean of about 2 trillion cubic feet of gas (TCF) and 0.01 billion barrels of natural gas liquids."

Demas' answer was that the USGS Press Release was comparing the most recent analysis by USGS with that done by his agency in 2004; but, *The New York Times* article was comparing the USGS most recent analysis with the Energy Information Administration's analysis that was published earlier this year.

I will admit that sometimes these natural gas issues are hard to follow.

Urbina says, "The decision by the agency to lower the estimates comes amid growing scrutiny from Congress about how the administration calculates its number and why it depends on outside and industry-tied consultants to produce some of its reports."

"Accurate estimates are important for lawmakers who are making long-term decisions about subsidies and policies relating to the nation's energy mix."

Now, back to USGS: "This USGS assessment is an estimate of continuous gas and natural gas liquid accumulations in the

Middle Devonian Marcellus Shale of the Appalachian Basin. The estimate of undiscovered natural gas ranges from 43.0 to 144.1 TCF (95 percent to 5 percent probability, respectively), and the estimate of natural gas liquids ranges from 1.6 to 6.2 billion barrels (95 percent to 5 percent probability, respectively). There are no conventional petroleum resources assessed in the Marcellus Shale of the Appalachian Basin.

These new estimates are for technically-recoverable oil and gas resources, which are those quantities of oil and gas producible using currently available technology and industry practices, regardless of economic or accessibility considerations. As such, these estimates include resources beneath both onshore and offshore areas (such as Lake Erie) and beneath areas where accessibility may be limited by policy and regulations imposed by land managers and regulatory agencies.

The Marcellus Shale assessment covered areas in Kentucky, Maryland, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

USGS is the only provider of publicly-available estimates of undiscovered, technically-recoverable oil and gas resources of onshore lands and offshore state waters. The USGS worked with the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, the West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey, the Ohio Geological Survey and representatives from the oil and gas industry and academia to develop an improved geologic understanding of the Marcellus Shale. The USGS Marcellus Shale assessment was undertaken as part of a nationwide project assessing domestic petroleum basins using standardized methodology and protocol.

The new assessment of the Marcellus Shale may be found at <http://energy.usgs.gov/Miscellaneous/Articles/tabid/98/ID/102/Assessment-of-Undiscovered-Oil-and-Gas-Resources-of-the-Devonian-Marcellus-Shale-of-the-Appalachian-Basin-Province.aspx>. The previous Marcellus Shale assessment can be found at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/fs-009-03/>.

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Photo by Llewellyn Lafford

A tent city set up by anti-fracking activists at a training camp for non-violent direct action held in New York this summer.

Time For Non-Violent Direct Action

By Jeff Andrysick
Pulteney, New York

As nearly 100 people poured into Camp-OFF, as in Off Fossil Fuels, two baby robin birds sang for food from their barn/meeting hall nest. People flocked in from all over the country with the most distant attendee, Dave Cooper, driving in from Kentucky where he is a famous anti-mountaintop coal removal activist.

The Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) training was led by Nadine Bloch of the Ruckus Society along with great instruction by Samantha Corbin, Alex Lotorto and Deirdre Lally. The training focused on how to be

effective, to identify goals and to practice non-violent responses. The weekend-long event was also co-sponsored by Food & Water Watch, Back to Democracy, New Jersey Sustainable Collegiate Partners, Frack Alert, Shale Shock and Frack Action.

Why would all these Camp-OFF participants want to train to potentially get arrested and hatch the diabolical plan of training people to potentially get arrested?

The second question is easy to answer. Camp-OFF New York Organizer and Action Training was organized by a bunch of the nicest high school and college students you could meet any-

where and I mean anywhere! They soar together in a proud flock called the Green Umbrella: New York Youth for a Just and Sustainable Future. Jodi and I, farmers turned filmmakers against frack, hosted the event at our off-grid farm in Pulteney, New York.

Several things really stood out about these young Americans.

One, they threw this event together in just four-and-a-half weeks! Two, they perfectly organized it down to the last detail. Three, they worked together so selflessly (we never saw one quarrel among the flock). Wow, we somewhat older, so-called wiser adults could learn so much

from them. They were such a pleasure to work with. The organizers were K.C. Alvey, Lucas Burdick, Nell Gagnon, Max Gri-gri, Sam Law, Ben Lloyd, Ren Ostry, Denise Robbins, Reed Ste-berger and Jordan Stark.

Getting back to the first question: why train in safe and effective ways to do NVDA, which could include RISKING arrest? The participants are heroically attempting to get America off exceptionally dirty fuels (fracked gas, mountaintop-removal coal and tar sands) and to protect our precious finite air, water and communities from extractive predatory industries.

See **Action** page 8

4,000 Record Highs Set During June

By Bob Berwyn
Summit Voice: July 21, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — June was hot across most of the country, as almost 4,000 daily high-temperature records were broken, mostly east of the Rockies. According to the monthly summary from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), 159 locations reported record highs for June, while another 42 reported all-time record highs for any month of the year. You can find all the record highs at the NCDC's Monthly Records Web page at <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>.

Amarillo, Texas hit an all-time high temperature with a reading of 111 degrees on June 26th, breaking the previous record of 109 degrees, set just two days previously. Tallahassee, Florida also recorded an all-time high of 105 degrees on June 15th, while Raton, New Mexico recorded 102 degrees to beat its previous record high by two full degrees.

The average temperature across the country for June was 70.7 degrees, which is 1.4 degrees warmer than the long-term average. June precipitation across the country was 2.48 inches, about .41 inches below the average, with great variability in different locations.

The drought across parts of Texas has now surpassed the great Southern Plains drought of

See **Records** page 9

July 2011 Temperature Departure from Normal (Departure from the 1971 - 2000 Normal)

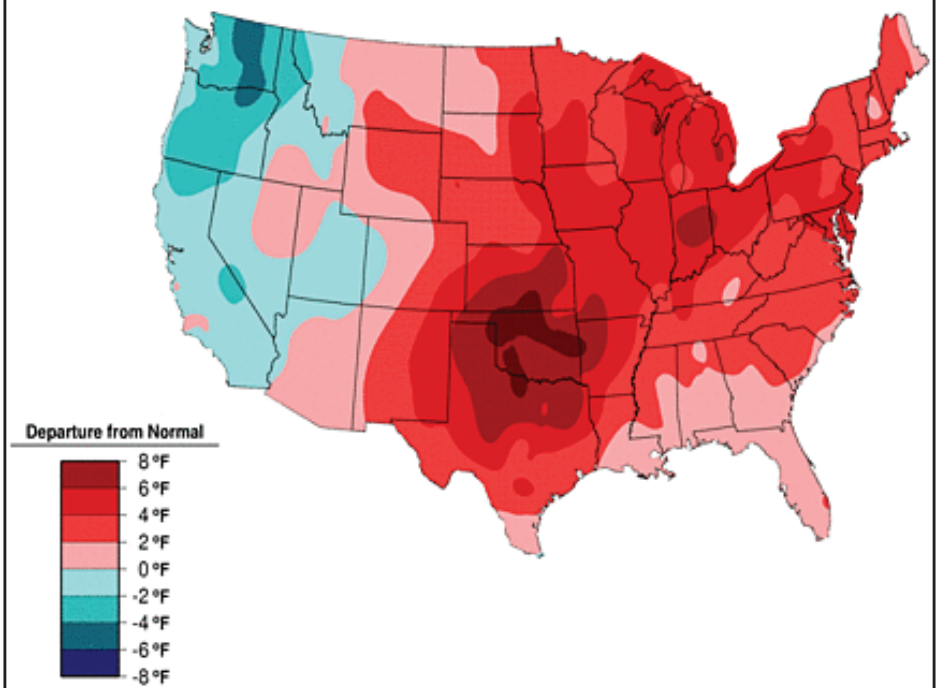


Photo reproduced with permission from Damascus Citizens for Sustainability (DamascusCitizens.org) whose co-founder, Pat Carullo, went up in a small plane (courtesy of LightHawk.org) to photograph this remarkable shot in mid-summer 2010, where you see the New York City watershed, the "test" well and the Delaware River whose watershed supplies water locally and to 15 million people downstream, including Philadelphia.

Surface Owners Beware Page 3

Reports from the Field Page 4

Top 10 Drillers Page 6

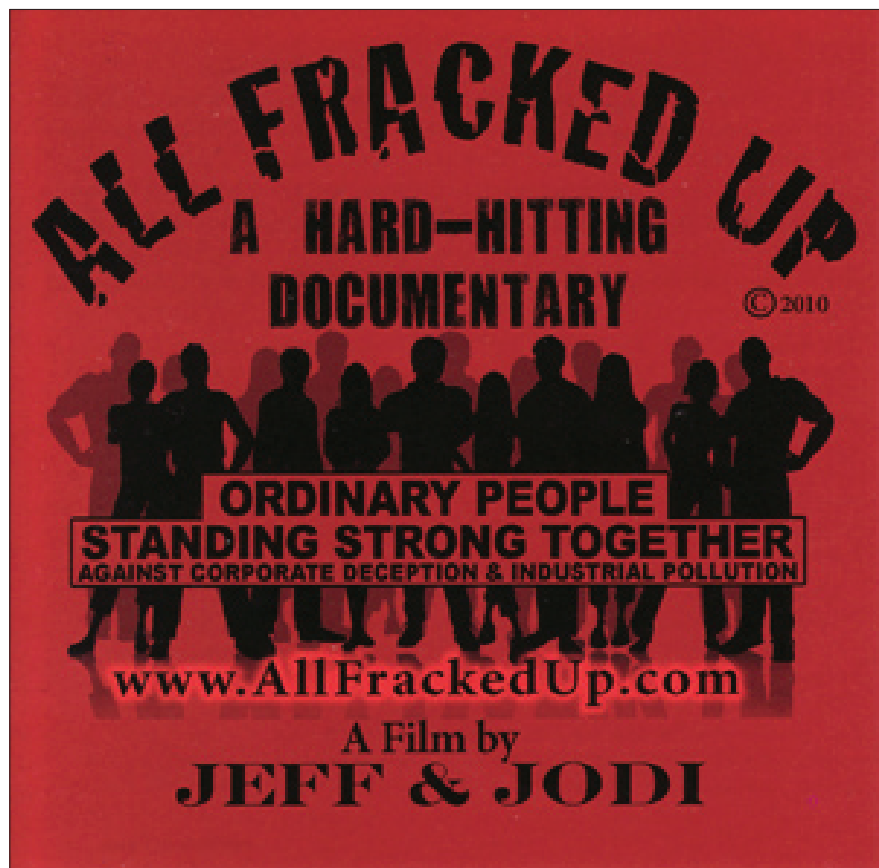
Ground Zero for Global Warming Page 9

Day for the Dolphins Page 11

Radical Homemaking Page 14

A huge THANK YOU to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for their generous grant – the first one this newspaper has ever gotten! I am using some of this money to start offering educational kits to be used for widespread efforts to bring new people into the anti-gas-drilling, anti-fracking movement.

Educational Kits for You, Your Family, Your Neighbors and Your Community To Help Everyone Learn About Gas Drilling and Fracking And to Inspire them to Get Involved to Stop this Assault on Our Earth and Us: Here are Tools to Plan a Home Movie Night or Film Festival in Your Area



KIT #1 (\$25 INCLUDING POSTAGE):

A. DVD 'All Fracked Up: Ordinary People Standing Strong Together Against Corporate Deception and Industrial Pollution' by Jeff and Jodi Andrysick of New York. This film has lots of Pennsylvania information in it and is excellent. A note from the filmmakers: *Jodi and I are farmers turned filmmakers. We are concerned citizens who are frightened that the natural beauty of New York State – our streams, rivers, pristine lakes, aquifers, private water wells and municipal water supplies – will be irreversibly ruined by the process of hydro-fracking... We decided to make an anti-fracking documentary. The result is 'All Fracked Up,' a hard hitting documentary which shows that hydro-fracking is an extreme technology used to obtain extreme energy with potentially extremely dire consequences.*

B. Be the Change: How to Get What You Want in Your Community by Thomas Linzey with Anneke Campbell. "Be the Change is a revolutionary handbook that shows everyday citizens how to stand up and take control of their local governments. This book will teach you how to achieve true self-governance and help provide ecosystems with the inalienable right to exist and flourish. From the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

C. 25 Earth News newspapers.

KIT #2 (\$35 INCLUDING POSTAGE):

Same as above but with 50 newspapers.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR FIRST SEVEN ORDERS RECEIVED

There is a wonderful, two-minute DVD called Four Years Go, which I recommend be shown at the end of a serious movie. It's extremely inspiring and up-beat and urges everyone to get involved. I only have seven of these to offer now so place your order today!! FOUR YEARS. GO. is a campaign to shift humanity's course toward a just, fulfilling and sustainable future by the end of 2014. People around the world will be invited to stand together and take courageous actions to bring about a future worth having. This is not a new organization; this is a goal for every organization, every man, woman, child, worker, student, profession, generation – everyone.

BONUS WITH EVERY ORDER: FREE DVD 'WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION'

Dr. Theo Colborn, founder of the Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX, www.EndocrineDisruption.com), has delivered her talk 'What You Need to Know About Natural Gas Production' many times across the country. It has educated and motivated individuals nationwide to organize and address the environmental and health issues raised by natural gas operations. She calls for full public disclosure of all chemicals used during drilling and fracturing and raises the issues of ground-level ozone and air pollution that have been almost completely ignored. Now, TEDX has produced a 47-minute-long video of this lecture, complete with photos and data slides to illustrate the fact that natural gas is not the 'clean energy' that industry is touting it to be.

Thanks to all the producers of these DVDs for their generous donations to help launch this educational project. If you have any other ideas for items to include in these kits, feel free to share them with me. Please send check or money order to: Earth News, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255 or you may use PayPal at iLoveEarthNews.com.

Shale-Gas Boom Not Creating As Many Jobs in Pennsylvania as Expected

The Lancaster News Era, excerpt via Daily News, Huntingdon PA: September 13, 2011

The more time that passes since the Marcellus Shale boom began in 2008, the more time researchers have had to put into focus the economic impact of shale drilling on the state's economy.

The emerging picture is not entirely rosy. Last year, researchers from Penn State (PSU) said more than 44,000 jobs were created directly or indirectly by shale drilling in 2009. (Other industry-backed studies reported even higher numbers.) But a just-released study from a different team of

PSU researchers said the figure is more like 23,500, about half as many. The study was funded by the state Department of Community and Economic Development.

Critics have long accused the gas industry of overstating its impact, pointing to Bureau of Labor statistics which simply factor jobs added that show only 9,000 to 10,000 jobs added directly by drillers, not just in 2009, but over four years.

Actually, there have been several drilling-related studies with widely varying results. But as time passes, researchers are coming to a more accurate consensus about the impact of the gas industry.

As with previous ones, the jobs figure in the latest study accounts for actual jobs created (drilling jobs, engineering jobs, front-office jobs), as well as indirect jobs, i.e., local suppliers, hotels and restaurants.

But unlike previous studies researchers looked beyond the number of jobs and amount of revenue generated by drilling to where the money is going and how quickly it is being spent.

For example, the study found that locals who benefit from gas exploration do not spend their lease and royalty checks immediately, which means the money is not having a direct, immediate benefit

on the local economy.

Also, the study said that half of the land being leased by drillers is owned by people of firms based out of state or elsewhere in Pennsylvania. This means much of the leasing and royalty money goes out of the county in which the drilling takes place.

The latest study gives a more accurate read on who and which areas are benefiting from natural gas drilling and the numbers aren't living up to the hype.

Still, they are significant, especially when the overall jobs picture in Pennsylvania and the nation is as bleak as it is.

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IMPORTANT NOTE TO READERS ON AUGUST 13: THIS PAPER IS NOT FINANCIALLY SELF-SUSTAINING YET SO I WORK FULL-TIME AT THE LOCAL SEWING FACTORY TO HELP PAY FOR IT. I AM WORKING FULL-SPEED AHEAD ON THIS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER ISSUE EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY AUGUST. MY APOLOGIES THAT SOME OF THESE ARTICLES ARE NOT EXACTLY "NEWS." I RECENTLY SWITCHED TO BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION INSTEAD OF MONTHLY, SO IF YOU WANT A PARTIAL REFUND OR SUBSCRIPTION EXTENSION, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Global in Scope, "Down-Home" in Nature

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Publisher/Editor: Iona Conner
Publishing Partner: Kim Stenley
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Layout/Design: Katherine Lukaszewicz, Arikia Millikan, Kim Stenley, Jennifer Michalak
Printing: ATJ Printing, Inc., Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, a family-owned business using 50% recycled paper and soy-based inks.
Subscriptions: \$20 for 6 issues; \$50 international.
Circulation: 1,000 hard copies per issue plus the paper is published on www.iloveearthnews.com. We are linked with several sister groups and have more than 100 people on our e-lists.

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Earth News

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

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

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

Masthead: The photo is early Fall at Shade Mountain in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Most High's Council of Elders

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

UPCOMING DEADLINES
NOVEMBER 10, JANUARY 10

Surface Owners Beware: Marcellus Shale Drilling Could be in Your Backyard with Little Warning

By Tammy Marie Rose
Maysel, West Virginia

One reason many people call West Virginia "Home" is the natural beauty of the land. Many people have moved to our great state to escape the pollution and population of many metropolitan areas.

Sadly, now-a-days as many folks walk the lay of their land they smell the by-product odors of natural gas extraction and hear the non-stop noise of nearby drilling rigs.

As the increasing rate that Marcellus Shale drilling is growing, each and every one of us must ask ourselves how long before it invades our own back yards?

Far too many people do not understand the concept of Marcellus Shale drilling. If you are a surface owner and you do not own the mineral rights to your property the gas industry can drill on your property.

Marcellus Shale drilling is different from shallow gas wells. A Marcellus Shale well will use far more surface space than drilling a traditional well would. The gas industry is very reluctant to pre-release the locations of planned wells. If you are a surface owner, the most notice you will get is 15 days and that is after they have already received the permit to begin the drilling.

Most Marcellus Shale sites sink multiple wells on one location. If there is a Marcellus Shale well within one mile of your property the chance of your land being the site of the next well is extremely high.

If you do not own your mineral rights, the gas industry can buy them up or lease them. If that happens you will then have little chance of regaining sole control of your land.

The first step to drilling for Marcellus Shale is seismic testing. The number of seismic tests for oil and gas conducted on public lands in the United States is increasing and this should concern anybody interested in conserving wildlife, plants and

vegetation, soil and the very character of these lands.

To conduct a test using the preferred three-dimensional (3-D) seismic method, long cables are first laid along a receiver line. Next, dynamite blasts or "thumper trucks" are used along a source line to create what is essentially a man-made earthquake, sending energy into the Earth. The energy waves bounce off of the subsurface formations and back to the surface where they are captured by geophones. Knowing the frequency at which the energy is created, it is possible to analyze the frequency of the returning waves and create a map of the subsurface area.

Seismic testing and Marcellus Shale drilling destroy habitat and forage for wildlife and disturb threatened and endangered species. The impacts to soil and vegetation include compaction, which causes erosion and reduced plant growth, as less water is able to penetrate the surface. Ruts may also be caused if vehicles operate when the ground is wet, which can cause even greater problems with compaction and water runoff.

Seismic testing also causes damage to homes such as cracked foundations and drywall and interruptions in phone services. Seismic testing is taking place in Doddridge County using thumper trucks. The area has had repeated problems with phone service interruption.

The gas industry, much like the coal industry, holds nothing sacred. Wells have invaded the Cornstalk National Park, requests have been put in to test at Oglebay Park and, over Thanksgiving last year, seismic testing took place at the West Virginia State Wildlife Center.

I spoke with Rob Silvester of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and this is what he said about testing at the Wildlife Center:

As with several adjacent landowners surrounding the Wildlife Center, seismic testing has been an ongoing process and a limited portion of the Wildlife Center was



Photo by Tammy Marie Rose

Thumper trucks used by Dawson's, which does the majority of seismic testing in West Virginia.

included in this study. The safety of the animals on exhibit here at the Center was our first priority.

During the planning stages, the exhibit areas were excluded for the most part from all of the study. The only procedure that was allowed was the laying of data-recording cables in a few small areas that were not close to any of the pens. At no time were individuals or any materials allowed in the exhibit pens.

Furthermore, no chemicals or explosives were allowed in the exhibit area. There has been some drilling and testing on other portions of the Wildlife Center in a remote area of the property far away from the exhibit area which posed no threat to any animals housed at the Center.

I understand the many concerns voiced by many of the residents in their area about this company and their seismic testing in West Virginia. We have worked



Photo by Tammy Marie Rose

Seismic testing signs are becoming commonplace in West Virginia.

with this company over the past year. They were very forward with what they wanted to do and have demonstrated a willingness to

work with us and to protect our facility.

If at any time I believed their actions and/or activities would be

harmful to animals, those activities would be immediately discontinued.

Another issue that has been brought to our attention is the idea that, because of this seismic study, the DNR will somehow allow gas well drilling on the area. That is not a factual statement. West Virginia laws prohibits the extraction of any minerals (including gas) without following proper procedures to evaluate any and all impacts. Our agency is deeply committed to the conservation of our State Wildlife Resources. All activities on our State Wildlife Management Areas and the State Wildlife Center must be secondary to [the] primary mission of conserving our State's Wildlife Resources.

Marcellus shale testing and drilling has also been linked to well and stream pollution and earthquakes. So, if you are a surface owner, you need to make yourself knowledgeable on Marcellus Shale testing and drilling. Know your rights. If you own only the surface, this could mean heartbreaking use of your surface to get the gas out.

Here are some important tips to help you protect your rights:

- We suggest that you get a copy of the West Virginia Surface Owners Guide to Oil and Gas.

- If you do not own the minerals under your land, try to find out who does. If you own a percentage of the minerals and no one has leased yet (or if the current lease expires), then the drillers cannot drill unless they get each and every mineral owner (now including you if you can buy a small share) to sign the lease.

- If you have a future home site or other reasonable use of the land you want to preserve, drill a water well! The law prohibits them from drilling a gas well within 200 feet of a water well.

Educate yourself because, in the end, there is no one looking out for you and your rights but you.

Outrage Erupts After Energy Committee Evaluating Dangerous Gas Drilling Practice Is Stacked With 'Experts' on Industry Payroll

By Tara Lohan
AlterNet: August 12, 2011

After mounting concern about the public health and environmental risks of the controversial shale gas drilling practice of hydraulic fracturing (or fracking), last May Obama charged Energy Secretary Steven Chu with the task of setting up an advisory board to look into the practice.

Thanks to Dick Cheney and something known as the "Halliburton loophole," fracking is exempt from major environmental laws that protect our water and our health even though fracking can pose serious risks. The process involves injecting water, sand and a toxic cocktail of chemicals deep underground at high pressure to break up rock formations and capture natural gas that may be released.

Fracking has resulted in over 1,000 documented cases of water contamination, yet companies are allowed to keep the chemicals they use a secret. Rural communities from Pennsylvania to Wyoming have been impacted by the industrialization of their

towns by drilling operations and residents have complained of poisoned well water, health problems and even explosions from leaking methane. Calvin Tillman, the mayor of Dish, Texas left his town after his family became ill from nearby drilling operations.

So, some oversight from the Obama administration seemed like welcome news.

EXCEPT THE GROUP, KNOWN AS THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD NATURAL GAS SUBCOMMITTEE, WAS A SHAM FROM THE START.

According to the Department of Energy, this special subcommittee's task was to "identify, within 90 days, any immediate steps that can be taken to improve the safety and environmental performance of fracking and to develop, within six months, consensus recommended advice to the agencies on practices for shale extraction to ensure the protection of public health and the environment." The task wasn't to evaluate

whether or not fracking was safe; simply how to tweak it a little to appease public outcry. And the recommendations the group made were definitely minimal. As the *Washington Post* reported:

A key Energy Department advisory panel will issue a qualified endorsement of shale gas exploration, saying that hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," can continue safely as long as companies disclose more about their practices and monitor their environmental impact.

The committee's report could ease the way for greater domestic gas exploration, even as it calls for new standards to limit harmful air emissions that bring to the surface gas buried deep in shale formations. But the report is largely silent on the most contentious issue surrounding shale gas exploration: Who should regulate it and whether regulators should apply to it laws such as the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This conclusion is not shocking considering who was appointed to the subcommittee – all but one has financial ties to the oil and gas industry. As 28

scientists from 22 universities wrote in a letter to Secretary Chu:

In our work, we believe in reducing individual biases in evaluating the merits of scientific or technological ideas. The current panel does not meet this standard. Six of the seven members have current financial ties to the natural gas and oil industry. These include: chairman John Deutch, Stephen Holditch, Kathleen McGinty, Susan Tierney, Daniel Yergin and Mark Zoback.

These conflicts of interest make it appear that the subcommittee is designed to serve industry at taxpayer expense rather than serving President Obama and the public with credible advice. The committee appears to be performing advocacy-based science and seems to have already concluded that hydraulic fracturing is safe.

We believe that the best science should be done first to determine whether increased unconventional natural gas production is sufficiently safe – from the individual water well to climate impact – and that policy should follow.

At the very least, the scientists called for chairman Deutch to step down. According to the

Environmental Working Group, Deutch was paid more than \$1.4 million between 2006-2009 by two top natural gas companies. Over 50 lawmakers from New York also wrote to Chu to show their disapproval of the panel.

New York is set to be the next battleground state for fracking. A current temporary moratorium on fracking may be lifted soon by Governor Cuomo, even as a growing coalition of organizations calls for a statewide ban.

In an interview for AlterNet, Sabrina Artel recently spoke with Ramsay Adams, head of the New York-based Mountainkeeper organization about how his group came to support a statewide ban on fracking. Adams told Artel:

Our position from the get-go was, we need to learn as much as we can about this. We need to make sure that we understand whether or not it can be done safely and that was the key – can they do this safely? Is the technology safe? If there are the best regulations in the world and the best practices in the world, is there a way that fracking is safe? And that was a very honest approach to

this problem. We had a theory that it could be proven safe – let's prove it to ourselves.

AND SO, WE SPENT THREE YEARS TRYING TO PROVE TO OURSELVES THAT IT COULD BE DONE SAFELY AND WHAT WE LEARNED IS THAT IT CAN'T BE DONE SAFELY; THE TECHNOLOGY IS JUST NOT THERE. IT IS INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS; IT IS INCREDIBLY TOXIC.

So far it looks like the Obama administration is going to continue to let the gas industry get a free pass to pollute at the expense of public health and the environment. One of the last hopes from the federal government could come from the EPA, which is set to issue its own report on fracking in 2012.

Tara Lohan is a senior editor at AlterNet and editor of the new book *Water Matters: Why We Need to Act Now to Save Our Most Critical Resource*. Follow her on Twitter @TaraLohan.

New Commission to Gather Citizen Input on Gas

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (August 30, 2011) — A new commission launching this week will give the citizens of Pennsylvania an opportunity to tell their side of the story about drilling in the Marcellus Shale.

Former state Representatives Carole Rubley and Dan Surra will co-chair the Citizens Marcellus Shale Commission, which will hold hearings across Pennsylvania to gather citizen perspectives on the Marcellus Shale and produce a final report for policy-makers. The first of five hearings was to take place August 31st in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

"Marcellus Shale development



will have a huge impact on our Commonwealth and it is critical that we get it right," Surra said. "This commission will give citizens an opportunity to add their voice and bring some necessary balance to this critical debate."

"The Commission will give the people of Pennsylvania an opportunity to weigh in on this impor-

tant issue," said Rubley. "Their input should inform state policies to ensure gas drilling is conducted in a responsible manner."

The Citizens Commission was formed by eight leading civic and environmental organizations to give Pennsylvanians living with drilling in their backyard a place to speak out and recom-

mend action.

Earlier this year, Governor Tom Corbett's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, heavy with industry representatives, produced a report and recommendations on shale drilling. The Citizens Commission is intended to supplement that work and delve deeper into a variety of issues, including water and air quality, social impacts of gas drilling, the drilling tax and impacts outside Marcellus communities.

"The Governor's commission told part of the story," said Thomas Au, of the Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter. "The citizens of Pennsylvania have a dif-

ferent story to tell."

The Commission held five hearings across Pennsylvania in August and September. Each hearing was held from 6-9 p.m., with the first hour reserved for expert testimony and the remaining two for public input.

In early October, the Commission will produce a report documenting the opinions and concerns of citizens to be delivered to Governor Corbett and the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Follow on Twitter: @Citizen-Marcellus

Follow on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Citizens-Marcellus-Shale-Commis->

sion/167473073330059.

Sponsoring Organizations: Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, Clean Water Action, Keystone Progress, League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Penn Environment, Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter and the CLEAR Coalition.

The Citizens Marcellus Shale will assess the impacts, both positive and negative, of natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale and to identify the steps needed to ensure drilling occurs in a responsible manner. Learn more: <http://citizensmarcellusshale.com>.

Victory for Hard-Working Activists

Email from Dave Kagan
August 12, 2011 8:36 PM

Dear All,

I am in heaven, at least for tonight!

After five meetings covering 17-and-a-half hours of testimony, question-and-answer, and discussion, the Watson Township Zoning Hearing Board voted unanimously (3-0) at 7:30 p.m. August 12 (after a 30-minute discussion on their part with all others outside the Wheeland Center waiting) to DENY Pennsylvania General Energy's (PGE's) proposal for a special exception to a variance that would have allowed them to purchase the vacated Tombs Run Trading Post and turn it into a water drop-off and pumping station for their gas wells up in the mountains above Pine Creek.

The chair of the Zoning Hearing Board, Brent Petrosky, and William Wolfe, another member of the Board, both made statements to the effect that they saw PGE's proposal to be one that would be a danger to and a disruption of the lifestyles of those living by and near the site.

After their announcement of their decision, quite a number of those (including myself) in attendance clapped and cheered. As I walked out the door, I passed by two people affiliated with PGE and I heard one say, "This doesn't count."

I yelled back into his face, "This DOES count!"

Email from Curt Bierly
August 12, 2011 at 11:15 p.m.

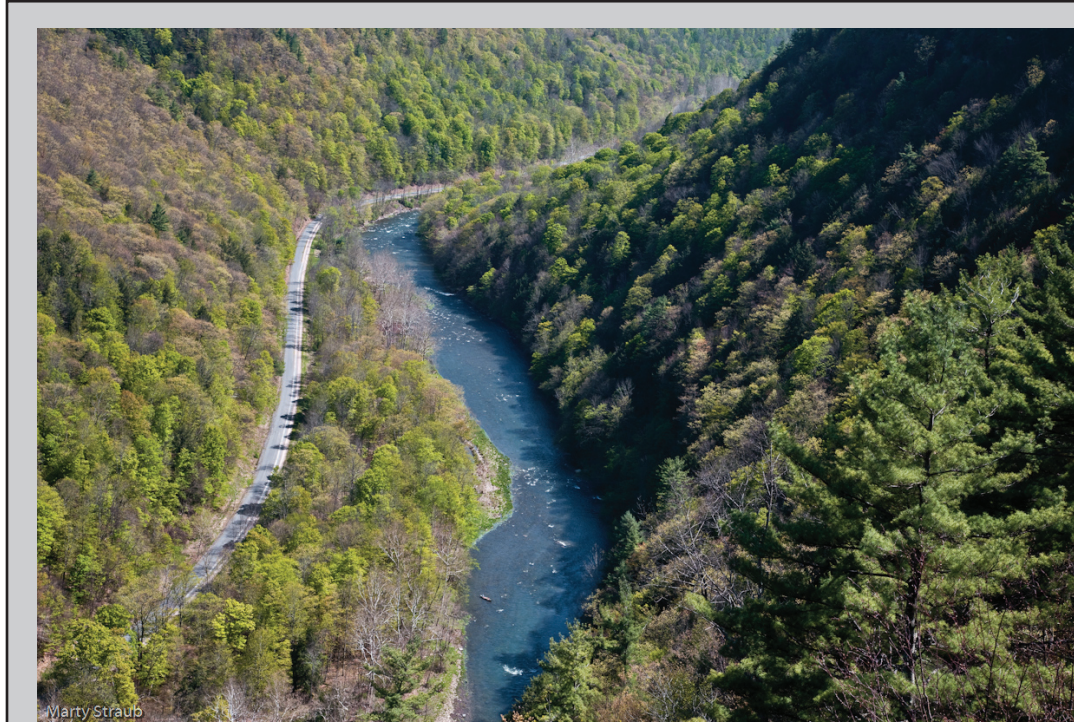
Hi Members and Guests of the "Torbert Marcellus Shale Task Force" --- FYI

Well -- we did it!! When I say "we" this was definitely a Team Victory. Three No Votes!!! That equates to unanimous!!

We can honestly say that we have proven that "together we can make a difference."

Regardless of who has the "money," what's Right is Right.

And I am hopeful this is only a small sample of what can be done to preserve the beauty of



Pine Creek Gorge Listed in USA Today "Great American Outdoors: 51 Great Places to Hike"

The Only Listing for Pennsylvania:

The Pine Creek Gorge lives up to its name as Pennsylvania's Grand Canyon. At about 50 miles long and more than 1,000 feet deep, the gorge offers impressive views of the Pennsylvania Wilds region's wildlife and old-growth forests. The **Turkey Path** in Leonard Harrison State Park winds past waterfalls and other scenic features as it descends a mile to the canyon floor. Photo courtesy of Straub and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; www.dcnr.state.pa.us.

the Pine Creek Valley.

Finally we can thank the Watson Township Zoning Board -- Brent and Dan and Will -- for liberating us from this terrible nightmare.

We thank you, Brent, for running a very professional hearing and we thank you all for staying the course through hours of testimony.

You guys are truly the heroes of Watson Township and the Pine Creek Valley!!

There are many other people to thank.

Dave Kagen for his tireless effort to "get the word out."

Jim Seltzer and the Watson Township Supervisors and Solicitor Ben Landon for aggressively defending the conversion of the Trading Post into a high-volume truck terminal.

All the people that donated money so we could hire our own

lawyer.

Frank Miceli (our lawyer) for accepting the challenge in the middle of the hearings and coming in strong.

The members of the Marcellus Shale Task Force: Jim, Taryn, John, Gretta, Mark, Jamie, Steve, Norm -- for attending the many meetings to chart the course.

Torbert Village Residents for their support by attending the many zoning board meetings and offering advice.

Dennis Norman, "Township Engineer," for his "brilliant" testimony.

Vicki and Vern from Ground Zero.

Bob Rolley and the *Lock Haven Express* team for covering the hearings and publishing our "Letters to the Editor."

Jim Hamill from WNEP for getting the word out.

And last, but not least, my

wife Gretta for putting up with my endless conversations on the subject.

What's next? A possible appeal by PGE, so, the battle has been won but the war is not over. I am told that it could take six months until the appeal is heard in Lycoming Court of Common Pleas. Also, we have the truck traffic to deal with once route 44 is open from Waterville to Route 664.

We have some ideas on this. We'll talk about it at our next meeting, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bierly's. Shireen Parsons, community organizer for the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), will be addressing the group as to how to legally eliminate all Fracking in Watson Township!! Everyone is invited. All I ask is that you send me an email so I know how many

people to expect. I'll send the write up in the *Lock Haven Express* when I receive it.

Email from Curt Bierly
August 17, 9:15 p.m.

Hi Members and Guests of the "Torbert Marcellus Shale Task Force" (TMSTF),

The TMSTF has received many Congrats from other citizens concerned about the Pine Creek Valley.

Listed below is a notable one with some very good information. I encourage everyone to read it in its entirety.

Many thanks, Kim, for sharing your thoughts with us and for the great work you're doing!!

We look forward to you attending our September meeting.

Congratulations to All
from Kim Shaffer
August 17, 2011

The Task Force can be commended for the exhausting work that it has done to preserve our beautiful Pine Creek Valley. I was not able to attend your meeting but did attend the hearing. It was very well done and Bravo for the outcome. I have been following CELDF and what the organization has been trying to do in various communities such as Harveys Lake Borough. It will be interesting to see what happens with CELDF trying to contend that the residents have the right to stop water withdrawals from their natural water sources by the gas companies to protect the ecosystems of the community. I would like to see that same thing in the Pine Creek Valley.

I took a drive over Dam Run Road last week and spoke to several gas workers. It is such a shame to see the devastation that is taking place behind the mountain tree line. I was told that they are leaving the tree line at the edge of the mountain so travelers coming up and down Route 44 will not see the devastation happening behind the tree line. So many trees gone and stone roads built everywhere. I was so upset

when I got back from my drive that I wrote a letter to the Chesapeake Bay Association letting them know that if they are so concerned with pollutants coming into the Bay, they should take a drive to our area and see that the mountain tops are all being cleared which allows sediment during rainstorms to flow down the mountain into Pine Creek which runs to the River and then to the Bay.

Before, it took Pine Creek a day or two at the most to clear up from a heavy rainstorm; now it takes most of the week for it to clear up. I also wrote to the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) on pretty much an every-week schedule to determine exactly where the next water withdrawal approvals will be for Pine Creek and also the West Branch of the Susquehanna River and I make it very clear how upset I am that Anadarko has no passby flow requirements for the permits being issued by the SRBC ... which means Anadarko can withdraw every last teaspoon of water from the areas where it is withdrawing without any concern to the ecosystems of the area. The person I am in contact with there did reply that the SRBC may need to take another look at the permits and rethink the no-passby-flow requirements. We will see if they do that or not.

As for another aspect of gas drilling in our area, I have written DEP and asked why it has not fined PGE yet for the inappropriate construction of the coffer dam in Watson Township and why they would grant them another permit to complete the construction of it? Of course, no answer to date on that -- just a response that they intend to be on-site at the coffer dam until the construction is completed to make sure it is built to permit specifications. Just more propaganda being given to the locals.

Hope to meet you on the 11th at the meeting.

Again, I just wanted to commend you and the Task Force for all of your hard work.

Watershed Conservancy Needs Help Getting the Aquashicola Creek Redesignated to Exceptional Value

The Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy (APWC) is dedicated to the conservation, protection and improvement of watershed resources.

Features of the watershed:

- Beltzville Lake, which covers an area of 947 acres, is located on Pohopoco Creek: It provides flood control, water supply and recreation.

- The total area of the watershed exceeds 189 square miles.

- Wild Creek and Penn Forest Reservoirs both serve the city of Bethlehem.

- The upper eight miles of the Aquashicola Creek are within the newly-created Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

- A state-designated Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream and a section of Class A Wild Trout Stream is located on the Aquashicola Creek.

- The Aquashicola is currently designated a High Quality Cold Water Fishery (HQ-CWF) by the state of Pennsylvania. The creek is also bounded by Kittatinny Ridge/Blue Mountain, containing the Appalachian Trail and a world-renowned bird migratory corridor, the Atlantic Flyway.

- A covered bridge located on Lower Smith Gap Road is a historical landmark.

Our Goal

To educate the public on the importance of conserving our watersheds.

Organized: 2001

Join us: Please email us at APWC.NEPA@gmail.com for questions or comments.

Meetings: The APWC meets at the Polk Township Building on the third Thursday of each

month at 7:00 p.m.

Watershed Pollution

As humans we pollute the watershed in many ways. Houses, farms, junkyards and shopping malls, to name a few, all have a direct impact on groundwater. As rain falls on the land, it picks up pollutants that can contaminate our groundwater. These pollutants include chemicals such as farm and lawn fertilizers and pesticides that will eventually effect the quality of our drinking water.

Improperly maintained septic systems cause bacteria, viruses, nitrates and phosphates to leach into the groundwater.

As population continues to grow and develop, its effective use and management of water resources has become essential. Increased urbanization has led to more severe flooding because runoff reaches streams more rapidly and in greater quantity from areas where the land surface has been covered by materials such as buildings and pavement.

Something Strange In the Air?

Odor problems can be reported to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP has set up a toll-free number people can call to report problems. The number is 866-255-5158. People may also call DEP's Wilkes-Barre office at 570-826-2511.

Water Never Stops Moving

Snow and rain fall to the Earth from clouds. The rain and melted snow run downhill into

rivers and lakes, sometimes crashing over waterfalls. Eventually the water flows into the ocean.

During evaporation, the water turns from liquid into gas and moves from oceans and lakes into the atmosphere where it forms clouds. Then the cycle begins all over again.

Current Project Needs Public Support

The APWC has submitted a Petition to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection requesting an upgrade from HQ-CWF to a status of Exceptional Value (EV). This would give the stream the highest protection level possible. The petition can be seen in its entirety on our Web site, www.apwc-pa.org, as well as a sample letter of support (below). That may be a great help for us.

Contact: APWC, P.O. Box 360, Kresgeville, PA 18333; apwc.nepa@gmail.com; 570-992-5125.



Children learning the value of monitoring streams before gas drilling begins with Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy volunteers. Photo from www.apwc-pa.org.

Sample Letter to Help Get the Aquashicola Creek Upgraded

Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
P.O. Box 360
Kresgeville, Pennsylvania 18333

Dear APWC:

I am pleased to support your Petition to redesignate the Aquashicola Creek (from the headwaters to the confluence with Buckwha Creek) from a High Quality Cold Water Fishery to Exceptional Value status. I agree that these waters should be given the highest level of protection for the following reasons:

A) U.S. Fish & Wildlife and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission have determined that bog turtles (listed as threatened by the federal Endangered Species Act) inhabit the watershed.

B) The upper eight miles of the Aquashicola Creek are within the newly created Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and contain various wetlands of ecological significance.

C) The Aquashicola is listed by Pennsylvania Fish and Boat as a Naturally Reproducing Trout Stream and includes a section designated as a Class A Wild Trout Stream.

D) The Aquashicola is bounded by Kittatinny Ridge/Blue Mountain which contains the Appalachian Trail and is a major migratory bird corridor known as the Atlantic Flyway.

I hope that you will convey my support to the decision-making bodies.

Sincerely,
Sign Your Name

Gas-Drilling Briefs

(chronological)



Photo courtesy of NaturalGasWatch.org

Workers at a natural gas well owned and operated by Chesapeake Energy try to stem the flow of toxic fracking fluid after a blowout sent tens of thousands of gallons of the stuff coursing over fertile Pennsylvania farmland and into a nearby creek.

The Documents Chesapeake Energy Doesn't Want You To See

Submitted by Angel Smith, Clearville, Pennsylvania: August 11, 2011 (excerpt)

Documents obtained by NaturalGasWatch.org reveal the specific contents of the fluid and show exactly how it was used to extract natural gas from rock formations more than two miles below the surface of the Earth. Chesapeake Energy pumped more than 14 million gallons of fluid to a depth of more than two miles at a natural gas well in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, before a blowout sent tens of thousands of gallons of the toxic liquid coursing over fertile farmland and into a nearby creek, according to documents obtained by NaturalGasWatch.org.

The documents, obtained from the federal Environmental Protection Agency under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, show that the fluid Chesapeake used in operations at the well contained more than two dozen chemicals, including methanol, glutaraldehyde, formaldehyde, 2-butoxyethanol and hydrochloric acid.

In addition, a schematic diagram of the Chesapeake well shows how deep into the Earth the fluids were injected and how much natural gas was recovered at each depth, as well as the materials used to construct the well and its casings. Chesapeake tried to block the documents' release, claiming that both were protected from release under the FOIA rules because they constituted proprietary and confidential business information. Both documents can be viewed in their entirety at www.naturalgaswatch.org.

New York Subpoenas Three Energy Firms and Investigates Fourth

By Ian Urbina

The New York Times: August 18, 2011 (excerpt)

New York State's attorney general has sent subpoenas to three large energy companies (Range Resources, Cabot Oil and Gas and Goodrich Petroleum) as part of a broad investigation into whether they have accurately described to investors the prospects for their natural gas wells, according to several sources familiar with the inquiry. The subpoenas focus on how the companies took advantage of federal rules, adopted in late 2008, that govern the way they report their oil and gas reserves to investors.

Investigators have requested documents relating to formulas that companies use to predict how much gas their wells are likely to produce in the coming decades. The subpoenas, which were sent August 8th, also request documents related to the assumptions that companies have made about drilling costs in their estimates of the wells' long-term profitability...

Attorney General, Eric T. Schneiderman also broadened a continuing investigation by his office into a fourth company, Chesapeake Energy, asking it to respond to similar questions about its shale gas wells . . .

Harmed Family's Home Purchased by Polluter

By Christie Campbell (This home was in our January 2011 issue.)

Observer-reporter.com: August 27, 2011 (excerpt)

Range Resources, one of the parties which settled a lawsuit with a Mt. Pleasant Township couple this week, plans to expand the size of a water impoundment at the site.

Matt Pitzarella, spokesman for Range Resources, said the company has agreed to purchase the home of Chris and Stephanie Hallowich at 179 Avella Road. He declined to say what the company paid for the home but said it was "considerable." Pitzarella would not say whether the Hallowiches retained their mineral rights to the property.

The Hallowiches listed their house for sale last year for \$499,900. They paid \$20,000 for the 10 acres where they built their home four years ago, prior to the beginning of extensive Marcellus Shale drilling in the township.

"We've always acknowledged that that location is unique because they lived by the first wells and the activity there is above normal," Pitzarella said.

Four companies – Range, MarkWest, Williams Gas/Laurel Mountain and Atlas (Chevron) – operate at the location known as the Nancy Stewart site. There are four gas wells, a processing station and a compressor station. There is also a five-million-gallon water impoundment located there. Pitzarella said Range may enlarge that to a 15-million-gallon impoundment. He expects the Hallowiches' four-bedroom house will be used by a company employee for the time being . . .

Huntingdon County Tea Party Wants Water Protected

[Published in *The Daily News*, Huntingdon PA, August 2011] The Tea Party Patriots for Constitutional Government takes the following position regarding the Marcellus shale gas production:

The Tea Party Patriots of Huntingdon County (Pennsylvania) wishes to make it clear to our elected officials and to the general public that we believe that it is imperative that the Marcellus Shale gas deposits be harvested, but only after ensuring that our water supply (both surface and underground) is absolutely protected. We ask the regulatory agencies to err on the side of caution, not on the side of production.

Resident Survey in Jerusalem, New York (to Give You Ideas for Your Own Town)

September 1, 2011 email from Joe Hoff, Keuka (New York) Citizens Against Hydrofracking

The results are in and the Town of Jerusalem residents have overwhelmingly stated their opposition to natural gas hydrofracking in their township and the Finger Lakes region. Stating 100% support for the current Comprehensive Plan which "emphasizes agriculture, tourism and open spaces using the asset of clean water," two key measures of community opinion were recently sought.

The July 26th Forum at Keuka College (attended by an overflow crowd of more than 300 people from the Keuka watershed region) produced a questionnaire sampling of 170 Jerusalem residents. In addition 40 letters from residents who were unable to attend were sent to a committee of volunteers who have been studying the complex issue of natural gas drilling and industrialization since March when the town board adopted a moratorium of "fracking" in the township. Since that time the Towns of Barrington and Milo have adopted similar ordinances with Benton slated for a public hearing on their year-long moratorium in September.

Tabulations stated that...

- 97.6% felt that slick-water hydrofrack drilling is inconsistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
- 99.4% think that flowback or toxic drilling wastewater from natural gas drilling outside the town should not be accepted for disposal in the Town of Jerusalem.
- 98.3% stated that the cuttings from mining (drilling) operations brought in from outside the town should not be accepted for waste disposal in the Town of Jerusalem.
- 96.3% emphasized that the character of the town's culture and lifestyle would be altered dramatically by massive truck traffic that would cause 24/7 congestion, noise and air pollution and at times major damage to the roads. As such residents felt that truck traffic involved in drilling operations should be restricted from Town of Jerusalem roads

Augmented by resident letters that have run 20 to 1 against hydrofracking, the initial survey results favored a ban of fracking as 94.8% of residents felt that a ban or series of bans should be implemented in Jerusalem as soon as possible.

The resident Hydrofrack Impact Study Committee is responding to these overwhelming community sentiments and is drafting an ordinance commensurate with these measures to present to the Town Board.

Candidates running for town office(s) will be canvassed to see whether they are aligned with the results of the questionnaire and submitted letters.

Questionnaire results and letters are available for review at the Jerusalem Town Hall.



Photo by John Stoneman (modified)

"Helliburton" truck renamed and decorated electronically by fracking activist John Stoneman. The truck is located on FR 444 in the Allegheny National Forest at a Marcellus well site.

Paradise Lost

(take-off of John Prine's song 'Paradise')

Note from the author: I like to say I just drug 'Paradise' (the song) into the 21st century!

When I was a boy, I'd fish in the river...
they call the "Grand Canyon of northern PA."
Pine Creek was its name ... but they needed the water.
What once was a river is a dry ditch today.

Oh, daddy won't you take me to Ti-o-ga County
down by the deep river, out Wellsboro way.
I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking
The Chesapeake frack trucks done hauled it away!

They came with their drills and they came with their tank trucks
They blew up the ground so the methane could pass
They cut all the trees for their roads and their well pads
and all that they gave us was higher priced gas.

Oh, daddy won't you take me down to Ti-o-ga County
down by the deep river, out Wellsboro way.
I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking.
That Traitor Tom Corbett just gave it away!

They drilled and they drilled 'til the air smelled like methane.
They spilled and they spilled 'til the land was all dead.
My thoughts are of hunting and fishing the forest,
but all I can do is lie here in bed.

Oh, daddy won't you take me down to Ti-o-ga County
down by the deep river, out Wellsboro way.
I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking.
The Chesapeake frack trucks done hauled it away!

They took all our gas and they gave us all cancer.
Some of us knew it would happen that way.
When I die take my ashes way far from this county,
and get my dead ass right out of PA!

Oh, daddy won't you take me down to Ti-o-ga County
down by the deep river, out Wellsboro way.
I'm sorry my son, but you're too late in asking,
The Mar-cell-us Drillers just ruined PA!

Note from the author: This is our first "rough draft." We will be recording this again a bit more professional. You can watch and listen to John performing 'Paradise Lost' at <http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=176840312384854>.

Beaver County Marcellus Shale Organizing Committee

Only when the last tree has died and the
last river been poisoned and
the last fish been caught will we realize
we cannot eat money."

--19th Century Nēhilawē (Cree) Proverb--

By Bob Schmetzer: July 23, 2011

South Heights, Pennsylvania

Hi Iona, I hope you remember me from the Robert Morris College meeting. I sat next to you. I hope you will enjoy some of my writings about this era of struggle. With this heat wave, I have been able to stay inside where it is cool.

Major events are happening...Clean Water Action and Three Rivers Waterkeepers have filed suit in federal court against McKeesport and their municipal authority for not getting a permit to discharge 100,000 gallons per day of Marcellus-produced water into the Monongahela River.

Also, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) bypassed permitting rules and allowed polluted water to enter the drinking water source of a half-million people. Even U.S. Steel's Clariton Coke Plant complained that the river water was unfit for industrial use when their machinery clogged up with brine water. Sadly, the DEP and federal EPA have refused to take action on this dangerous practice. The state DEP asks for voluntary compliance – 'Pretty Please' approach.

Next, PennFuture is suing in Federal Court a Marcellus driller (Ultra Resources Inc.) in U.S. District court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania. They emitted large quantities of nitrogen oxide pollutants, failed to get permits, drilled wells and built compressor stations and pipelines and failed to use proper air-pollution equipment. The U.S. EPA said even short-term exposure to nitrogen oxide can cause respiratory failure, throat and lung inflammation, and exacerbate asthma. It can also cause heart attacks. [Article from *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* by Don Hopy, July 22 2011]

Here is our group's Mission Statement:
OUR STATE GOVERNMENT IS ECOCID-AL! Join our atmosphere of Solidarity. We march on as our planet is ravaged by profiteers who care nothing about the wastelands that they create. Ours is not a mission for seeking change but a mission in making change. Fracking must be judged for its safety and benefit to

the whole stream of life. We challenge the wisdom of government that allows toxic chemicals to be put into the environment before knowing the long term consequences of their use.

In 2005, the chemicals were hidden from scientific, public and government oversight by an oil and gas lobby. TRANSPARENCY WAS DEAD! Rather than protecting the Public from potential harm, the government not only gave approval to this process but did so without establishing serious accountability! We question the MORAL RIGHT of government to leave its citizens unprotected from substances they could neither physically avoid nor publicly question until the damage to property or family health had occurred.

Such callous arrogance will not be tolerated. One of the basic rights of any citizen is to be secure in his home against the intrusion of poisons applied by other persons. Through ignorance, greed and negligence, government has allowed poisonous and biologically-potent chemicals to fall indiscriminately into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm.

Human beings are not in control of nature but simply one of its parts. The survival of one part depends upon the health of all. We Reject the Industry notion that there are Human thresholds for such poisons, as well as the human body had Assimilative capacities that render the poisons harmless. We intend to Disturb and Disrupt Fracking with Dignity and Deliberation! We also will hold this industry and government Accountable by any means.

September 1 email:

Hi Iona, I attended the first meeting in South Fayette Township tonight. I was able to speak and the panel was very happy to see so many people with such a short notice. I was surprised when numerous doctors got up and spoke about their patients' conditions that live next to fracking sites. The major environmental and progressive groups were there in force. The statewide meetings will gather information and go to the legislature. The gas that we purchase in Pennsylvania is taxed. The gas we sell to foreign countries is not.

Why are we broke?

Contact Bob at Box 312, South Heights, Pennsylvania, 15081 or on Facebook at Beaver County Marcellus Shale Organizing Committee.

Who Are America's Top 10 Gas Drillers?

By Nicholas Kusnetz
ProPublica: September 1, 2011

Natural gas – often touted as an abundant, comparatively clean source of domestic energy – has come under intensifying public scrutiny in recent months, with federal regulators and reporters challenging some of the industry's rosy business projections.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is probing whether gas companies have exaggerated their reserves and have adequately disclosed the risks to investors from drilling's potential environmental damage. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has requested similar information from several companies.

Natural gas production has grown steadily in the United States since 2006, reaching new highs this year. But who are the leaders in this burgeoning field?

More than 14,000 oil-and-gas companies, many of them small businesses, were active in the United States in 2009, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA). But multinational giants like Exxon Mobil and BP now produce much of the nation's gas. The 10 biggest drillers account for one-third of all production, data from the Natural Gas Supply Association and the EIA show. The 40 largest producers pump more than half of all domestic natural gas.

We've compiled a list of the top 10 drillers in the country, ranked by their daily natural gas production, and pulled together some key facts about their operations. Though there are other ways to measure these companies – revenue, market capitalization, reserves – industry experts say production numbers give the best snapshot of today's landscape and also separate drillers' gas operations from oil.

The list features both "integrated" oil-and-gas giants, such as Exxon Mobil, which refines and sells gasoline around the world, and "independents," such as Chesapeake Energy, which are primarily in oil and gas exploration and production. Though industry P. R. initiatives often emphasize independent mom-and-pop drillers, most of the companies on our list are Fortune 500 corporations.

Much of the growth in gas production has come from drilling into shale formations, which provided 23 percent of the nation's gas in 2010, according to the EIA. Our list shows how integrated behemoths have expanded into this area as production has become proven, sometimes by swallowing up independents that led the way. Last year, Exxon (No. 8 in 2009) bought XTO (No. 2 in 2009) to catapult to the top of the list. Also last year, Chevron (No. 0) bought Atlas Energy (No. 50 in 2009 and an early entrant into Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale).

1. Exxon Mobil

The biggest natural gas producer is also the country's biggest oil company and one of the most profitable corporations in the world. Exxon has operations in every continent but Antarctica. Its oil and gas operations range across several states, from Pennsylvania to Colorado, and it also has wells in the Gulf of Mexico and off the California coast.

With the purchase of XTO, Exxon produces nearly 50 percent more gas than its closest competitor. Earlier this year, Exxon began running ads touting natural gas as a safe, clean source of domestic energy. About two-thirds of the company's domestic reserves are now in natural gas, with the rest in oil.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 3.9 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$370 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 8.9 billion barrels of oil (2.3 billion in the U.S.), 2.1 billion barrels of bitumen (none in the U.S.), 681 million barrels of synthetic crude (none in the U.S.), 78.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas (26.1 trillion in the U.S.).

Executive Compensation, 2010: Rex Tillerson, Exxon's chairman and CEO since 2006, received almost \$29 million in total compensation.

2. Chesapeake Energy

Chesapeake calls itself the most active driller in the country, with operations in 15 states, from the Rockies to Texas to Pennsylvania. The company is a good example of how "independent" doesn't necessarily mean small. As of last year, the company owned an interest in 45,800 wells, of which 38,900 were primarily gas wells.

Chesapeake has built itself as a gas company but it is increasingly looking for "liquids-rich plays," according to its annual report. Gas wells generally produce oil and other hydrocarbon liquids as well in varying amounts, depending on the geologic formation. With oil prices high and gas prices low, many companies are seeking more wells that are oil- and liquids-rich, particularly in North Dakota, southern Texas and Pennsylvania.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 2.6 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$9.4 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 14.3 trillion cubic feet of gas equivalent (10 percent of that is oil or other liquids, converted to the equivalent volume in gas).

Executive Compensation, 2010: Aubrey McClendon, the chairman and CEO, is also the company's founder. He has the unusual option of purchasing a small stake in every well the company drills. He received \$21 million in total compensation.

3. Anadarko

Anadarko is one of the biggest independent oil and gas producers in the country, with exploration or production work in all major domestic drilling areas as well as in South America, Africa, Asia and New Zealand. The company was a minority owner in BP's Macondo well, which exploded last year, killing 11 people and spilling more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Worldwide, natural gas makes up just over half of Anadarko's reserves but 87 percent of the new wells it drilled in the United States last year were gas wells. Like many other companies, Anadarko is increasingly looking for oil- and liquids-rich production this year.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 2.4 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$11 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 749 million barrels of oil and condensate (458 million in the U.S.), 320 million barrels of natural gas liquids (307 million in the U.S.), 8.1 trillion cubic feet of gas, all in the United States.

Executive Compensation, 2010: James Hackett, the chairman and CEO, received \$24 million in total compensation.

4. Devon Energy

Devon is an independent driller primarily active in the United States and Canada. The company is in the process of divesting operations in Angola and Brazil, its only holdings outside of North America.

More than 90 percent of Devon's U.S. reserves are in natural gas, with most of that lying in Texas' Barnett Shale. Like its peers, however, Devon says that this year it will focus on drilling in areas rich with oil and other liquids.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 2 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$9.9 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 681 million barrels of oil (148 million in the U.S.), 479 million barrels of natural gas liquids (449 million in the U.S.), 10.3 trillion cubic feet of gas (9 trillion in the U.S.).

Executive Compensation, 2010: J. Larry Nichols, the chairman, received almost \$19 million in total compensation. John Richels, president and CEO, received almost \$18 million.

5. BP

Fortune lists BP as the fourth-largest corporation in the world. The company drills in 29 countries and sells its products in 70. While BP is headquartered in London, 42 percent of the company's assets are in the United States. BP reported a \$3.7 billion loss last year after spending nearly \$41 billion on cleaning up the Gulf oil spill and compensating those who were affected.

The company remains primarily an oil producer, with about 40 percent of its reserves in natural gas.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 1.9 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$297 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 10.7 billion barrels of oil (2.9 billion in the U.S.), 42.7 trillion cubic feet of gas (13.7 trillion in the U.S.).

Executive Compensation, 2010: Chief Executive Robert Dudley received \$1.7 million in total compensation.

6. Encana

Encana is one of the largest independent gas companies in the world, with operations mostly in the western United States and Canada, where it is based. The company has focused almost exclusively on gas.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 1.8 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$8.9 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 93.3 million barrels of liquids (38.5 million in the U.S.), 13.8 trillion cubic feet of gas (7.5 trillion in the U.S.).

Executive Compensation, 2010: Randy Eresman, president and CEO, received \$10 million in total compensation.

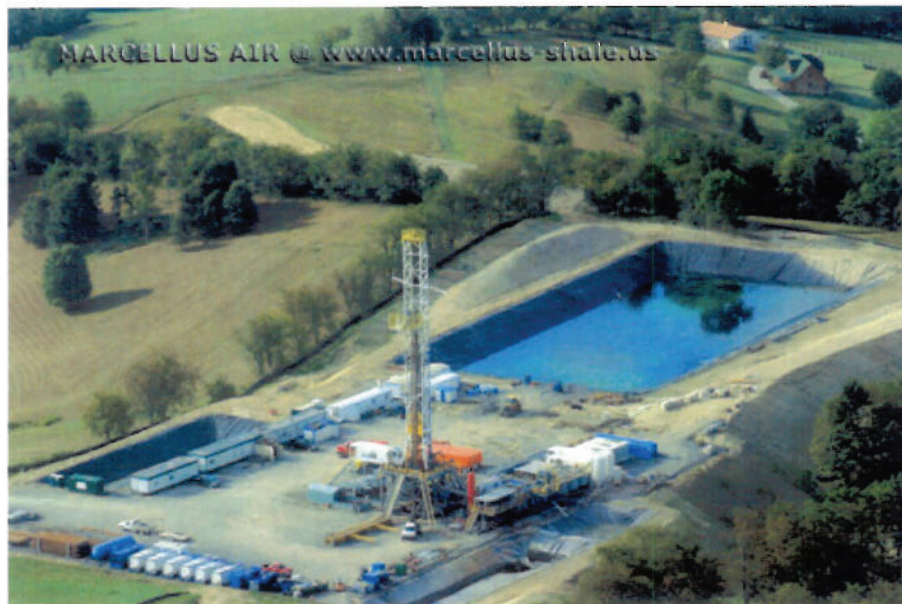
7. ConocoPhillips

ConocoPhillips is currently an integrated oil corporation but it recently announced plans to split into two companies, one focused on refining, the other on production. The company has listed acquiring more shale reserves in North America among its top strategic goals over the past couple of years and drills in several western states, as well as in Louisiana and Arkansas. It is exploring for shale gas in Poland and has operations in six continents.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 2.6 billion cubic feet.

See **Top 10** page 7

Good Ideas for Educating Others
Although the events have passed,
you can duplicate them in your community.



COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

THE TRUE IMPACTS OF FRACKING TO THE COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17TH at 7:00 PM

CHIPPEWA EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

239 BRAUN ROAD, BEAVER FALLS, PA 15010

Carolyn Knapp and Carol French own working dairy farms in Bradford County, PA. Both have signed gas leases for their property and have experienced the impacts of heavy drilling activity in their community. They have devoted large amounts of time learning about the hydraulic fracturing process and the overall impact it has on the community. They will provide a perspective on fracking that is not being provided by the gas companies. Questions will be taken after their presentation.

Chippewa Evangelical Free Church is not a sponsor and does not endorse the speakers for this event. Chippewa Evangelical Free Church maintains neutrality on the issue of Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling. CEFC is only providing a meeting place and is neither for nor against gas drilling.

Visit www.southbeaverfracking.com for more information

Join Marcellus Outreach Butler and Friends for our 1st Annual ...

FRACK OUT! PICNIC

Music, Fun, Food & Good Company!

WINDY KNOB GROVE AT MORAINE STATE PARK, SOUTH SHORE

Saturday, July 16
Noon to 6:00 PM (food served from 2:00-3:00)
Bring Your Own Beverage (Park Rules = No Alcohol)
Bring a Side Dish or Dessert to Feed 10-12
RSVP + Guests (helpful; all are welcome) to mpro113@gmail.com
Phone: 724-452-5556
Website: www.marcellusoutreachbutler.org

The Academy Award nominated documentary, *Gasland*, uncovers the truth about Marcellus shale gas drilling and how our air, water and health are at risk.

Attend a Free *Gasland* Screening in Seven Fields/Cranberry to get the facts.

WHAT: *Gasland* Screening
WHERE: Seven Fields Community Ctr.
WHEN: June 21, 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
RSVP: Email mpro113@gmail.com

Directions: PA 228; Right onto Castle Creek Dr.; Left onto Garden Dr. to the Community Center, #2200.

Marcellus Outreach Butler www.MarcellusOutreachButler.org mpro113@gmail.com

See What the Gas Drilling Industry Doesn't Want You to Know.

Gas Drilling Case Study

Government Tries to Intimidate Victims of Gas Drilling

By Elizabeth Coyle

This article first appeared in the *Bedford Gazette* (Pennsylvania) and the Smiths were featured in last month's *Earth News*.

A Clearville woman who has raised questions about the impact of a natural gas storage field on the health of people and livestock, said she is being investigated for a comment made to a state environmental protection officer in June.

Angel and Wayne Smith of Rock Hill Church Road have said the loss of livestock on their 106-acre farm in the last four years is tied to contamination from wells around their property and volatile organic compounds that have blown off of the Steckman Ridge compressor station about a half-mile down the road. The couple also has two gas transmission lines running through their property.

The compressor station has experienced numerous blow downs, some of which are a function of venting the station as it starts up or shuts down. However, the station has had some operating problems that caused unscheduled blow downs, including one in August of 2009 and another in October of that year that occurred after automatic shutdowns happened as malfunctions occurred. The result was a release of lubricating fluids – 20 gallons, according to one report – over the neighborhood.

After another blow down this June – one of 44 the couple said they have recorded – Angel Smith called the Department of Environmental Protection office in Altoona to find out whether DEP knew what happened.

Steckman Ridge was fined \$22,000 for not properly reporting the 2009 incidents to DEP as is required by law. In fact it was Smith and other neighbors who called DEP and told officials about the oily film covering vehicles, plants, lawn furniture and toys left outside.

An investigation later revealed a malfunction in a valve at the compressor station caused the station to automatically shut down. Gear lubricant that was in the large venting stack rained over the neighborhood through the afternoon of August 23, 2009. The October 26, 2009 incident also resulted in a spraying of lubricant but it impacted just the neighboring property, according to company reports at the time.

On the morning of the June 8, 2011 blow down, Smith said she was told by Mike Ruddeck, of DEP's air quality staff in Altoona, that Smith was only to call him when she next sees oil on her property, a probable reference to the 2009 incidents. The station also emitted about 967,000 cubic feet of natural gas, according to a Notice of Violation correspondence from Steckman Ridge to Ruddeck.

"I said the next time the damn thing blows up – because remember it blew up in 2009 – I could take the credit for it," Smith said of her comments. The statement on its own would be alarming, she agreed, but it was just part of the conversation she had with Ruddeck. Smith said what she meant was that she would have to take the credit for the reporting of the blow down because the company couldn't be counted on to give the notice.



Angel Smith stands by the blueberry bushes ruined in 2009 by a compressor blowout. Photo by Wayne Smith

"They (Steckman Ridge) are the ones running around saying they're the good neighbors. The only thing I've tried to do is, when there is a problem, let the neighborhood know because no one else is going to do it," Angel said.

Later in the day, Lynn Langer, assistant regional director for DEP's Southcentral office, called and demanded that Smith recant her statement. Smith said she believes she said nothing wrong and refused to retract what she told Ruddeck.

Smith said Langer then made a veiled reference to September 11. "She said 'Are you familiar with 9-11?' I said, 'Excuse me?'" Smith recalled of the conversation. Langer repeated the rhetorical question. Smith asked Langer, "Are you calling me a terrorist?"

Langer, when contacted by telephone wouldn't take any questions about the exchange or the police report she filed in regard to her conversation with Smith. Langer took down notes on some of the questions the *Gazette* had and then referred them to a DEP press officer.

DEP contacted the state police in Bedford County the same day

it "received the threat from the woman who called in," was an emailed response from Lisa N. Kasianowitz, information specialist.

"The police officer told DEP that we would need to file this type of report in person, so we contacted the Harrisburg police and filed the report on August 10, 2011. The Harrisburg police took the report to the Bedford County police and processed it there," Kasianowitz responded.

DEP's concern was "with the public health and safety. Upon receiving a threat of this nature, we were immediately concerned that someone's safety could be put at risk."

When asked to explain what DEP thought was the threat specifically, what Langer recalls Smith saying or whether Langer attempted to clarify Smith's statements to Ruddeck, Kasianowitz responded: "DEP did file a state police report because a threat was voiced to us. This is the process we have to follow. Since the matter has been referred to the state police, DEP has no further comment at this time. You can contact state police if you choose to do so."

Trooper Matthew Auker of the Bedford state police station visited the Smiths on Wednesday about the conversation between Ruddeck and Smith. He said he couldn't comment at length.

"I'm doing an investigation and I went there to interview them," Auker said when contacted Thursday.

No one offered an explanation of the two-month gap between the alleged threat and the filing of the report, followed by police interviewing Smith the same day.

The Smiths, who have water test results showing methylene blue active substances (Mbas) and levels of arsenic, manganese, iron, methane and toluene that are beyond federal safe drinking water standards, have blamed the natural gas activity for their fouled water.

Mbas are surfactants which industrial facilities use to clean machinery. They cause suds or foam to form on surface waters, an incident that the Smiths and others have recorded on the nearby creek along Rock Hill Church Road. Mbas are known to be carcinogenic and reproductively toxic.

DEP has argued that the Mbas, arsenic and other potentially toxic substances may be naturally- or man-made by sources other than gas drilling activity.

The Smiths have sued Steckman Ridge in federal court for an illegal taking of their property in drilling the storage area underneath their land, the fouling of the spring water and in-home tap water and the property damaged by the August 2009 blow

down.

The couple have made countless inquiries to government regulators since 2007, after the Steckman Ridge storage facility began development. The Smiths' water well began overflowing and their cattle and a horse died without explanation. The couple began calling DEP, asking about gas storage, gas wells and the compressor station that was being built.

The Smiths have many binders documenting problems they have had in water quality and health problems they say stem from the storage area.

"They're tired of us and, what's worse, we're saying there's something wrong and they're looking the other way," Angel Smith said.

Wayne Smith called the report to state police a form of government harassment.

Angel believes the call from DEP to state police was a scare tactic, one to intimidate not only the Smiths but others who complain about the compressor station or natural gas development in particular.

"Why did it take it so long for (DEP) to do anything if I was such a big bad threat?" Smith said regarding the two-month delay in reporting the supposed threat. "I think they're tired of me and landowners," Smith said. She thinks maybe DEP wants to make a "mockery" of her and Wayne and "maybe that will give a message to other landowners to back off."

But the couple continues to press their lawsuit and seek answers.

"We're not going away," Wayne said.

Top 10 continued from page 6

tion: 1.6 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$198.7 billion

Reserves, 2010: 3.4 billion barrels of oil and natural gas liquids (1.9 billion in the U.S.), 1.2 billion barrels of bitumen (none in the U.S.), 21.7 trillion cubic feet of gas (10.5 trillion in the U.S.).

Executive Compensation, 2010: James Mulva, chairman and CEO, received almost \$18 million in total compensation. John Carrig, who retired as president in March, received more than \$14 million.

8. Southwestern Energy Company

Southwestern is another independent driller that focuses exclusively on natural gas. The company has operations in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania, with most of its production coming from the Fayetteville Shale formation underlying parts of Arkansas.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 1.3 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$2.6 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 1 million barrels of oil, 4.9 trillion cubic feet of gas.

Executive Compensation, 2010: Steven Mueller, president and CEO, received \$5.7 million in total compensation.

9. Chevron

Chevron is the second-largest oil company in the country and the third-biggest company overall in terms of revenue. It has been building its gas reserves recently, most notably with the purchase of Atlas Energy, an active shale gas driller. Still, more than 60 percent of the company's worldwide reserves are in oil.

The majority of Chevron's oil and gas production comes overseas. Domestically, Chevron operates in seven states, including Pennsylvania, Texas and California, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 1.3 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$198.2 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 6.5 billion barrels of oil and other liquids (1.3 billion in the U.S.), 24.3 trillion cubic feet of gas (2.5 trillion in the U.S.).

Executive Compensation, 2010: John Watson, chairman and CEO, received \$16 million in total compensation.

10. Williams Energy

Williams is an independent producer focused largely on natural gas. It owns 13,900 miles of pipelines, which it says deliver 12 percent of the natural gas consumed in the United States. The company recently announced plans to separate its exploration and production activities from its other operations.

Williams has holdings in many of the major shale basins across the country, from Pennsylvania to North Dakota to Texas. The company also owns interests in several international companies.

Average Daily Natural Gas Production: 1.2 billion cubic feet.

Revenue, 2010: \$9.6 billion.

Reserves, 2010: 4.3 trillion cubic feet equivalent (3 percent of that is oil or other liquids, converted to the equivalent volume in gas).

Executive Compensation, 2010: Alan Armstrong, president and CEO, received \$2 million in total compensation.

Sources: The production numbers are from the *Natural Gas Supply Association* and reflect the average for the first half of 2011. Revenue figures are from the companies' 2010 annual reports and reflect total revenue from all sources, not just gas production. Revenue may include sales and other income and may not be adjusted for taxes. Reserves numbers are from the companies' annual reports. Bitumen and synthetic crude represent oil from Canadian tar sands or other unconventional reserves. The compensation information is from Forbes and Bloomberg Business Week.

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Permits Enormous Water Withdrawals

Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Press Release: June 24, 2011

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania — The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC, www.srbcc.net) held its quarterly business meeting yesterday in North East, Maryland. Among its activities, SRBC voted on regulatory (www.srbcc.net/programs/projreview.htm), enforcement, policy and administrative matters; approved the annual Water Resources Program and revisions to the Comprehensive Plan; supported additional funding for a national stream gage program and heard a report on current hydrologic conditions across the Susquehanna basin.

SRBC's voting commissioners and alternates were: Kenneth Lynch, SRBC Chair, Director, Region 7, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; Kelly Hefner, SRBC Vice-Chair, Deputy Secretary for Water Management, Pa. Department of Environmental Protection; Col. David Anderson, District Engineer, Baltimore District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Herbert Sachs, Special Projects Coordinator for Office of the Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment.

The commissioners, under the public hearing portion of the meeting: (1) approved 31 water resources projects, including six into-basin diversions (list follows); (2) rescinded two previously-approved but inactive projects; (3) denied an administrative appeal by the Allegheny Defense Project on three previously-approved, into-basin diversions for natural gas well development; (4) approved revisions to the Regulatory Program Fee Schedule; (5) adopted amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; and (6) accepted a \$15,000 settlement from a water bottling company, Nature's Way Purewater Systems, Inc. (Pittston, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania facility), for using water without prior SRBC approval.

The commissioners also: (1) approved the release and publication of a proposed rule-making package to revise Project Review regulations; (2) approved the Water Resources Program for fiscal years 2012 and 2013; (3) adopted SRBC's fiscal year 2013 budget; (4) elected commissioner officers for fiscal year 2012 (Pennsylvania will serve as chair and Maryland will serve as vice-chair); and (5) approved a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to appropriate additional funds to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Streamflow Information Program to help continue funding critical stream gages in the Susquehanna basin.

The public comment period for the proposed rule-making began immediately after being posted on the SRBC Web site, and ended August 23rd. During the public com-

ment period, SRBC conducted public hearings on August 2 at the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and August 4th in Binghamton, New York.

Among the key provisions of the proposed rule-making, the changes would: (1) incorporate commission policy to allow for interbasin diversions of flowback from one drilling pad to another for re-use in hydrofracture operations to be handled under the Approval by Rule (ABR) program; (2) replace specific shale name references with a generic category of "unconventional natural gas development;" (3) add language to authorize the "renewal" of expiring approvals, including ABRs; (4) expanding the ABR program scope to include any hydrocarbon development projects that meet SRBC standard regulatory thresholds; (5) place into the regulations the current practice of requiring posthydrofracture reporting; and (6) restructure water source approvals under the ABR program.

Approved Projects (includes new approvals and modifications):

1. **Anadarko E&P Company LP** (Pine Creek – Jersey Mills), McHenry Township, Lycoming County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 1.5 million gallons per day (gpd) to develop natural gas wells.

2. **Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.** Project Facility: Monroe Manor Water System, Monroe Township, Snyder County, Pa., for groundwater withdrawal of up to 302,000 gpd public water supply.

3. **Carrizo Marcellus, LLC** (Meshoppen Creek), Washington Township, Wyoming County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 2.160 million gpd to develop natural gas wells.

4. **Carrizo Marcellus, LLC** (Middle Branch Wyalusing Creek), Forest Lake Township, Susquehanna County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 432,000 gpd to develop natural gas wells.

5. **Carrizo Marcellus, LLC** (Unnamed Tributary to Middle Branch Wyalusing Creek), Forest Lake Township, Susquehanna County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 720,000 gpd to develop natural gas wells.

6. **Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC** (Wappasening Creek), Windham Township, Bradford County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 900,000 gpd to develop natural gas wells.

7. **Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC** (Wyalusing Creek), Rush Township, Susquehanna County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 715,000 gpd to develop natural gas wells.

8. **Chesapeake Appalachia, LLC** (Wysox Creek), Rome Township, Bradford County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 504,000

gpd to develop natural gas wells.

9. **Exelon Generation Company, LLC**, Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Peach Bottom Township, York County, Pa., to increase consumptive water use from 32.49 million gpd up to 49 million gpd (Docket No. 20061209) to generate electric power.

10. **Exelon Generation Company, LLC**, Three Mile Island Generating Station, Londonderry Township, Dauphin County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 122.8 million gpd and consumptive water use of up to 19.2 million gpd to operate the plant and generate electric power.

11. **Fox Road Waterworks, LLC** (South Branch Tunkhannock Creek), Tunkhannock Township, Wyoming County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 157,000 gpd for bulk water sale for natural gas well development.

12. **Hydro Recovery, LP**, Blossburg Borough, Tioga County, Pa., for groundwater withdrawal of up to 216,000 gpd and for consumptive water use of up to 316,000 gpd to treat flowback water and for bulk water sale to natural gas exploration and production companies.

13. **Keystone Clearwater Solutions, LLC** (Driftwood Branch), Emporium Borough, Cameron County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 999,000 gpd for bulk water sale for natural gas well development.

14. **Keystone Clearwater Solutions, LLC** (Lycoming Creek), Lewis Township, Lycoming County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 1.292 million gpd for bulk water sale for natural gas well development.

15. **LHP Management, LLC** (Fishing Creek – Clinton Country Club), Bald Eagle Township, Clinton County, Pa., to modify conditions of the withdrawal approval (Docket No. 20090906) for bulk water sale for natural gas well development.

16. **Mount Joy Borough Authority**, Mount Joy Borough, Lancaster County, Pa., for total groundwater withdrawal of up to 2.6 million gpd to distribute in a public water supply system.

17. **Nature's Way Purewater Systems, Inc.**, Covington Township, Lackawanna County, Pa., for groundwater withdrawal of up to 57,000 gpd and consumptive use up to 257,000 gpd for bottled water.

18. **New Morgan Landfill Company, Inc.**, Conestoga Landfill, New Morgan Borough, Berks County, Pa., for groundwater withdrawal of up to 8,000 gpd to operate the landfill.

19. **Talisman Energy USA Inc.** (Wappasening Creek), Windham Township, Bradford County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 1 million gpd to develop natural gas wells.

20. **Tennessee Gas Pipeline**

Company (Meshoppen Creek – Loop 319), Springville Township, Susquehanna County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 1.090 million gpd to hydrostatically test gas pipeline.

21. **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company** (Susquehanna River – Loop 317), Asylum Township, Bradford County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 4.032 million gpd to hydrostatically test gas pipeline.

22. **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company** (Tioga River – Loop 315), Richmond Township, Tioga County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 3.140 million gpd to hydrostatically test gas pipeline.

23. **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company** (Towanda Creek – Loop 317), Monroe Township, Bradford County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 4.032 million gpd to hydrostatically test gas pipeline.

24. **Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company** (White Creek – Loop 319), Springville Township, Susquehanna County, Pa., for surface water withdrawal of up to 384,000 gpd to hydrostatically test gas pipeline.

25. **Williamsport Municipal Water Authority**, Williamsport City, Lycoming County, Pa., for groundwater withdrawal of up to 1.3 million gpd from Well 10 and up to 700,000 gpd from Well 11 for public water supply.

Approved Projects (involving diversions):

1. **Chief Oil & Gas LLC**, Borough of Ebensburg, Cambria Township, Cambria County, Pa., for an into-basin diversion of up to 249,000 gpd from the Ohio River Basin to develop natural gas wells.

2. **Chief Oil & Gas LLC**, Cambria Somerset Authority, Summerhill Township, Cambria County, Pa., for an into-basin diversion of up to 249,000 gpd from the Ohio River Basin to develop natural gas wells.

3. **Chief Oil & Gas LLC**, Highland Sewer and Water Authority, Portage Township, Cambria County, Pa., for an into-basin diversion of up to 249,000 gpd from the Ohio River Basin to develop natural gas wells.

4. **Nature's Way Purewater Systems, Inc.**, Nature's Way Springs Borehole 1 (BH-1), Foster Township, Luzerne County, Pa., for an into-basin diversion of up to 99,000 gpd from the Delaware River Basin for water bottling.

5. **Penn Virginia Oil & Gas Corporation**. Project Facility: Port Alleghany Borough, McKean County, Pa. Application for an into-basin diversion of up to 100,000 from the Ohio River Basin to develop natural gas wells.

6. **Triana Energy, LLC**, Johnson Quarry, Roulette Township, Potter County, Pa., for an into-basin diversion of up to 500,000 gpd from the Ohio River Basin to develop natural gas wells.

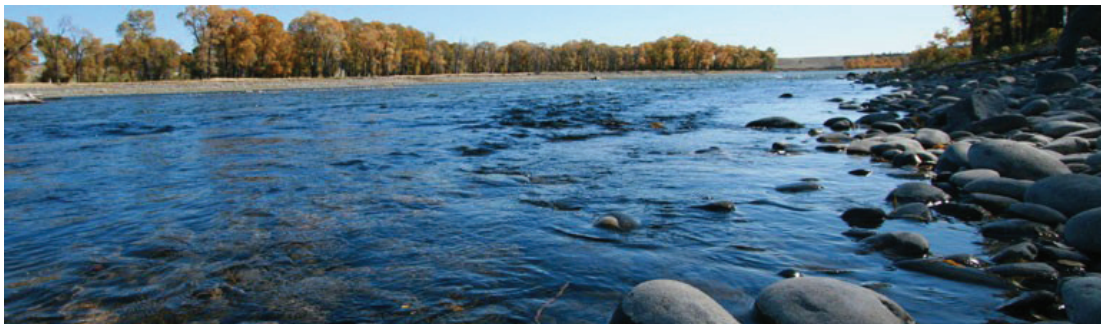


Photo courtesy wormwound/flickr

The Yellowstone River near Greycliff, Montana. The longest undammed river in the Lower 48 was sullied by an oil spill in July that sent 50,000 gallons of crude downstream. A canoeist who has paddled the river's length twice, wonders how many more pipelines must be built and break before a less harmful energy source is found.

Pipeline Roulette

By Alan S. Kesselheim

www.DailyClimate.org: Sept. 15, 2011

As the Obama Administration leans toward approving a pipeline carrying tar sands oil from Canada to Texas, a Montanan picks up his paddle and canoes a cherished river sullied by our unquenched demand for fossil fuels.

BOZEMAN, Montana — What riveted my attention, lately, was not the looming juggernaut of the Keystone XL pipeline chugging sludge from Alberta to Texas, that pipeline that has been getting all the press and getting protesters arrested in Washington, D.C. What got my attention was the news in July of the Silvertip Pipeline break underneath the Yellowstone River near Laurel, Montana — some 50,000 gallons of crude (by industry estimates) poured into the river from a break in the 12-inch, 20-year-old pipeline feeding the Exxon-Mobil refinery in Laurel. The news hit me like a sucker punch.

I have twice paddled a canoe more than 550 miles down the Yellowstone River, from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to the Missouri River confluence in North Dakota. I have spent hundreds of days riding the currents of that river and many nights camped on its gravel bars and islands. Over that kind of time, you develop a relationship with a river. The news of thousands of gallons of oil gushing into that flow, polluting its waters and shores, impacting its wild residents, washing downstream on the flooding currents, was personal.

There was the by-now-familiar round of accusations, claims and blame.

Most figures were supplied by the industry and then questioned by state officials and environmental agencies. For example, at first Exxon-Mobil claimed that the leak only lasted for six minutes. Later they admitted that it went on for an hour. We all know the public relations denial drill.

Ten days after the spill I took a canoe out for 15 miles, spent the day looking at the bathtub ring of oil deposits in the vegeta-

tion, the oily stains and pools in logjams. The river was still high, turbid with sediment, powerful. We paddled past the vista of refineries in Billings, talked to a landowner who found oil-coated wildlife on his property despite the cleanup-officials' claim that there was little or no effect on wildlife.

The Yellowstone felt muscular and timeless. It also felt beleaguered and sullied. That is its nature, to be an icon, the longest undammed river left in the Lower 48 and, at the same time, a flow hammered, used and soiled by its passage through the gauntlet of our occupation.

That spill on a cherished river riveted my attention, too, because — like the tar sands pipeline debate — it illuminates the larger context of the infrastructure we depend on to fuel our energy addiction and just how frail and unknown the specifics of that network are.

In the aftermath of the spill, people were asking a great many questions about oil and gas pipelines. How many, where, how deep? Questions you would think there would be solid, quantifiable answers to.

Instead, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration estimated there were in the neighborhood of 35,000 pipeline crossings of rivers, streams and lakes in a system of pipes spidering across 2.5 million miles of landscape.

They also admitted that the precise location of these water crossings, and even the exact route of the pipelines, was only roughly known. Minor water crossings, however those might be defined, aren't included in the figures. Nor are many of the specifics of pipeline size, depth of burial, age and inspection history on record.

The Silvertip Pipeline under the Yellowstone River was buried only four to five feet deep. There had been reports of pipeline corrosion but no follow up. Maintenance and inspection were the responsibility of Exxon-Mobil.

In that same 20 years, the Yellowstone River has experienced three 100-year flood events. The scouring of a few feet of stream-

bed and the exposing of that pipeline, was a "when, not if" proposition by a river that size.

Silvertip is one pipeline crossing one river. There are tens of thousands of similar crossings in this country alone, each with its unique set of environmental and structural conditions; each with its problematic features — permafrost, earthquake faults, unstable sediments, floods, ice jams.

They are lying there, fueling our addiction, fraught with the potential for error. Expand that view to all the other aspects of the petroleum network we rely on — the deepwater rigs, the tankers, the trucks, the fracking frenzy, the municipal- and residential-delivery networks. Overlay those systems with their unique and real potential for mishap, the lack of regulation, the frenetic pace of development, the insatiable demand for more. You see where this takes you.

How many "when, not if" situations exist out there? How many Yellowstone River spills lurk around the corner, how many less dramatic accidents happen routinely and go unreported or undiscovered?

Which brings us to decisions like the one looming for the Keystone XL project. This \$7 billion pipeline, built to carry 700,000 barrels of tar sands sludge every day across a continental span extending 1,700 miles from the Far North of Alberta to the Gulf Coast of Texas, crossing dozens of major bodies of water and hundreds of minor waterways along the way — all of it administered loosely, built and maintained by a company with a spotty environmental record and yet dependent on voluntary industry compliance; all to tap an environmentally-appalling source of fuel and to continue hell-bent on the same old path towards the cliff of unsustainability.

Anyone else up for a Plan B?

Alan S. Kesselheim is a freelance writer and teacher who lives with his family in Bozeman, Montana. DailyClimate.org is a nonprofit news-service that covers climate change. Views expressed in opinions and essays are the author's and not those of DailyClimate.org.

covered that the two baby birds had died. Jodi and I cried. Tragically the momma robin was too afraid to feed her babies so as to not give away their location. The birds had died due to a lack of water to hydrate their little feathery bodies. Pure water is essential to maintain life. It was a terrible sight to see and I was comforted by two very caring students, Jordan Stark and Denise Robbins. I said, "So these baby birds don't die in vain, we all must increase our efforts to stop frack and other dirty fuels."

To end on a brighter note, Mark Kuney from Cortland gave us a black ash tree from Iroquois lands and blessed by the Elders as a thank you for our work against frack. We were so honored and proudly planted it and will nurture it till it is strong. He also gave us "Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World," which in essence states that the natural world cannot be taken for granted, that a spiritual communication of thankfulness and acknowledgment of all living things must be given to align the minds and hearts of the people with nature.

Here is a quote from the Thanksgiving Address: *We give thanks to all the waters of the world for quenching our thirst and providing us the strength. Water is life. We know its power in many forms — waterfalls and rain, mist and streams, rivers and oceans. With one mind, we send greetings and thanks to the spirit of water.*

Gas-Drilling Resources

Food & Water Watch: Ban-Fracking Toolkit

A nationwide effort to ban fracking has been launched by Food & Water Watch. Download a free toolkit for grassroots activism at www.foodandwaterwatch.org. The kit includes Ban Fracking petitions and directions on how to use them; half-sheet, colored Ban Fracking flyers with persuasive facts; two booklets called "How to Get Your Resolution Passed to Ban Fracking" and "Not So Fast, Natural Gas: Why Accelerating Risky Drilling Threatens America's Water."

Contact: Katy Kieffer, Outreach Organizer; **Phone:** 202-683-4939 **Email:** kkieffer@fwwatch.org
Address: 1616 P Street NW, #300, Washington D.C. 20036.

Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

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

Email: info@responsibledrillingalliance.org **Web site:** <http://www.responsibledrillingalliance.org>
Address: Responsible Drilling Alliance, Box 502, Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17703

Protecting Our Waters (POW)

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

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

- New Pennsylvania wastewater treatment requirements for shale-gas-drilling waste are in place and enforced;
- An Environmental Impact Statement has been completed for Pennsylvania;
- All federal exemptions for hydraulic fracturing are lifted: Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; and
- The Environmental Protection Agency study is complete.

Email: protectingourwaters@gmail.com **Web site:** protectingourwaters.wordpress.com

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

EARTHWORKS

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

Email: info@earthworksaction.org **Web site:** earthworksaction.org

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

The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)

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

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

Web site: www.endocrinedisruption.com **Address:** P.O. Box 1407, Paonia, Colorado 81428
Phone: 970-527-4082

Fracking Chemicals Disclosure Registry

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

Marcellus Drilling News

Jim Willis creates this news wire. He is not opposed to drilling but he has very good daily reports: marcellusdrilling.com.

FracTracker-Post Gazette Collaboration

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

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

MarcellusProtest.org

Excellent Web site with lots of resources. Especially good (but terrifying) to see are the Pipeline Explosions videos. Also the Fraccidents Map prepared by EarthJustice. Go to Resources and scroll down to Frac Accidents Map. Along with the fracking-fueled gas rush have come troubling reports of poisoned drinking water, polluted air, mysterious animal deaths, industrial disasters and explosions. We call them "Fraccidents."

Water Resources at Stake: Delaware, Monongahela and Susquehanna Rivers

Governor Tom Corbett (Pennsylvania) accepted nearly \$1 million from oil and gas companies during his political campaigns and, since assuming office in 2011, promptly began repaying his benefactors by cutting down on environmental enforcement and oversight of gas drilling activities. As of September 14, 2011, the map had 70 locations with details about fracking accidents across the country. Click on "View Fraccidents Map" and a sidebar will pop up on your left listing many communities in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Click on the town/accident you want to learn about and a description of the accident will be visible, along with a skull and cross-bones to give the viewer a graphic reminder that fracking is a deadly, industrial process.

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

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

Contact: Deanna Bitetti, Associate Director

Address: Common Cause/New York, 74 Trinity Place, #901, New York, New York 10006
Phone: 212-691-6421 Ext. 203 **Blackberry:** 917-751-2342 **Fax:** 212-807-1809

www.PAForestCoalition.org

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

List of Gas Drilling/Fracking Bans and Moratoria Globally

Created and maintained by Joe Hoff, Keuka Citizens Against Hydrofracking. To get on this long and impressive list, email Joe at joehoff@aol.com.

Fracking Foes Unite! Database

Earth News publisher, Iona Conner, is creating a database of people who are opposed to fracking. You will receive occasional notices of the most important events or news stories but you will not be hammered with trivia. If you or your group would like to be on this e-list, please contact Iona at iona-conner@pa.net, 814-259-3680 or 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

Action *continued from page 1*

The event started on July 29th and ended July 31st with great people joining in to ban frack and stand strong against all fossil fuels extraction. The oldest attendee (at 82 years young) was Roland Mickle, who had pedaled his bike from Syracuse to Montana in his younger days. Everyone savored his delightful presence!

The weekend was jam-packed full of camping, films, training, organizing, camp fires, great food provided by the feisty and energetic Feed the Masses cook Jane Marie Law. On Friday night the film, 'My Name is Allegany County' mesmerized the crowd with Spike Jones, retired Army sergeant and one of the leaders in the highly successful, non-violent civil disobedience campaign against nuclear waste entering into landfills in Allegany County, New York. Jones filled the late night with his colorful persona, giving wise insights gained hard and keeping everyone laughing. Both Friday and Saturday nights gave the most beautiful inspiring sight with the newly-risen tent city. On Saturday a car pulled in and I overheard two gentlemen get out and say, "Wow, look at all the tents and cars!"

My Dad, Joe Andrynsick, and his girlfriend, Nancy Sherman, attended on Saturday and my Dad said, "I'd just about given up on America and then I met all these people willing to fight to straighten it out. These kids are the leaders of tomorrow and I'm actually hopeful."

To paraphrase Mark Twain, "On Sunday the meeting started at 9:30 and the trouble began at 10:00." We all began training in Non-Violent Direct Action. There was a lot of role playing and thought experiments. Sometimes I played an activist against frack, other times a security guard blocking an activist and also, along with my wife, a truck driver shipping toxic frack fluid and being non-violently stopped by a group of concerned activists. They stopped my ol' 57 Willy's farm truck dead in its tracks and climbed underneath, locking themselves to the truck frame. I couldn't do anything to stop them.

There is a lot of training involved if you are considering doing NVDA. More information at: www.WashingtonPeaceCenter.net and www.ruckus.org.

My wife Jodi and I were totally inspired by everybody and met Matt Wardell who is the very proud father of Pennsylvania's youngest anti-frack activist at 19 months, Celia. Matt is filming his daughter to be included in our latest anti-frack movie, 'Water Isn't Water Anymore.' Matt said, "When my daughter was born, everything changed and I knew I had to protect her." If you are interested in obtaining our latest documentary, please go to our Web site: www.AllFrackedUp.com.

As the festive weekend came to a close, I climbed a ladder in the barn/meeting hall and dis-



Photo courtesy Bob Berwyn

Ice Arch. Around the Antarctic Peninsula, the shades and hues of the sea and ice can change from minute to minute depending on the light.



Photo by Bob Berwyn

Collapsing ice shelves and melting glaciers could rapidly alter habitat for penguins, seals and other ice-dependent species.

Collapsing Ice Shelves Speed Antarctic Glacier Losses

By Bob Berwyn, excerpt
Summit Voice: July 27, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — A new study from Antarctica shows how collapsing ice shelves speed up ice loss on adjacent glaciers. The data will lead to more accurate predictions about ice loss and sea level rise resulting from ongoing changes along the Antarctic Peninsula.

“Not only do you get an initial loss of glacial ice when adjacent ice shelves collapse but you get continued ice losses for many years, even decades, to come,” said researcher Christopher Shuman. “This further demonstrates how important ice shelves are to Antarctic glaciers.”

The research team included Ted Scambos, from the Boulder-based National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado.

“This study shows where the tracking of sea level rise is heading in terms of the level of detail possible and the instrumentation that can be brought to bear,” Scambos said. “We’re showing that glacier changes can start fast, with a single climate or ocean ‘bang,’ but they have a long persistence.”

An ice shelf is a thick, floating tongue of ice, fed by a tributary glacier, extending into the sea off a land mass. Previous research showed that the recent collapse of several ice shelves in Antarctica led to acceleration of the glaciers that feed into them.

The team used satellite data and other measurements to produce detailed ice loss maps from 2001 to 2009 for the main tributary glaciers of the Larsen A and B ice shelves, which collapsed in 1995 and 2002, respectively.

The analysis reveals rapid elevation decreases of more than 500 feet for some glaciers and it puts the total ice loss from 2001 to 2006 squarely between the widely varying and less certain estimates produced using an approach that relies on assumptions about a glacier’s mass budget. The authors’ analysis shows ice loss in the study area of at least 11.2 gigatons per year from 2001 to 2006. Their ongoing work shows ice loss from 2006 to 2010 was almost as large, averaging 10.2 gigatons per year

Antarctic Peninsula is Ground Zero for Global Warming

By Bob Berwyn
Summit Voice: July 27, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — Reporting a story about a new study detailing the loss of ice on the Antarctic Peninsula inspired me to post these unpublished photos of some icescapes from the Weddell Sea. They are of water around the Antarctic Peninsula warming as fast or faster than anywhere else on Earth. As a result, ice shelves are collapsing and, when they do, the glaciers behind them melt much more rapidly with potential consequences for marine ecosystems in the area and sea levels around the globe. And some incredible land- and seascapes are also at risk.

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

Climate Scientist Sees No Choice but to Risk Arrest at Keystone XL Protests

By Elizabeth McGowan
SolveClimate News: August 18, 2011

WASHINGTON, D.C. — His climatology career at Ohio State University is advancing swimmingly. He’s never had a brush with the law. And his wife is eight months pregnant with their first child.

So staying home for the next several weeks in Columbus, Ohio rather than risking arrest in the nation’s capital certainly seems the ideal choice for professor Jason Box.

But the 38-year-old has never reveled in the idea of an intellectual or physical comfort zone.

His natural inquisitiveness — plus a dose of idealism and commitment — is why Box is intent on participating in his first-ever act of civil disobedience. The cause? Trying to convince President Obama that approving the extension of a controversial oil sands pipeline — the proposed \$7 billion, 1,702-mile Keystone XL — would be the equivalent of lighting a fuse to the biggest carbon bomb on the planet.

It’s not a single-handed effort on Box’s part. But as of mid-week he’s evidently the only climate scientist who has registered to join about 2,000 other like-minded thinkers to line the fences surrounding the White House — where peaceful arrests are not uncommon for protesters of all stripes.

They began gathering Saturday and rotated through in waves of 75 to 100 daily through September 3rd. Box was booked for a three-day stint at the tail end.

“I couldn’t maintain my self-respect if I didn’t go,” Box said in a telephone interview about his decision to wade into the murky territory of activism where most scientists fear to tread. “This isn’t about me, this is about the future. Just voting doesn’t seem to be enough in this case. I need to be a citizen also, because this is a democracy after all, isn’t it?”

Bill McKibben, the activist, author and Middlebury College professor who founded the advocacy organization 350.org is the instigator of the summer sit-in. Back in June, he collaborated

with 10 Canadian and American climate-concerned luminaries — including author and farmer Wendell Berry and actor Danny Glover — to circulate a three-page plea for support.

Earlier this month, Box and 19 other prominent U.S. scientists fired off a letter to the White House urging Obama to reject Alberta-based TransCanada’s plans to construct Keystone XL. Among the marquee authors are James Hansen of Columbia University’s Earth Institute and Michael Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University.

Although Hansen hasn’t signed up for the event, he’s expected to appear at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue late in August. He has been arrested several times in the past for protesting mountaintop removal mining. Mann, on the other hand, tends to shy away from protests. At the end of 2009, his research was targeted by global warming deniers in a bizarre and trying episode known as “Climategate.” He was cleared of any wrongdoing.

“The tar sands are a huge pool of carbon but one that does not make sense to exploit,” the scientists wrote to Obama. “When other huge oil fields or coal mines were opened in the past, we knew much less about the damage that the carbon they contained would do to the Earth’s climate system and to its oceans.”

“Now that we do know, it’s imperative that we move quickly to alternate forms of energy,” they continued. “As scientists, speaking for ourselves and not for any of our institutions, we can say categorically that [the pipeline is] not only not in the national interest, it’s also not in the planet’s best interest.”

The Science Is Complete

Until now, Box’s career path has been that of the quintessential non-partisan scientist. A Colorado native who speaks in careful, measured sentences, he doesn’t take his decision to travel to Washington, D.C., for his inaugural climate protest lightly. As part of his preparations he



Photo courtesy MeltFactor.org

Jason Box, known for his study of glaciers, says oil sands mining is a moral issue that he feels compelled to address.

has sought advice from an Ohio State media expert, who had a wealth of insight on how scientists-cum-activists are potential lightning rods in the climate debate.

As a freshman at the University of Colorado-Boulder in 1990-91 Box was vacillating between geology and astronomy. But reading the first assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations convinced him to laser in on geography and climatology. That report documented the toll carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases were having on Earth.

As an undergraduate, he became one of the youngest protégés of Konrad Steffen, a world-renowned climate scientist performing cutting-edge research on the glaciers of Greenland.

Twelve years and five academic degrees later — all earned in Boulder — Box headed to Ohio State. He’s a tenured associate geography professor and research scientist at the university’s Byrd Polar Research Center.

Strenuous pilgrimages to the Greenland ice sheet — his accumulated study time on inland ice now exceeds a year — have made him an authority on the relationship between Greenland’s glaciers and the Arctic’s warming climate. Strategically placed cam-

eras have allowed him to precisely measure how much ice is permanently disappearing.

Box’s innovations have earned him accolades and recognition from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union and other organizations that value drive, curiosity and critical thinking. He was also invited to be a contributing author to the IPCC’s most recent 2007 report on the causes and consequences of climate change. That same year the panel won the Nobel Peace Prize, which it shared with former Vice President Al Gore.

Climate scientists have already done their homework, Box emphasized, adding that the results are irrefutable. Report after exhaustive report repeat the warning that humans are contributing to their own demise by continuing to warm the planet by emitting heat-trapping gases, he said.

Treading Academic Water Long Enough

Box sees no reason why he can’t maintain his professional scientific credibility while making a foray into activism.

He said some of his fellow scientists already have complimented him for signing the letter

and for deciding to travel to the Washington protest. His impression is that he won’t be shunned by a community that’s becoming more vocal about its convictions.

“OK, so what’s next is what I keep asking myself,” Box said about his evolution as a scientist. “I’ve achieved what I set out to do with climatology. Am I just going to just keep studying the melting ice in Greenland? Then I’d just be treading water instead of swimming.”

By participating in the protest, he might liberate other climate scientists to take a stand, he said. If Hansen, who has fashioned a distinguished career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, can lead such a charge among the older guard, Box figures he might be an inspiration for mid-career scientists with potentially more to lose.

Still, Box struggles with that longtime inner voice that tells scientists not to take sides, utter opinions or wave around signs with pithy messages as activists do at rallies.

Yes, he admits to being a bit apprehensive about being confronted by climate deniers who might accuse him of being part of a vast Al Gore conspiracy. But he wasn’t worried enough to cancel his September flight.

“If our elected leaders aren’t acting, then we’re going to have to get more involved with our democracy,” he said. “This is about motivating decision-makers to do their job. I’d like to think that scientists engaging skillfully with words and reason could start to change this problem . . . This is a moral movement and a moral issue. It’s unethical for us to stand by while the greed of others results in the destruction of our biosphere.”

“I feel I’m on the high ground defending this position and that I have reason on my side,” he continued. “The question is, will anybody listen?”

A year or so ago, very few observers would have predicted that the Keystone XL pipeline — which has the potential to double, or perhaps triple the amount of diluted bitumen flowing to this country from its northern

neighbor — would dominate climate activists’ agenda and galvanize the movement.

But Box said that mining the oil sands would boost North America’s carbon footprint so dramatically that it is the perfect centerpiece for the complex struggle over global warming.

“If Obama authorizes this pipeline, it will prove that the power of oil is greater than the power of reason,” Box said. “He cares about this issue and he tells us he wants the country to run on clean energy. Does he cave in? We shall see.” [Ed.: He caved.]

Giving Up Not an Option

Although Obama was vacationing on Martha’s Vineyard for part of the time activists from across the nation were holding court near the White House, Box predicted that the protest’s peaceful strategy would be effective.

“I’m convinced that a non-violent approach will work,” Box said. “If it gets Obama’s attention it will have accomplished more than the next snazzy article appearing on the cover of a major scientific journal.”

Lessons from his earliest geography classes reinforced how vital it is to always connect the dots to the human element.

“Sure, it’s fascinating to study Arctic ice,” he said. “But when what happens in the Arctic is felt throughout the world and the science is relevant to human livelihoods we owe it to ourselves to act.”

While Box is savvy enough to know that much of the climate debate has been hijacked by extremists more intrigued with hyperbole than facts, he is optimistic enough to hope that a peaceful demonstration can prompt rational thinking.

“I want to believe that reason will prevail here,” he said, adding that both science and survival are about devising solutions. “I’ve learned you never give up. That’s how I’ve been successful so far.”

See original story at <http://solveclimatenews.com/news/20110818/ohio-climate-change-scientist-jason-box-ipcc-keystone-xl-pipeline-oil-sands-protests>.

Records *Continued from page 1*

the 1950s, although that historic drought lasted longer than the current dry spell. A large area of high pressure anchored firmly over the southern plains blocked any Gulf moisture from reaching the area for almost the entire month.

Along record daily highs, average temperature readings in parts of Texas were also historic. Lubbock reported an average monthly temperature of 85.8 degrees, more than eight degrees above the

historic average. Houston and Galveston also recorded their warmest June on record.

For the western climate region, June preceded unprecedented extremes of precipitation, drought and snowpack, according to the NCDC. Temperatures were cooler than average across most of the region with the exception of the southeastern area, where Clayton, New Mexico reported its warmest June on record, six degrees above average.

Northern and central California saw well above-normal precipitation for the month and the state as a whole reported its wettest June on record, going back to 1895.

By contrast, New Mexico reported its driest June on record, Carlsbad went 223 days without precipitation, then picked up 0.01 inches of rain June 2. The rest of the month was completely dry.

In one other record of note, Las Vegas reported the

driest air ever measured at any official weather station, with a relative humidity reading of 0.6 percent.

Information compiled from the NOAA National Climatic Data Center, State of the Climate: National Overview for June 2011, <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national>. Summit County Citizens Voice (www.summitvoice.org) is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.



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Tioga State Forest Tract 587. Remember, this forest belongs to all of us.

Adding Up the Impacts: How Good Will Pennsylvania Be At Marcellus Math?

Submitted by Dick Martin
PAForest Coalition

By John H. Quigley
PennFuture: June 1, 2011

Getting Pennsylvania's Marcellus natural gas play right must include enacting the right regulations, vigorously enforcing them and taxing the industry.

But all that is not enough. It must also include an ability to add things up.

The Marcellus formation underlies two thirds of the state. At least seven million acres – 25 percent of the land area of the state – has been leased for drilling. About 3,000 Marcellus wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania so far. Over the next several decades, tens of thousands – maybe hundreds of thousands – of wells will be drilled. Thousands of miles of roads, gathering lines, pipelines, industrial infrastructure will gouge and change the face of Penn's Woods.

What will be the impact of this spider web that will spin across two-thirds of our state?

We must take a hard, scientific look at what are called cumulative impacts – adding up the incremental impact of ALL of the reasonably foreseeable development associated with gas exploration across two-thirds of the state. This ultimately should include consideration of impacts to water, air, soils, habitats, ecosystems, public recreation and more.

But let's start with something manageable – the forests that cover 60 percent of our state.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) recently released Pennsylvania Energy Impacts Assessment, the first of two reports that begin a serious conversation – and serious inquiry – about what kind of Pennsylvania we will leave for our children and grandchildren. The study looks at the harm done to Pennsylvania's forests from development of natural gas, wind, wood biomass and associated electric and gas transmission lines.

I will focus here on TNC's

estimated impacts of natural gas development.

TNC has estimated the impact of as many as 60,000 wells that could be drilled across the state by 2030. They looked at the total amount of land that will be cleared or disturbed for well pads, new or expanded roads, gathering pipelines and water impoundments.

TNC's study found that by 2030, between 38,000 to 90,000 acres of forest could be cleared for new Marcellus gas wells in Pennsylvania. These clearings will disrupt forest ecosystems and could threaten forest interior species in an additional 91,000 to 220,000 forest acres adjacent to Marcellus development.

These lands contain nearly 40 percent of Pennsylvania's globally rare and threatened species.

TNC found that aquatic habitats are at risk, too. Nearly 80 percent of the state's most intact brook trout watersheds could see at least some Marcellus gas development during the next 20 years.

And that's not all. Part two of the Assessment will be released soon. In it, TNC looks at the impact of the pipelines that will be built to get all that Marcellus gas to market.

THE SOBERING NEWS IS THAT THE OVERALL IMPACT FROM PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA IS LIKELY TO EXCEED THE IMPACT FROM WELL PADS AND ROADS.

TNC's preliminary estimates are that between 10,000 and 15,000 miles of new gathering lines will be built, leading to an estimated loss of 50,000 to 120,000 acres of natural habitat and additional damage to 300,000 to 900,000 acres of adjacent forest.

Further, at least 1,700 miles of new transport lines are projected, leading to an estimated minimum loss of 14,000 acres of natural habitat and damage to an additional 50,000 acres of adjacent forest.

So, let's do a little arithmetic.

TNC's total estimates for cumulative impacts to Pennsylvania's forests from Marcellus natural gas development are between 102,000 and 210,000 acres of forest cleared and an additional 440,000 to 1.1 million acres of forest habitat disruption.

That's a grand total of between 543,000 and 1.3 million acres of forest lost or harmed.

Now, forests cover 17 million acres of our state. So TNC's estimate translates into damage to between about three and eight percent of the state's forests from gas development.

Because many of the state's largest and most intact – and sensitive – forest patches could be fragmented, the results of damaging what seems like a relatively small percentage of the total forest could be disproportionately severe.

TNC sums up the situation well:

Clearly, the heart of some of Pennsylvania's best natural habitats lie(s) directly in the path of future energy development. Integrating information on conservation priorities into energy planning, operations and policy by energy companies and government agencies sooner rather than later could dramatically reduce these impacts.

Some of this harm, then, is preventable. Some can be minimized. It depends on our ability to add things up and understand what the totals mean. Work by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) shows us how the impacts can be avoided or minimized. The agency's environmental review process and a new state forest monitoring program are exemplary.

DCNR recently issued new guidelines for administering oil and gas activities on state forest lands in a sustainable manner – great, leading-edge conservation work by Secretary Richard Allan and the women and men of DCNR. These approaches should inform Marcellus development statewide and not just on public lands.

Note from John Quigley

I have seen reports that seven million acres are leased. The Nature Conservancy says it may be as high as 10 million but I would say "at least seven million." That is a quarter of the land area of Pennsylvania.

I have seen estimates of wells drilled of 60,000 to 200,000 over the next 20 years. No one really knows. I would say "perhaps as many as 200,000."

The figures on the public lands are: 700,000 acres of state forest available for drilling – a third of the total state forest and half of the state forest that lies atop Marcellus.

Pennsylvania does not own the mineral rights on 300,000 of those acres; it has affirmatively leased about 400,000 acres where it does own mineral rights. Some of these leases go back 50 or more years. 130,000 acres has been leased over the last three years.

About 60,000 of those acres were leased after DCNR was ordered by the General Assembly to raise money for the state budget – the first time that has ever happened in the history of Pennsylvania.

On those 700,000 acres – as many as 12,000 wells will be drilled over the next 20 years.

AND . . . Pennsylvania owns only 20 percent of state Park land [because the state does not own subsurface rights] and 61 parks lie atop the Marcellus. I blogged about this last week at <http://pennfuture.blogspot.com>.

John Quigley is the former Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and is currently the Strategic Advisor and Consultant for Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture).



Photo by Tanya Shenk, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife
A lynx in the wild country of Colorado.

Will the Lynx Survive?

By Bob Berwyn
Summit County Citizens Voice

State wildlife agency testing new method for monitoring wild carnivore populations on a landscape scale

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — If you've been waiting for the 2011 spring lynx kitten count from the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, don't hold your breath. Instead if visiting individual dens to collar and count lynx, state biologists are shifting gears, working to determine whether the wild cats can hold their own in Colorado in the long run with an unprecedented habitat occupancy model.

Intensive monitoring during the first 10 years of the state lynx recovery program included annual visits to lynx dens, as well as aerial and satellite monitoring. The research yielded detailed information about lynx behavior and reproduction, including annual reports that specified the number of new kittens as a way of measuring reproductive success. The 2009-2010 annual lynx program report is at <http://www.scribd.com/doc/61867247/Colorado-Lynx-AnnualReport-2009-2010>.

But this year, state biologists are switching to a new mode of tracking the rare mountain wild cats. Using a network of motion-activated cameras, snow tracking and genetic sampling, the researchers hope to determine where the cats are living, eating and sleeping and how well they are filling all the available habitat in the state.

The data from those sources will help document the distribution and persistence of lynx across the landscape, said biologist Tanya Shenk, who led the Colorado recovery effort in its first 10 years and now works for the National Park Service as a climate change and landscape ecologist. Shenk said there has been a general move by wildlife and conservation biologists to move away from invasive techniques that put a lot of stress on individual animals.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife map gives a general idea of the distribution of lynx in the Rockies through 2007.

"We think the population is stable at between 200 and 400 lynx," said biologist Jake Ivan, who leads the lynx team for the state. The cats continue to occupy areas outside the San Juans as their population grows. Lynx dens have been documented as far north as Summit County and beyond.

"We're getting the sense they're coming into areas north of I-70," Ivan said.

The site-occupancy monitoring strategy has been used to track populations of smaller species but is untested on the broad scale of carnivore populations, according to Eric Odell, the state species conservation coordinator. The researchers said they won't get as much data on individual cats but hope that the new approach will provide a better big-picture understanding of the lynx population throughout the state. Similar projects are under way to monitor tigers in India and jaguars in Belize, Odell said. "It's a much more efficient and cost-effective way of watching trends in occupied habitat," he added.

The wildlife agency tested the new monitoring methods in a pilot project in the San Juans during the past two years and is establishing protocols for

expanding the program statewide, according to biologist Jake Ivan, who is leading the lynx team. Ivan said lynx are attracted to the cameras by visual cues, including reflective CDs hung from nearby tree branches.

The idea is to try and accurately assess lynx populations broken down into areas that mimic the size of a home range. During the first two years of testing the new method, the researchers still had access to data from radio-collared lynx. That enables the research team to measure how effective the cameras are at capturing the animals in a given area.

The biologists can use those two years worth of detection-probability information to design an effective monitoring program for larger areas, Shenk explained. Using the habitat occupancy modeling will also enable the researchers to get data from more remote areas where there aren't many records of lynx. In the end, that could help paint a larger and more complete picture of how the wild cats are doing in Colorado.

Background

The medium-size lynx were hunted nearly to extinction during the settlement of the West, with only small populations remaining in three of the 16 states they originally inhabited. The cats were formally listed as threatened by the federal government in 2000 and remain the subject of ongoing legal battles as conservation groups push the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate more critical habitat.

The federal government has also been slow to define benchmarks for the overall recovery of the species nationwide, in the form of a national recovery plan.

A year before the listing, the Colorado Division of Wildlife launched a program to restore the carnivores in the state's mountains and forest., following a tradition of recovering native species. Between 1999 and 2006, biologists released 218 lynx from Canada and Alaska in the San Juans. Researchers started documenting reproduction in 2003, counting 141 kittens through 2010, including several third-generation Colorado offspring in the last couple of years.

Reproduction rates fluctuated, reaching as high as 50 documented kittens in 2005 and dropping as low as zero in 2007 and 2008. Biologists suspect that reproducing cycles change in tandem with populations of snowshoe hares, the primary prey of the cats. Those cycles have been well-documented in Alaska and Canada. The Colorado research showed that lynx were successful in capturing red squirrels when snowshoe hares were scarce, suggesting that lynx can survive the dips in snowshoe hare populations.

Overall, biologists estimate that the cats' reproductive rate has outpaced mortality – the key factor in determining whether the population will persist and become self-sustaining. In 2010, biologists estimated that about 30 to 40 percent of the female lynx in the state bore litters of kittens.

But climate change, bark beetles, wildfires and development remain as wild cards. All those factors could alter critical lynx habitat in unforeseen ways, according to state biologists.

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

Activist Bidding on Forest Land to Save It Spends Time in Jail

A Letter From Prison:
Tim DeChristopher Speaks Out

The following text appeared in a handwritten letter from Tim DeChristopher addressed to Grist's Jennifer Prediger.

By Tim DeChristopher, excerpt
Grist.org: August 30, 2011

If I had ever doubted the power of words, Judge Benson made their importance all too clear at my sentencing last month. When he sentenced me to two years in prison plus three years probation, he admitted my offense "wasn't too bad." The problem, Judge Benson insisted, was my "continuing trail of statements" and my lack of regret. Apparently, all he really wanted was an apology and, for that, two years in prison could have been avoided. In fact, Judge Benson said that had it not been for the political statements I



Tim DeChristopher, 29, a former wilderness guide who ran up bids totaling more than 22,000 acres near Arches and Canyonlands national parks.

made in public, I would have avoided prosecution entirely.

As is generally the case with civil disobedience, it was extremely important to the government that I come before the majesty of the court with my head bowed and express regret. So important, in fact, that an apology with proper genuflection is currently fair trade for a couple years in prison. Perhaps that's why most activist cases end in a plea bargain.

Since that seems like such

a good deal, some people are asking why I wasn't willing to shut my mouth and take it. But perhaps we should be asking why the government is willing to make such a deal. The most recent plea bargain they offered me was for as little as 30 days in jail. (I'm writing this on my 28th day.) So if they wanted to lock me up for two years, why would they let me walk for an apology and keeping my mouth shut for a while?

...Why do my words make that much of a difference...?

With civil disobedience cases, however, the government puts an extra value on an apology. By its very nature, civil disobedience is an act whose message is that the government and its laws are not the sole voice of moral authority. It is a statement that we the citizens recognize a higher moral code to which the law is no longer aligned and we invite our fellow citizens to rec-

ognize the difference. A government truly of the people, for the people and by the people is not threatened by citizens issuing such a challenge. But government whose authority depends on an ignorant or apathetic citizenry is threatened by every act of open civil disobedience, no matter how small . . .

But our modern government is dismantling the First Amendment because they understand the very same thing our founding fathers did when they wrote it: What one person can do is to plant the seeds of love and outrage in the hearts of a movement. And if those hearts are fertile ground, those seeds of love and outrage will grow into a revolution.

Tim DeChristopher is a climate activist and cofounder of Peaceful Uprising. Read the entire letter at: http://www.alternet.org/story/152222/a_letter_from_prison%3A_tim_dechristopher_speaks_out.

Time to Boycott Bluefin Tuna Companies

According to an Australian government study, the canned tuna industry is responsible for killing thousands of sharks, rays, sea turtles, sea birds and other marine life as a result of the methods they use to catch tuna every year.

Here is an excerpt from a letter Greenpeace sent to the CEO of Chicken of the Sea, but Starkist and Bumble Bee are also at fault.

Dear Mr. Chan,
...We implore you to take the following actions:

1) Stop using fish-aggregating devices (FADs). High bycatch rates and the massive incidental catch of vulnerable species (particularly juvenile bigeye tuna) make this fishing method an unsustainable option. Do not purchase or sell tuna caught using FAD-associated purse seine fishing operations and publish a timely and prompt timeline for a full transition to more sustainable catch methods such as FAD-free purse seines and pole-and-line.

2) End your sale of yellowfin tuna. Yellowfin stocks are in grave peril (largely due to FAD-associated skipjack boats) and cannot meet targeted pressure given the incidental pressure that they are enduring. Institute traceability measures that will allow your skipjack tuna products to be sold and purchased with confidence.

3) Stop sourcing tuna from the four Pacific Commons "high seas pockets." These poorly regulated and monitored areas have long been holdouts for overfishing and pirate fishing activities and are now being afforded increased protection by the Parties to the Nauru agreement, Pacific island nations that are enforcing a purse seine fishing ban in these areas. The areas however are still vulnerable to long-line fishing and the global tuna fleet must begin fishing in areas where their actions can be monitored and regulated by the states which own the tuna resources in question.

4) Transition away from conventional indiscriminate longline operations. The massive bycatch of turtles, sharks, seabirds and other animals incurred by these longliners represents a colossal level of collateral damage that can be avoided by more judicious and precise fishing technology, having 100% observer coverage and by transferring catches in designated ports areas.



Photo by Mark J. Palmer, SaveJapanDolphins.org

Activists have been working for years to stop the slaughter of dolphins in Taiji, Japan. September 1, 2011 was a big day for them.

Our Day at the Cove for the Dolphins!

By Laura Bridgeman

Save Japan Dolphins.org and Earth Island Institute: September 2, 2011

As our bus pulled into the parking lot across from the Cove, as depicted in the Oscar-winning documentary bearing that name, we immediately knew that our efforts had been a success. The normally sleepy town of Taiji, Japan was transformed into a media circus – which is precisely what we, at Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project, had hoped for.

Cheers erupted from our bus, filled with volunteers from around the world, as the police escorted us one by one into their bus to fill out paperwork and to examine our passports. The media, kept at bay by yet more policemen, vied anxiously for a shot of Ric and a glimpse of controversy.

September 1st was Japan Dolphins Day. This was an international day of remembrance for those dolphins that have been, and will be, violently killed in the town of Taiji; it was a day of remembrance for the people of Japan who were lost in the trag-

edies of March 11; it is a day of awareness which brings to light the dangers of consuming mercury-contaminated dolphin meat – facts which the small group of dolphin hunters, together with the Japanese government, conceal from their unsuspecting public.

As our group made its way from the parking lot to the haunted shores of the Cove's beach, PEACE signs in tow and giving interviews along the way, I can remember thinking that this is what needs to happen. Awareness must be raised within Japan to halt these hunts once and for all; indeed, when Japanese people discover the atrocities that go on in Taiji, they are nearly always shocked and appalled. And rightly so – the hunts are a major source of mercury contamination for those who consume the flesh, as well as being shockingly inhumane toward the dolphins themselves.

Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project works to end dolphin slaughter and exploitation in many ways – we firmly believe in a variety of peaceful but effective tactics. We

put pressure on United States-based companies as well as those around the world that support or engage in dolphin captivity, as these are the companies that ultimately fund the hunts like those in Taiji. We raise awareness among consumers the world over to reduce demand for captive dolphins. We rehabilitate and release captive individual dolphins, giving them a second lease on life. These are all extremely worthwhile pursuits, ones in which we have enjoyed many degrees of success. The peaceful event in Taiji was yet another facet of our overall campaign.

When we reached the pebbled shore of the cove, I let the waves wash over my feet for a moment. I shuddered to think of the blood spilled here each year and which would be again shortly. We gathered into a circle and held hands and dedicated a moment of silent remembrance for the Japanese people and the dolphins. The waves and wind, together with the click and flash of the media's cameras, were the only sounds to be heard.

Later that evening, some of

our volunteers headed back to Osaka and went downtown for dinner. As we were leaving the restaurant after an authentic and delicious Japanese meal, we were approached by two locals who recognized us from the evening news (as truly dedicated volunteers, we were still wearing our matching Dolphin Project T-shirts!). These Japanese people (a mother and a daughter) told us that they had been unaware of the dolphin killing in Taiji and that they were happy we were there. The daughter loved dolphins and she did not want to see them hurt.

It is times like this when I feel that, together, we can truly make a difference. It is high time that we human beings begin to treat our fellow Earthlings with more respect – this extends past dolphins and applies to all forms of life.

The United States has a long way to go, just like Japan does. But if we work together, we can effect change. We must begin to behave ourselves.

Let us begin by freeing the dolphins.

Film: One Man's Fight Against Climate Change

Tiny Island Country Disappearing

By Katie Klingsporn, excerpt
Telluride Daily Planet: September 4, 2011

The Maldives is a nation of minuscule islands, atolls and coral reefs scattered across the Indian Ocean like a constellation.

It's breathtakingly beautiful, with water like blue glass, sandy beaches and the kind of palm trees and hammock scenes you see in travel brochures. It's also the lowest country on Earth, with 400 miles of coastline and its population of nearly 400,000 dwelling at or just above sea level.

And because of this geography, it faces calamitous effects if climate change continues unabated. If sea levels continue to rise at current rates, the Maldives will vanish into the ocean by the next century.

Mohamed Nasheed was elected president of the Maldives in 2008 – he was the first democratically-elected leader of a country that had just endured 30 years of dictatorship rule. As soon as he took office, he took on the monumental task of telling the world about the climate crisis faced by his country and attempting to head it off.

"The Island President," a documentary by Jon Shenk, Richard Berge and Bonni Cohen, follows Nasheed through his first year in office as the new leader takes bold measures to forge international consensus on lowering carbon emissions – a job that entails convincing some of the browniest countries in the world to enact substantial changes. The film plays this weekend during the Telluride Film Festival.

Gary Meyer, co-director of the festival, said "'The Island President' is a suspenseful, punchy and compelling documentary. I think it's probably the most powerful environmental film I've ever seen."

It's very much a movie about a cause – about climate change and the terrible implications it holds. But it's also a portrait of an incredible, courageous and charismatic individual battling for what he believes in.

"A lot of people who have seen it...kind of walk away thinking it could be a film about any remarkable person fighting for a cause," Shenk said . . .

The Amazing Migrations of Leatherback Turtles

By Bob Berwyn

Summit Voice: August 1, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — Giant leatherback sea turtles swim from nesting sites in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea all the way across the Pacific Ocean to the coast of California in search of food. These long-distance migrations mean more international cooperation is needed to preserve the critically endangered reptiles, according to a pair of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists who used satellites to track the turtles for 10 years.

Conservation efforts at beach nesting sites are only part of the equation, the researcher said, explaining that the turtles have to be protected from other threats in foraging areas.

"Tracking the turtles on their extraordinary migrations over the years has allowed us to finally piece together the complex linkages between their breeding areas and feeding areas," said senior author Peter Dutton, with NOAA

Fisheries Service. "The leatherbacks have acted as international ambassadors, leading us to join with partners on both sides of the Pacific in a concerted effort to conserve leatherbacks."

"The turtles nesting at Papua Barat (Indonesia), Papua New Guinea and other islands in our region depend on food resources in waters managed by many other nations for their survival," said Ricardo Tapilatu from the State University of Papua (UNIPA). "It is important to protect leatherbacks in these foraging areas so that our nesting beach conservation efforts can be effective."

Female leatherbacks lay their eggs on tropical nesting beaches before migrating to foraging areas around the world to feed on jellyfish. Leatherbacks are seasonal visitors to the West Coast, including the central California coast, traveling across the Pacific and arriving in late summer and fall to forage on large aggregations of brown sea nettles (*Chrysaora fuscescens*).

The study is based on data



Photo by Scott R. Benson, National Marine Fisheries Service
A leatherback sea turtle.

from 126 leatherbacks tracked by satellite. It was published last week in the journal *Ecosphere*.

The western Pacific nesters foraged not only in distant temperate ecosystems of the North Pacific but also in temperate and tropical Large Marine Ecosys-

tems of the southern hemisphere and Indo-Pacific seas.

"We discovered a much greater diversity of foraging behavior than previously thought for Pacific leatherbacks," Benson said. "The foraging areas we identified exhibited a wide range

of oceanographic features, including mesoscale eddies, coastal retention areas, current boundaries, or stationary fronts, all of which are known mechanisms for aggregating leatherback prey."

The paper also identifies foraging areas in the East Australia Current Extension and the Tasman Front, drawing attention to the potential threat from the intense fishing by international fleets in these waters.

Leatherbacks (*Dermochelys coriacea*) are the largest of all marine turtles, weighing up to 2,000 pounds and measuring almost six feet in length. The demise of several leatherback populations around the Pacific has been caused by extensive harvesting of eggs and breeding females on the nesting beaches by indigenous populations, as well as accidental capture in fishing operations. Some of the last remaining Pacific nesting populations are found in the western Pacific in Indonesia, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Protecting and rebuilding

leatherback sea turtle populations has been a priority for NOAA since 2000, when they were listed under the Endangered Species Act. The NOAA Marine Fisheries Service restricts commercial fishing in large areas north of Hawaii and off the United States West Coast because of concern over accidental by-catch of leatherbacks and has been working to revise which areas are designated as critical habitat for the turtles. They are also listed as critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

"Our telemetry data will help us develop better analytical models to help fisheries managers predict when and where leatherbacks might be found in areas targeted for fishing," said Tomoharu Eguchi with NOAA Fisheries, a co-author of the paper.

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

U.S., European Commission Agree to Enforce Fishing Regulations

Center for Biological Diversity: September 7, 2011

WASHINGTON — The United States and the European Commission today signed a joint statement vowing to combat illegal fishing. The agreement acknowledges the devastating environmental and socioeconomic effects of seafood black markets, yet marks only a small step forward for fisheries management, as it does little more on a practical level than reaffirm a commitment to enforcing established fishing regulations.

"This agreement's good in spirit but in practice it does little to rectify years of overfishing and mismanagement of international fisheries. Trade restrictions for imperiled stocks or sanctions against repeat-offender countries would be more efficient and effective," said Catherine Kilduff, a staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, which works to save marine species and improve fishery sustainability.



Bluefin Tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*). Photo: NOAA

Atlantic bluefin tuna is one example of a fishery with a thriving black market that has decimated populations. On August 10th, the Center petitioned the United States to propose listing bluefin under an international treaty, CITES, that would ban

cross-border trade of this imperiled fish. CITES, the major global treaty on endangered species, has a record of saving species hurt by international trade. Listing bluefin under CITES would improve catch documentation and certification and stop illegal operators from benefitting from the sale of fish – goals listed in today's agreement.

"The high seas are an impossibly vast area to enforce fishing regulations, so pulling bluefin tuna from the brink of extinction demands strict rules and oversight of trade," said Kilduff. "This agreement does nothing to fix underlying problems of conflicts of interest and a lack of transparency in international fisheries management, problems that make the fishing industry ripe for illegal activity."

Other measures could also help save bluefin tuna. The Endangered Species Act prohibits U.S. trade in protected species and could curb pressure for illegal fishing. However, bluefin awaits legal protections because in June, the National Marine

Fisheries Service denied protections and promised to reconsider whether Atlantic bluefin tuna should be listed as endangered or threatened in 2013.

According to a McKinsey & Company report released this month, current bluefin harvesting levels are projected to drive the fishery to collapse between 2012 and 2015. If illegal and unreported fishing could be 100 percent eliminated, the fishery could recover by 2023. But impressively, if the fishery were to be completely closed, according to the report, it would recover within eight years.

More than 25,000 people have joined the Center's bluefin boycott, pledging not to eat at restaurants serving bluefin tuna; dozens of chefs and owners of seafood and sushi restaurants have pledged not to sell bluefin.

For more information about the Center's campaign to save the Atlantic bluefin tuna, visit: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/fish/Atlantic_bluefin_tuna/index.html.

SC Girl Finds Goodness in Gardening, Sharing Her Crops

By Sandy Summers

AmericanProfile.com, excerpt

Katie Stagliano, 13, gives new meaning to the word *sharecropper*.

The founder of Katie's Kroops oversees six gardens that have produced tons of vegetables for soup kitchens and other charitable organizations in and around her hometown of Summerville, South Carolina (population 43,392).

Katie's Kroops took root in 2008 when Katie brought home a cabbage seedling for a third-grade science project at Pinewood Preparatory School. She planted

the seedling in her family's backyard garden, faithfully tended it and watched the leafy vegetable grow into a 40-pound giant. Katie hauled the colossal cabbage to a nearby soup kitchen where a long line of people waited for what might be their only meal of the day.

"She could barely carry it in," recalls Sue Hanshaw, CEO of Tricounty Family Ministries in nearby North Charleston. "I asked her to prepare and serve it herself."

Katie went to work. She chopped, cooked and served the cabbage over rice to help feed 275 hungry people.

Motivated by the bounty of a single

cabbage, Katie decided she could feed even more people by planting more gardens and donating the harvest to the hungry. When Katie received permission from the Pinewood Prep principal to plant a garden on the school grounds, Katie's Kroops was born.

"Something happens, sparks you, inspires you," the enterprising gardener says. The school garden's first crop consisted of easy-to-grow tomatoes and peppers. Today, Katie's gardens produce beans, carrots, corn, eggplant, herbs, lettuce, melons, okra, rutabagas, squash, etc....



Photo by Sarah van Gelder

Warden Mark Kawika Patterson shows off the banana plants, taro patch and vegetable gardens grown on prison grounds by inmates and community partners.

A Bookcase for Every Child: Town Promotes Literacy

By Marti Attoun

AmericanProfile.com, excerpt

Hugging her stuffed lamb, Nija Graves, 5, picks one of her favorite books, *Rain*, from a hand-crafted oak bookcase personalized with her name, then tells her mother that she's ready to read.

"We read every evening," says Sherry Graves, 46, of Conway, Arkansas (population 43,167). "Sometimes Mija says, 'Will you read me five books?' She always wants more books."

Mija is among 359 Conway children who have received free bookcases stocked with books since 2005, thanks to A Book-

case for Every Child, a project started by Jim Davidson and run like clockwork by a team of community volunteers.

"We do The Bookcase Project because we care. We love these kids," says Davidson, 72, of Conway, a syndicated newspaper columnist whose concern about illiteracy inspired him to create The Bookcase Project.

"Parental and community involvement is the only way to improve literacy," says Davidson, who came up with the idea to spread the joy of reading by building and providing custom-made bookcases and starter libraries of a dozen books to three- and four-year-olds enrolled in Head

Start, a federal program that promotes education among preschoolers from low-income households where books may be scarce and parents sometimes struggle with reading.

"The primary purpose of this Bookcase Project is to encourage and help parents in disadvantaged families to read to and with their children," says Davidson, who donates the proceeds from his book of columns, *Learning, Earning & Giving Back*, to the literacy project. "If these young kids don't get the language foundation, vocabulary and communication skills they need, they're behind before they even start to school . . ."

Students Lift Car off Utah Biker After Fiery Crash

By Jennifer Dobner

Associated Press, excerpt

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The students knew they had to act quickly when they disregarded the dangers of approaching a smoking car and rushed to help lift it so a man — trapped beneath with a motorcycle just feet away in flames — could be freed.

Abbas Sharif remembers only that something needed to be done as he, a fellow Utah State University doctoral candidate and more than a half dozen others lined up on one side of the 4,000-pound car. They were able to lift it within mo-

ments, allowing one of the rescuers to pull Brandon Wright to safety.

"The chance of him dying if we don't do it is like 100 percent," the 28-year-old Sharif said, recalling the sequence of events that played out Monday in Logan, a college town roughly 90 miles north of Salt Lake City. "If you weigh the chance of you being in danger, that's going to be low, like 20 percent compared to 100 percent."

After the heroic act, Assistant Logan Police Chief Jeff Curtis said one could "only speculate what the outcome would have been" had none of the rescuers sprung to action.

Fore their bravery, the rescuers are being called "heroes" and "angels," though none want the label.

"That's a big title," said Sharif. "I don't consider myself a hero. It's just our humanity . . . Everyone is going to help."

Their few minutes of heroics were captured on video and have gone viral on the Internet. The man they saved — the 21-year-old Utah State University student — is grateful.

"I'm just very thankful for everyone that helped me out," Wright told The Associated Press by telephone from his hospital bed. "They saved my life . . ."

The Heinz Award and What I Plan to Do With It

By Sandra Steingraber, excerpt

I'm thrilled to receive a Heinz Award in recognition of my research and writing on environmental health . . . This is work made possible by my residency as a scholar within the Department of Environmental Studies at Ithaca College.

And it comes with a \$100,000 unrestricted cash prize. Which is stunning.

As a bladder cancer survivor of 32 years, I'm intimately familiar with two kinds of uncertainty: the kind that comes while waiting for results from the pathology and radiology labs and the kind that is created by the medical insurance industry who decides whether or not to pay the pathology and radiology bills. Over the years, I've learned to analyze data and raise children while surrounded by medical and financial insecurities. It's a high-wire act.

But as an ecologist, I'm aware of a much larger insecurity: the one created by our nation's ruinous dependency on fossil fuels in all their forms. When we light them on fire, we fill the atmosphere with heat-trapping gases that are destabilizing the climate and acidifying the oceans (whose plankton stocks provide us half of the oxygen we breathe). When we use fossil fuels as feed-stocks to make materials such as pesticides and solvents, we create toxic substances that trespass into our children's bodies (where they raises risks for cancer, asthma, infertility, and learning disorders).

Emancipation from our terrible enslavement to fossil fuels is possible. The best science shows us that the United States could, within two decades, entirely run on green, renewable energy if we chose to dedicate ourselves to that course. But, right now, that is not the trail we are

blazing.

Instead, evermore extreme and toxic methods are being deployed to blast fossilized carbon from the earth. We are blowing up mountains to get at coal, felling boreal forests to get at tar, and siphoning oil from the ocean deep. Most ominously, through the process called fracking, we are shattering the very bedrock of our nation to get at the petrified bubbles of methane trapped inside.

Fracking turns fresh water into poison. It fills our air with smog, our roadways with 18-wheelers hauling hazardous materials, and our fields and pastures with pipelines and toxic pits.

I am therefore announcing my intent to devote my Heinz Award to the fight against hydrofracking in upstate New York, where I live with my husband and our two children . . .

ADHD Symptoms Milder After Green Space Playtime

CHAMPAIGN, Illinois, September 16, 2011 (ENS, excerpt) — Children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) who regularly play outdoors in areas with green grass and trees have milder symptoms than those who play indoors or in built outdoor environments, University of Illinois researchers report.

The study of more than 400 children with ADHD found the association, which holds even when the researchers controlled for income and other variables.

Although many children with ADHD are medicated, most "would benefit from a low-cost, side-effect-free way of managing their symptoms," wrote the study's authors Andrea Faber Taylor, UI crop sciences teaching associate, and Frances Ming Kuo, natural resources and environmental sciences professor.

Their study appears in the current issue of the journal *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being*.

The most commonly diagnosed behavioral disorder of childhood, ADHD, is more common in boys than girls, and affects three to five percent of children in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health, NIH.

Symptoms include severe difficulty concentrating, hyperactivity and poor impulse control.

"No one knows exactly what causes ADHD. It runs in families, so genetics may be a factor," the NIH says. "Whatever the cause may be, it seems to be set in motion early in life as the brain is developing. Imaging studies suggest that the brains of children with ADHD are different from those of other children."

Earlier studies show that even children and adults without ADHD demonstrate improved concentration and impulse control after brief exposure to green outdoor spaces and, in one study, to photos of green settings.

These findings led Taylor and Kuo to examine whether children diagnosed



Photo by Ron Lavine

Children playing on a green field have fewer Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder symptoms.

with ADHD also might benefit from "green time."

In a study published in 2004, they analyzed data from a national Internet-based survey of parents of children formally diagnosed with ADHD. They found that activities in green outdoor settings did correlate with milder symptoms immediately afterward, compared to activities in other settings.

The new study explores other data from the same survey to determine whether the effect also is true for green play settings, such as a park, playground or backyard, that a child visits daily or several times a week.

"Before the current study, we were confident that acute exposures to nature — sort of one-time doses — have short-term impacts on ADHD symptoms," Kuo said. "The question is, if you're getting chronic exposure, but it's the same old stuff because it's in your backyard or it's

the playground at your school, then does that help?"

To address this question, the researchers examined parents' descriptions of their child's daily play setting and overall symptom severity. They also looked at the children's age, sex, formal diagnosis and total household income.

The analyses revealed an association between routine play in green, outdoor settings and milder ADHD symptoms.

"On the whole, the green settings were related to milder overall symptoms than either the built outdoors or indoors settings," Taylor said.

The researchers also found that children with the highest hyperactivity had milder symptoms if they regularly played in a green and open environment, such as a soccer field or large lawn, rather than in a green space with lots of trees or an indoor or built outdoor setting.

Can Prison Be a Healing Place?

Warden of Hawaii's only women's prison creates a sanctuary for residents.

By Sarah van Gelder

YES! Magazine

When Warden Mark Kawika Patterson started work at the Women's Community Correctional Center (WCCC) outside Honolulu, he made a discovery that upended his ideas about prisons. Fully a third of the inmates at Hawaii's only women's prison were on medication for psychiatric disorders, 90 percent of their crimes were drug related and, of those who were addicts, 75 percent had a history of emotional, physical or sexual trauma.

These women don't need punishment, Patterson realized. They need a place to heal. He set out to reinvent the WCCC as a pu'uhonua. In traditional Hawaiian culture, a pu'uhonua is a sanctuary where those who break a taboo or rule, or are fleeing violent conflict, can go for forgiveness and transformation.

Like many prisons, the WCCC had few programs for the inmates when Patterson arrived. Although most of the inmates were incarcerated for minor infractions and classified as minimum security, the entire inmate population of 270 was treated like the 80 prisoners requiring higher security measures. In spite of the large number of women with psychiatric ailments, there were no full-time mental-health professionals, just a part-time psychiatrist. The correctional officers were helping as they could, says Warden Patterson. Some bought crayons and coloring books with their own money so the women with mental illness would come out of their cells and join other women at tables in the courtyards.

But apart from funding for a substance-abuse program, there was no money for programs to help the women rebuild their spirits and learn the job and life skills they would need to succeed on the outside. In fact, the prison budget was being cut.

So the warden turned to the larger community for help and found people in all walks of life prepared to step in. One of the groups that responded was the Lanikai-Kailua Outdoor Circle, a local conservation group that helps inmates grow vegetables in hydroponic gardens. The greens they raise go to the prison kitchen. And together they build small, portable hydroponic gardens that inmates can take with them when they are released.

A culinary arts instructor from the Kapiolani Community College teaches cooking and inmates who earn certificates are getting good job offers when they're released. A welding instructor has also been teaching a class.

Although they represent only 20 percent of the state's population, Native Hawaiians comprise 43 percent of the prison population, so Patterson, who is himself Native Hawaiian, looks for ways to help the women learn their traditions. With the help of the Honolulu Garden Club, the inmates raise taro, bananas and sugar cane, incorporating traditional Hawaiian agricultural practices.

"We've forgotten how to be a village — how to depend on each other," Patterson says. "We used to take care of the kolohe, the people who are

hardheaded," he says. "But now we don't rely on our neighbors anymore. It's easy to take the kolohe person and just throw them away."

"My idea is to get the community involved in bringing [the women] back into the community."

For the Children

More than half of the women at WCCC are mothers. Children can visit the prison on weekends if their caregivers bring them. Counselors from a local nonprofit, Keiki o ka 'Aina (Children of the Land) observe the interactions and coach the mothers in effective parenting. The same group co-hosts picnics for the inmates and their children several times a year, featuring barbecues prepared by the inmates, games and time for quiet conversations and hugs.

Sometimes the children's caregivers ask the warden why the women are getting such good treatment. Many of these are relatives angry about the burden of raising children while their mothers serve time behind bars.

"I tell them it's for the children," the warden says. "So the children won't wind up in prison, too."

But the women must be making progress with the issues that got them locked up if they want to participate. "Because I've sent these women out, sad-faced, with seven or eight kids," Patterson says, "and then they're back in a week or two."

Getting Free

One of those recently released from the WCCC is Daphne Ho'okano, who served four years for trafficking in methamphetamines. Ho'okano started selling drugs at age 12 and began drinking with other members of her close-knit extended family when she was 13.

"When I first came in, I pictured myself behind bars, in lockdown," says Ho'okano, as she recalls a map of her life she drew when she first came to prison. "There was just me all by myself and there was no sunshine."

At first she resisted the treatment programs. "We go through stages in prison," she says. "Denial, grief, anger . . . and then freedom."

Today, she's setting up a mentoring program to help others getting out of WCCC. "Life doesn't get easier just because you're out of prison," she says. "You need help out there, someone who walked the same walk as you, to hold your hand and guide you. That's what drives me — to be part of the solution."

Ho'okano points to her new map showing her life beyond addiction and criminality. "This is me, soaring in the light," she says. "I got free in prison."

With teachers and mentors from the community pitching in, Patterson believes other inmates can likewise find their way to freedom.

"I like to take first steps that have never been done before," Patterson says. "Then, if no one slaps my hand, I just keep on going."

The warden's next project? Tear up the pavement in the prison courtyards and transform these outdoor areas into lush, green gardens.

Sarah van Gelder wrote this article for "Beyond Prisons," the Summer 2011 issue of YES! Magazine. She is co-founder and executive editor of YES! Magazine. She visited the Women's Community Correctional Center in February.

Announcing a New Column Appalachian Reflections Losses Surround Us

By Laura Pietro
Mineral Springs, Pennsylvania

We did live in the wilderness. We did see families of stars that are constellations. But now in Central Pennsylvania, called God's Country and one of the last wilderness areas, the stars are more often dimmed by the blaze of headlights, spotlights and lots of other man-made lights. Farms and fields, forests and hills, are plowed under for roads, malls, business centers, offices, apartments and homes. The losses sustained here are not unusual. It's happening even in the Amazon.

In the Centre Region, near State College, large tracts of farmland and farm houses disappeared into housing developments. The famed Nittany Mountain, an arm of the Appalachian Mountains, is sliced apart by I-99 and carved into slabs by timber cutters. Polluted acidic water seeps, caused by the deep slashes into the mountains, dye the hillside orangey-gray. Carrying bulging plastic bags, trucks rush in from cities thousands of miles away and throw their loads in landfills that once were fields.

The oaks, pines, birches, hemlocks and their kind are fleeing, as are their kin across the globe. Life forms adapted to natural areas are falling prey to massive change. Their fate, if all this continues, is extinction.

Yet there is much that can be preserved. There is much we can, and should, preserve of the land and creatures and plants because of their beauty and because of respect for the interweaving of their lives with ours.

Consider the brilliant red Cardinal Flower, once a very popular wildflower. Because of its striking color it has been over-picked and is rarely seen in the wild. Planting seeds in your backyard will help the Cardinal Flower if your backyard has what the plant needs.

Mucking around with plants creates havoc. You can't just stick a plant anywhere. There are benefits to be gained from helping preserve wildflowers and anyone, even someone with only an apron of a yard, can take part. Just be sure to put these creations in a suitable setting. They are at their best when they



Bees love the spiked, lavender flowers on peppermint plants. People love mint tea. Just dry some leaves, steep and enjoy. Mint also makes a great ground cover. At home almost anywhere, the plant has something for almost everyone and adds a special flavor to the environment. Photo by Laura Pietro

are comfortable in their environment. The Cardinal Flower likes its feet a little wet with a bit of sun on the side.

Some plants like lots of sun; some like lots of shade and there are some who like sun and shade. Some like wet feet and others like dry. Temperatures are another factor. Some plants don't do as well in climates with bitter winters such as the beautiful Mimosa tree with its delicate fringed leaves and tropical pedigree.

In the days of James Fennimore Cooper, trees were everywhere. They should be. They link the natural world and give many benefits, not the least of which is beauty. Framing my view of the world on the East is an island of pine and oak trees. To the North, South and West are red maple, oak, pine, poplar and hemlock.

Along a secluded driveway, among the pines and oaks, are twin Serviceberry trees. Rhododendron shrubs thrust woody branches out of the clumpy clay and rock and their leathery, never-ending leaves add to the array. Robins hide nests there.

On the hillsides, just outside the canopy of trees, are clusters of Mountain Laurel waving creamy spring bouquets. A neighbor, in a setting to their liking, is a family of Lady Slippers also in pink. Each May wild Northern Honeysuckle step

forth like majorettes twirling pink batons. All around them drifts a sweet scent.

Wintergreen plants hug the ground and their tiny red berries nestle under leaves. Crush a thick green leaf of this plant and smell wintergreen. Taste a berry. Residing nearby is another increasing rare neighbor, Trailing Arbutus, which flowers pink or white in spring. Along the sides of a bank on the top of the hill is a colony of Sweet Fern. Thriving under the canopy of the forest are Solomon-Seals, some with reddish berries.

At the top of a hill there was a patch of Mint glowing in a blur of spiked lavender flowers covered by bumblebees in the summer. The Mint disappeared under a pile of rock and dirt debris dumped on it by a careless person. After a few years, the Mint made a comeback. It reconquered. It offered blossoms for bumblebees, leaves for mint herb tea.

But in too many places plants and animals are not making a comeback. Too many are disappearing. This must concern us all.

We cannot destroy all the beautiful creations in the world can we?

Laura Pietro is a former journalist and now a freelance writer with a love for the environment.

The Power of Silence

When things are in turmoil, utilize silence.

Silence is more eloquent than writing, more forceful than words.

If you doubt your own wisdom, remain silent....

In silence we conceal our own shortcomings and hear the mistakes of others.

Even the unwise have been considered wise in their silence.

The heart prompts a man to talk

but the head should act as a check-valve.

Few men have ever regretted being silent

but many have made statements they wish were unspoken.

We cannot reconcile ourselves to being betrayed by our friends,

yet we often betray ourselves by our own tongues.

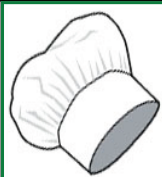
If a friend, or an enemy, attempts to spike you with wit

remain silent and observe the recoil.

Answering a man with words proves that he has hit you hard.

Your silence, on the other hand, disconcerts him.

G. A. Ryder

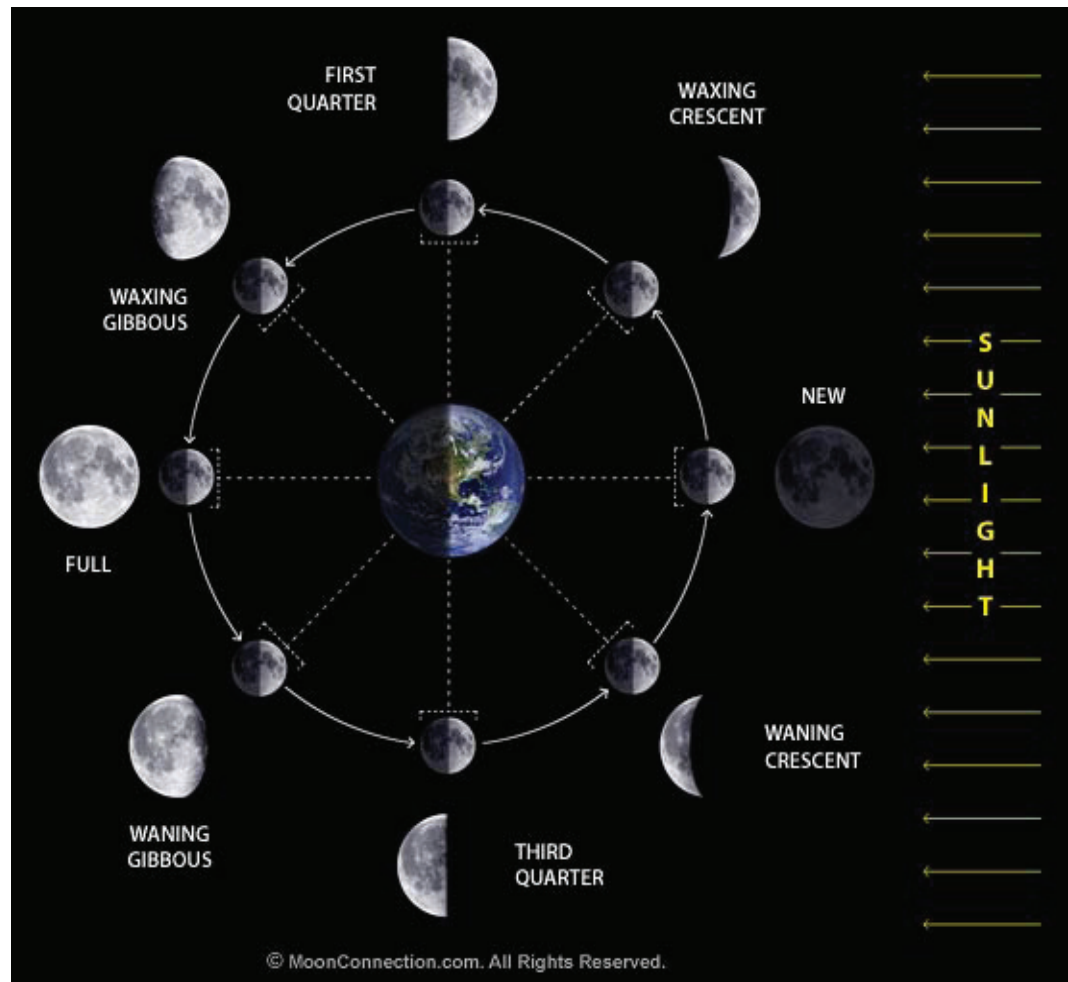


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INVITATION TO WONDER The Moon of My Belonging

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

Who can lay claim to the moon? Despite the footsteps imprinted in her dust and the flags hanging limp above her windless surface, the moon belongs to all humankind. So says the United Nations in a 1967 treaty which forbids individual nations from appropriating parts of the moonscape but fails to exclude private ownership. A surprising number of people have tried to take advantage of this loophole, insisting on their right to buy, sell, swap or otherwise profit from an exchange of extraterrestrial real estate. You laugh? So did I. But then the sadness kicked in: human nature at its avaricious worst.

Quick! Make a list of book or song or movie titles with the word 'moon' in them. This chunk of lifeless rock carries our hearts and longings with her on her 28-day journey. She governs our plantings and our thievings, our emotions and our tides. Earth spins round and round. Earth's oceans spin round and round. Heaping up towards the moon, emptying out away from the moon. Increasing with her light, diminishing with her strength. High tide, low tide. Lunar push, lunar pull.

Through my lifetime I have

known three moons. In New York City I could hardly find her among the street lights. Amidst the ebb and flow of traffic and ambition, what power could the moon possess?

In the high desert of northern New Mexico, the moon was sterling silver in an onyx sky. I gauged her size with words I'd formerly reserved for olives: gargantuan, colossal, mammoth. She gave me a house of baked clay. Plunked me down in a barren, cratered landscape uncannily like her own: the white sandstone of Plaza Blanca. Flecked with silver mica. Pocked with ancient rocks. Even at her first quarter, the very ground swelled with light. By the full, I who had once dismissed the moon learned my own insignificance.

Now I live in St. Mary's County, Maryland, which juts into the Chesapeake Bay across three rivers like a long narrow pier. The sky is a blue-black mussel shell; the moon, its mother-of-pearl glow. Rising over our rippled, wavering waters, she sees herself reflected in a thousand silver chips. Hears herself discussed in a thousand conversations: between soft night breezes and sea grass; murmuring insects and creaking pines; dry leaves and prowling critters; waves and the foam-gilt shore.

This is her family. She is at home here. Her magnetic fingers

twine throughout our countryside, pulling at our rivers, tugging at our creeks. At the syzygy,* the new and the full, the moon's face turns directly on us and we receive the abundant spring tides. At the quadrature,* when her face slants away, our neap tides are scanty. More reliable than any legal contract, these risings and fallings. A treasure continually replenishing itself. An inheritance beyond price.

Who can lay claim to the moon?

In my lifetime I have known three. This last, over Southern Maryland, is the moon of my belonging. I give it to you.

*syzygy: (astronomy) conjunction or opposition, especially of the moon with the sun [Greek: *suzugia* - yoked, paired]

*quadrature: (astronomy) each of two points at which the moon is 90° from the sun as viewed from Earth

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.



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The Three Steps of Radical Homemaking: Renouncing, Reclaiming, Rebuilding

By Shannon Hayes

YES! Magazine: May 27, 2011

Yesterday I counted 85 spears of asparagus nudging their way up through the soil. (Asparagus may be finished in some parts of the country but we're zone 4 here in cold upstate New York.) I crawled along the row on my hands and knees, pushing aside clumps of rotted manure to reveal each spear. I ran inside and proudly reported the figure to my husband Bob. Then I called my mom and told her, too. It took me longer to get this asparagus growing than it did to earn a Ph.D. I consider the achievement just as significant.

Anyone who has perused my writings can probably discern that I am not the best gardener. I've been guilty of insufficient weeding, inadequately nourishing my soils, failing to properly prepare my planting sites. Mainstream culture has encouraged Americans to specialize in what we are good at. We've learned to limit our daily activities just to those things we do best and to allow someone else to meet the rest of our needs, never mind the social costs.

Radical homemaking pushes



Photo by Bob Hooper
Radical homemakers grow asparagus. This asparagus grows in author's farm in New York.

in the opposite direction. To have a socially-just world, each of us must bear more responsibility for our well-being. The lifestyle requires a broad range of skills that will be different for everyone and not everything comes easily. We don't have to tackle every aspect of self-reliance but, in order to make our homes truly places of production, we must push ourselves to take on some skill sets that we don't naturally grasp at the outset. Every home-

maker I interviewed felt their greatest pride not in doing what came easily but in mastering the things that baffled them most, even if the results were amateur.

I noticed a series of phases that the homemakers periodically cycled through on this path to new mastery. It would start with a renouncing phase, where they would suddenly question some "given" in our mainstream culture: perhaps the importance of holding a job or of listening to everything the doctor told them or of sending their children off to school or the wisdom of high debt loads or the assumption that all food comes from a grocery store.

During this period, the radical homemakers would become deeply introspective, read volumes and spend time determining how best to honor their own spirits when negotiating this period in their lives. They might quit the job, pull the kids out of school, disregard what the doctor tells them, pull their money out of the stock market and pay off their mortgages. They might decide to garden.

Live Dangerously 10 Easy Steps

When Shannon Hayes made a list of easy steps for becoming a radical homemaker, she didn't realize just how revolutionary they were.

In the reclaiming phase, he or she would set about reclaiming the skills needed in order to negotiate this new change. The skills can range from learning to cook so that their family is properly nourished, learning how to garden or keep livestock, gaining proficiency with alternative medicine, learning how to be with a new baby, getting comfortable with home-schooling, learning more about socially-responsible investing. The variety of options is endless (and, I might add, no one took on all of them). Quite often, in order to successfully take on the new skills, however, the homemakers would need to retreat from other pursuits for a period of time. Perhaps they would resign from volunteer service, maybe they would cut back on the work they were doing for income. The objective would be to buy themselves the time they needed to gain the proficiency they were seeking or to adjust to whatever life change they faced.



Photo by Iona Conner
Radical homemakers hang clothes. This clothesline is at the home of the publisher, Iona Conner, and was built sturdily by her husband, John.

Generally, after a period of time, once the new skills were somewhat mastered, the homemaker would enter into the rebuilding phase, where he or she would once again feel able to offer themselves to the broader world. But this time, it would be on the terms of what they believed most deeply and the offering would be made richer from the learning experience they'd come through.

No sooner did Bob and I renounce our careers and set about gaining self-reliance skills, than we found ourselves drowning in a sea of cloth diapers and precocious infants with a fascination for sharp objects, biting and high-up places. It was all we could do to fulfill our farm responsibilities, pay the bills, fix the house and keep the kids alive. Meanwhile, our front field became an over-grown jungle and our skill-reclaiming period was, literally, in the weeds.

When Ula (my youngest) turned one, I called a green thumb friend of mine and asked her for some houseplant cuttings, preferably succulents, which could handle some neglect. I promised myself that, if I could keep them alive for a year, I'd allow myself to start entertaining the idea of a garden once more. She brought me over ten cuttings.

One year later, nine of them were still alive, several of them needed re-potting because they'd grown so well and Ula had only tried to eat one of them (burro's tails really are hard to resist). We considered the experiment successful.

That spring Bob and I tilled the ground for blueberries and raspberries, we set up a beehive and we dug a deep trench for the asparagus.

We are both dedicated enough to our vision of our home and our food security to walk out to that garden every year and keep trying, in spite of the failures.

I've learned more during this reclaiming period than I did in four years of college. I've gained some technical knowledge about soil nutrients, pH, microbial life and the importance of organic matter. More importantly, I've learned a lot about myself and my family. Bob and I learn best through making mistakes.

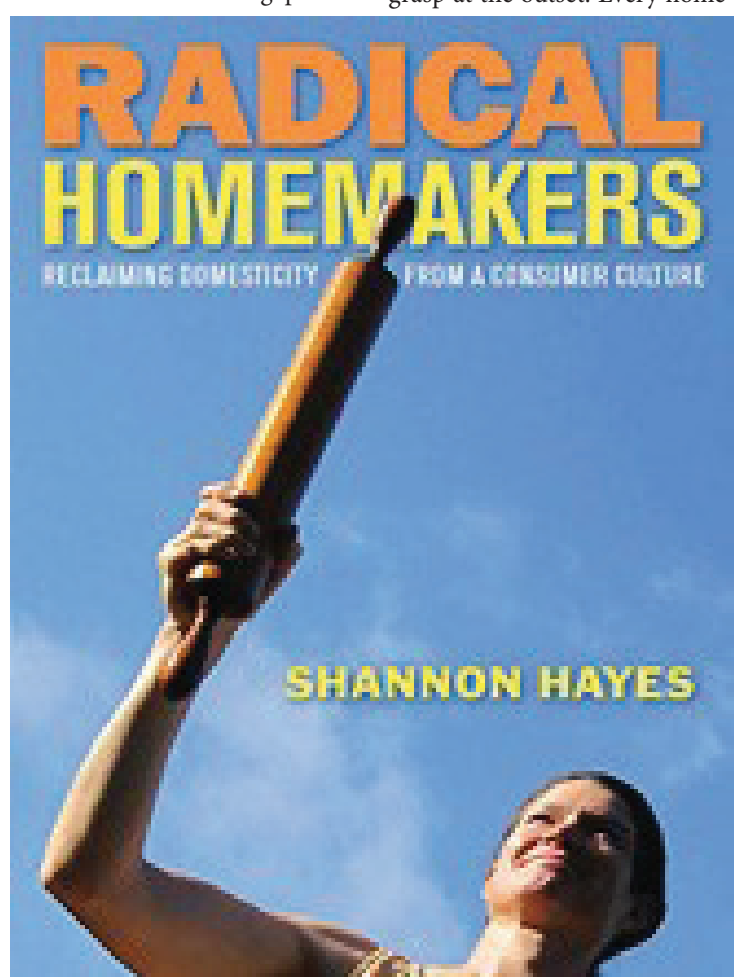
We share enough optimism between us to replace the things that die and to experiment with new projects. In addition to the blueberries, raspberries and asparagus, we've now planted a small vineyard, an infant orchard and we're up to five beehives. I've learned a lot about my parents and their willingness to simultaneously make room for us down

on the farm but also to allow us the time and flexibility we've needed to tackle our own creative projects.

Eighty-five spears of asparagus doesn't seem like a huge harvest to bring food security to West Fulton but today there will be more and tomorrow there will be more still, plenty for our household and for sharing with my parents.

The rebuilding phase of radical homemaking may mean taking on a great civic project, writing a book, teaching one's skills to others or starting a viable business. But it can be something simpler, too. In this particular case, it means finally having enough to share, be it experience, stories or just something good to eat.

Shannon Hayes wrote this article for YES! Magazine, a national, nonprofit media organization that fuses powerful ideas with practical actions. Shannon is the author of *Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture*, *The Grassfed Gourmet* and *The Farmer and the Grill*. She is the host of *Grassfedcooking.com* and *RadicalHomemakers.com*. Hayes works with her family on Sap Bush Hollow Farm in Upstate New York.



Radical Homemakers: Reclaiming Domesticity from a Consumer Culture by Shannon Hayes; Left to Write Press, 2010, 300 pages, \$23.95.

WHICH SCHOOL SYSTEMS ARE SMARTER?

SOLAR POWER GENERATION

www.carliseschools.org

[Ed.: There is a really cool link at www.carliseschools.org about the solar project to the right. It's under "Related Links" and it's CASD Solar Monitoring. Although I couldn't connect to everything, it has super neat, up-to-date graphics about energy output for today, the past three days, this week, this month and for the whole year plus today's weather at the site. There are also links to "How Solar Works" and "Project Details." My, my this is truly an education!]

On October 14, 2010, [former] Governor Edward G. Rendell visited Carlisle Area School District (CASD) to dedicate the newest and largest solar array deployed by a Pennsylvania school district. With a goal of generating 1 Megawatt of solar power – approximately one-sixth of the district's main campus power needs – CASD has been working with state, local and community partners to design and deploy this alternative energy solution.

With a stated objective of demonstrating the viability of alternative energy while also providing a clear cost-savings, the district examined bio-mass, wind and solar options through a careful research process that was underwritten by nearly \$2 million in competitive grants. Partners in the effort included Dickinson College, the Sustainable Energy Fund, PPL Utilities, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and Henkels & McCoy, among others.

Carlisle's 6.2-acre project uses 5,178 solar panels and reduces CO₂ emissions equal to 178 cars, while producing enough energy to power 150 homes. The project received half of its funding from grant support and will have paid for itself in just four years. The result is a new revenue stream for the school district that will continue to produce dividends for the next 25 years and beyond.

In addition to the project's energy and environmental impact, it also actively supports student instruction



Photo by Dan Eisenhart, Professional Photographer
Last year publisher Iona noticed these solar panels through the woods as she drove along the Pennsylvania Turnpike (left) and snapped a really awful photo mostly showing trees. Now, here's a beautiful photo to show the full array of solar panels from the Carlisle PA school district Web site.

through projects and course activities for students in a variety of pre-engineering and career and technical programs, including the Sharp Solar Energy Academy.

This project truly demonstrates the power of "green" thinking – providing environmental benefits, reducing long-range costs and enhancing student experiences, all of which benefit the Carlisle community.

AS SCHOOL ROOFS CRUMBLE, TORONTO FINDS SOLAR SOLUTION

By Ian Austen, excerpt
Green (The New York Times): May 19, 2011

Like many of its counterparts in the United States, the Toronto District School Board oversees a large number of schools that were built as a result of the baby boom. Now that those schools, like their former pupils, are firmly in late middle age, their roofs have become a major financial problem. The board estimates that it faces a \$3 billion backlog in roofing repairs.

On Thursday it announced a plan to harness solar power to finance roof repairs over the next four years. The school board, working with two Canadian companies that furnish power from alternative energy sources, will install solar panels on the roofs of about 450 of its 558 schools and sell electricity to Ontario's government-owned utility . . .

CASH-STRAPPED PA SCHOOL DISTRICT TURNS TO DANGEROUS SHALE GAS DRILLING FOR MONEY

By Tara Lohan
AlterNet.org: September 2, 2011

On September 7th, activists descended on Philadelphia, for the Shale Gas Outrage demonstration in order to "show a broad-based popular movement that will not tolerate contamination of our air, water and Earth by dirty drilling or the corruption of our politicians by industry money. We will demand that not one more family be poisoned by fracking and shale gas extraction."

Unfortunately the folks in Blackhawk School District near Pittsburg didn't get the memo. According to UPI, "The district board voted in July to lease 160 acres of the district's land to Chesapeake Energy for \$300,000. If Chesapeake successfully extracts gas from the district's property, the schools would get an additional 15 percent royalty on the profits."

And the worst part is that Blackhawk is not alone in their fundraising tactics. Blackhawk joins dozens of school districts across the country which have made similar arrangements with natural gas companies.

Many of the leases have come in Pennsylvania and Texas, two states where an energy boom has coincided with cuts in state aid for education.

Now, there's a nice right-wing fantasy playing out: An industry that has escaped environmental regulation gets an economic boost thanks to cuts in education.

Oh, and Chesapeake Energy, by the way, the company this school district is teaming up with – is directly contributing to our educational funding crisis by paying zero corporate income taxes, Hugh MacMillan from Food and Water Watch reports:

The company made a whopping pre-tax profit of \$2.8 billion in 2010 but it paid \$0 in corporate income tax to the U.S. Treasury. At the same time, the company's CEO, Aubrey McClendon, was given \$21 million in compensation. I emphasize "given" because how does one actually earn over \$57,000 a day?

www.sharpsolaracademy.com

The Solar Academy is a free environmental education program from Sharp Electronics Corporation. Sharp staff volunteers visit elementary school classes to give an interactive lesson on climate change, renewable energy, energy conservation and the science of solar. It was designed in collaboration with teachers, an educational non-profit organization and engineers.

Here are some things the Solar Academy offers:

- 4th to 5th grade level (can accommodate 3rd to 6th grade levels)
- 45-minute lesson
- Demonstrations for a unique learning experience
- Volunteers/staff who have knowledge of the solar/renewable energy industry
- Topics: Climate change, renewable energy, the science of solar and energy conservation

The ultimate goal of the program is to empower students to make eco-conscious decisions. Students and teachers can learn more about solar energy at www.sharpsolaracademy.com.



Occupy Wall Street is a leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders and political persuasions. The one thing we all have in common is that we are the 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%.

Global Protest Targets Excesses of Capitalism

Demonstrators Target Wall Street in Peaceful March

By Bob Berwyn
Summit Voices: September 17, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — A protest fueled by anger at the excesses of capitalism is under way on Wall Street, as thousands of people from around the world gather — so far peacefully — to express their unhappiness with corporate exploitation. Most reports indicated a light-hearted mood in downtown New York, with pre-protest activities including pillow fights and yoga. Check the Occupy Wall Street Web site at <https://occupywallst.org/> for updated information. There's a video of the protest on Livestream and there are several Twitter hashtags for tracking the activities, including #occupywallstreet (some are claiming this hashtag is being blocked from trending) and #usdor (U.S. Day of Rage).

The Following From OccupyWallStreet.com:

The American Revolution Begins September 17th

By agnosticnixie
September 18, 2011

Our Mission

On the 17th of September, we want to see 20,000 people to flood into lower Manhattan, set up beds, kitchens, peaceful barricades and occupy Wall Street for a few months.

Like our brothers and sisters in Egypt, Greece, Spain and Ice-

land, we plan to use the revolutionary Arab Spring tactic of mass occupation to restore democracy in America. We also encourage the use of nonviolence to achieve our ends and maximize the safety of all participants.

Who is Occupy Wall Street?

Occupy Wall Street is a leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders and political persuasions. The one thing we all have in common is that We Are The 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%.

The original call for this occupation was published by *Adbusters* in July; since then, many individuals across the country have stepped up to organize this event, such as the people of the New York City General Assembly and U.S. Day of Rage. There'll also be similar occupations in the near future such as October 2011 in Freedom Plaza, Washington, D.C.

This statement is ours and for anyone who will get behind it. Representing ourselves, we bring this call for revolution.

We want freedom for all, without regards for identity, because we are all people and because no other reason should be needed. However, this freedom has been largely taken from the people and slowly made to trickle down, whenever we get angry.

Money, it has been said, has taken over politics. In truth, we say, money has always been part of the capitalist political system. A system based on the existence

of have and have-nots, where inequality is inherent to the system, will inevitably lead to a situation where the haves find a way to rule, whether by the sword or by the dollar.

We agree that we need to see election reform; however, the election reform proposed ignores the causes which allowed such a system to happen. Some will readily blame the Federal Reserve but the political system has been beholden to political machinations of the wealthy well before its founding.

We need to address the core facts: These corporations, even if they were unable to compete in the electoral arena, would still remain control of society. They would retain economic control, which would allow them to retain political control. Term limits would, again, not solve this, as many in the political class already leave politics to find themselves as part of the corporate elites.

We need to retake the freedom that has been stolen from the people, altogether.

1) If you agree that freedom is the right to communicate, to live, to be, to go, to love, to do what you will without the impositions of others, then you might be one of us.

2) If you agree that a person is entitled to the sweat of their brows, that being talented at management should not entitle others to act like overseers and overlords, that all workers should have the right to engage in decisions democratically, then you might be one of us.

3) If you agree that freedom for some is not the same as freedom for all and that freedom for all is the only true freedom, then you might be one of us.

4) If you agree that power is not right, that life trumps property, then you might be one of us.

5) If you agree that state and corporation are merely two sides of the same oppressive power structure, if you realize how media distorts things to preserve it, how it pits the people against the people to remain in power, then you might be one of us.

And so we call on people to act.

1) We call for protests to remain active in the cities. Those already there, to grow, to organize, to raise consciousness; for those cities where there are no protests, for protests to organize and disrupt the system.

2) We call for workers to not only strike but seize their workplaces collectively and to organize them democratically. We call for students and teachers to act together, to teach democracy, not merely the teachers to the students but the students to the teachers. To seize the classrooms and free minds together.

3) We call for the unemployed to volunteer, to learn, to teach, to use what skills they have to support themselves as part of the revolting people as a community.

4) We call for the organization of people's assemblies in every city, every public square, every township.

5) We call for the seizure and use of abandoned buildings, of abandoned land, of every property seized and abandoned by speculators, for the people, for every group that will organize them.

We call for a revolution of the mind as well as the body politic.

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

Beware

Hi Friends,

I hope this email reaches you before a smart meter has been installed in your house or neighborhood so you can have time to learn about them and get them banned in your area.

There are three issues. 1) An invasion of your privacy, 2) Creation of another surveillance network, and 3) They are a danger to your health.

Below is information from people that are looking out for you (not the people in control who are forcing smart meters upon you). That's right, if you don't learn about these and start contacting your state and county officials now, you soon won't have a choice. Remember, you will be paying out of your pocket for these smart meters via taxes and/or fee increases. Only pressure from the public will stop these things.

There are two sides to every story. The other side to this story is that smart meters will save money and will help complete a future smart grid that will insure you always have electricity. Yup, it sure is all about money and control of electricity usage — but not for your benefit. So, if you believed them when they said cell phone radiation won't cause cancer...and when they said cigarettes won't cause cancer...and when they said BPA in plastic bottles/containers/paper receipts isn't harmful...and when they said GMO foods are safe and won't contaminate non-GMO foods...and when they said leaded gasoline was safe — maybe you'll start to see a trend that they either didn't do safety testing on these items or they knew they weren't safe and buried the test results for obvious reasons.

Do you have your guard up yet?

Good, I hope your guard stays up forever.

Please pass this info on to all you know.

To your health,

Dean Harding

Pollution

[Note from Editor: Liz's bio to go at the end of her article came after the last issue of EN had gone to press but I wanted you to see it.]

Dear Iona/Editor,

I grew up in a Lake Erie resort town selling spun sugar and ice cream sandwiches to tourists. On a class trip down the Cuyahoga River, I saw pools of fire spout and dance across its slick, iridescent water. My teacher shrugged, "It's the Cuyahoga," she said by way of explanation.

My last summer before college, I sat on an empty boat launch and watched Lake Erie dump load after load of dead fish and birds on the beach. At summer's end, a bunch of us spent a last night together camped on what we thought was one of the cleaner beaches. We woke covered in flies and surrounded by carcasses. I wish I was exaggerating.

The ice cream stand closed. Motels closed. The Mayor thanked his lucky stars for the town's rich soil and nurseries ripe with tomatoes, corn, beans and grapes.

"Lake Erie remains, by turns — and often in the same afternoon — a storm-driven beast and a sweetly sleeping baby. What has changed are the Lake's new algae blooms. Some researchers estimate the largest bloom is '100 miles across the lake's center.' It kills fish and microscopic creatures of the lake's food chain and fouls the water, and may cause further problems in later years for sport and commercial fishing." (*USA Today*, 9/24/03)

So, Iona, as scientists continue to speculate about the cause, those of us who loved growing up along its shores think we understand the current state of affairs pretty well.

PS I heard an estimate today on, I believe Free Speech Radio, that Exxon polluted 240 miles of the Yellowstone River with its July spill.

When, when, when are we going to learn? The thing that's so enervating is the constant swinging back and forth between outrage, worry, despair and great hope.

Liz Bucar
Calicoon, New York

Liz Bucar is a nurse-paralegal and for the past thirty years, has lived, worked and raised her children in the Upper Delaware River Basin. She writes, very irregularly, at Breathing Is Political, coordinates volunteers for Damascus Citizens' Help Street.org and site-manager for, "Gas Drilling TechNotes.org."

Dear Iona,

Thank you so much for your message about Agent Orange. You know what? I do not understand the psychology of human beings. In Korea, they are talking about the Agent Orange buried at U.S. military base. The villagers are angry about that. But at the same time farmers still use herbicides on their farms. Human beings are a very strange species. It is said that when oneself is involved in a love affair, it is a romance, and when others are involved in a love affair, it is a scandal. We have to use the same standard or the same rule for the judgement, I believe.

Some part of Korea is suffering from the rain bomb. The rain poured in Seoul area. More than 100 millimeters (3.94 inches) an hour. The pattern of monsoon has changed. Because of climate change the climate became a kind of semitropical one. Korea has to change all the storm drain system in the urban areas.

I had a special lecture for teachers in Seoul. It was an interesting one and I talked about climate change, too.

Pyong Roh
Daegu, Korea

Chesapeake Bay

Hello Iona.

I am struggling to get out the current issue (of my journal); don't know how you manage to keep your very large publication on track. People promise articles but don't come through on time. Since it is all volunteer it is difficult. BUT I am SURE you deal with all this.

How is everything else with you? Our next conference is back at Raystown. Hard to believe it has been three years already. The environmental center, Shaver's Creek, which is part of Penn State University, is doing a major part of putting it together, which is a BIG relief for me. Not sure how long it is since I emailed to you or what latest I have told you. On July 11-12 we (Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators — PAEE) got the grant for it and are holding a ROUNDTABLE meeting at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. A team of five environmental leaders (PA team includes people like Patti Vathis, Department of Education environment and ecology director and Jack Farster, director of environment education for DEP) from each of the states and D.C. in the Chesapeake Bay watershed will be there. Some federal VIP's will also attend, some presenting, some joining the discussion.

The purpose is to create a strategic plan for how we can work together to improve the environment and environmental education in the area. As we (my equivalent in each state) were working toward this meeting, we became very involved in President Obama's Executive order for an Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) for the Chesapeake Bay watershed by the end of the year. It has been really exciting — a couple of meetings in D.C., many conference calls. I loved teaching for 37 years but this different activity is GREAT!

I am writing a DEP grant report today and part of it was to give away 300 one-year memberships to PAEE; that basically means you get a JOURNAL and a discount at conferences. I have some spaces left and will be glad to add your name??

Take care,
Ruth Roperti
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Federal Court Stops Illegal Coal Mine Expansion on Navajo Land

By Bob Berwyn, excerpt
Summit Voices: September 1, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — A federal appeals court this week resolved a seven-year conflict over the proposed 4,000-acre expansion of an open-pit coal mine on Navajo lands in northwestern New Mexico. The appeals court upheld a 2010 U.S. District Court ruling that federal regulators violated environmental laws when they approved the Navajo Mine expansion without preparing an in-depth environmental impact statement.

The federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) approved the expansion in 2004 after a superficial environmental analysis that concluded with a finding of "no significant impact" despite local concerns about impacts to environmental, cultural and spiritual resources. Any new review of the expansion proposal would now include a full analysis and disclosure of those impacts.

"It is critical that OSM take its federal obligations seriously and develop an environmental impact statement for this project," said Anna Frazier of Diné CARE. "The environmental impacts of BHP's permanent disposal of tens of millions of tons of coal combustion waste as 'minefill' has never been adequately analyzed. Mercury and selenium are now poisoning native fish species in the San Juan River and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified mining as one possible source...



Photo courtesy BLM

An open-pit coal mine in Wyoming, similar to the Navajo Mine, located in northwestern New Mexico, which stores potentially toxic coal combustion wastes from the 2,000-megawatt Four Corners Power Plant operated by Arizona Public Service.

THE AWAKENING: PART IX

(First published April 2010)



This message is sent to you from the one who is a true environmentalist in all dimensions, The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God.

Many people are unaware that there are a multitude of different dimensions that overlap, interlap and underlap this dimension that humans call reality, Earth. These dimensions are as real as this one, filled with life forms, some with bodies shaped different from humans' but just as real. Some dimensions are filled with bodies that are in spirit form and also are just as real. I see and hear these other dimensions and on one of Iona Conner's visits to see me face to face, I took her in spirit so that she could see with her own eyes some of these spirits and the dimensions they live in. (I will explain this in more detail in future messages.)

Are you aware that when you drive or operate fossil-fuel vehicles with rubber tires, not only are you polluting the air but also the soil and water? When the exhaust goes into the air, the raindrops and snowflakes which are nature's air filters and air purifiers attach themselves to the exhaust gases and bring them to the ground and upon the water. As this rain and snow water is absorbed into the earth, the soil and other organic matter become water filters and purifiers. This cleans the water as it makes its way to the underground aquifers which resurface as springs or are pumped out by use of wells. The same process occurs with most all air and ground pollution such as dust, chemicals, smoke, radiation, and so on.

Humans need to rethink their entire way of existence because, as nature's filtration processes continue having to filter more and more toxins out of the air and from the surface of the Earth, the inner soils and organic matter become more and more saturated with these toxins. The result of this continued pollution is that the water aquifers and springs and wells become unfit to sustain life. As many of you know, most of the surface waters are already contaminated and the scientific solution to this disaster is to use more chemicals such as chlorine, fluorides, etc. and then tell you that they have purified the water for human and animal consumption and use.

And now back to my statement about rubber tires. When you drive or operate vehicles with rubber tires, the tread constantly wears down and seems to disappear but this rubber (or chemical compounds actually) is going into the air, earth

and water. Humans have the technology to make tires that would last much, much longer with a lot less environmental damage but governments and corporations are more concerned with keeping the slaves (you the people) working and protecting their profits and economy rather than protecting nature and the environment.

Motor vehicles also leak oils, antifreeze, Freon, power-steering fluid, etc. - all of which harm the environment and end up in the water. And once again, the technology is here to make vehicles that can be built much, much better and they also would last much longer with fewer leaks and fewer failures and people would not have to replace them near as often. This would help nature and the environment but it would harm economy and corporate profits.

In this dimension that you all are aware of, how many of you are truly environmentalists? Are you willing to drive only when absolutely necessary? Are you willing to shower or bathe only twice a week or once a week or even less to conserve water and put less shampoos, conditioners and soaps into the environment, which would also save electricity? Are you willing to change your underwear but wear the rest of your clothes numerous times to save water and put less detergents, fabric softeners and stain removers into the environment and save electricity, which will slow down coal and nuclear power plants, helping to minimize pollution? Are you willing to give up harsh cleansers, disinfectants, chemical polishes, floor cleansers and treatments, etc.? Would you give up hair dyes, hair sprays, chemical perfumes, colognes, nail polishes and removers, chemical-based make-ups and lipsticks? All of these things end up in the air, earth and water. Or are ego, vanity and human desire to look good in your polished surroundings, driving here and there whenever you just feel like going somewhere, more important than nature and the environment? I live by these standards and only burn around 50 gallons of gas or less each year. Right is right and wrong is wrong.

As for other dimensions, there is pollution in some of them as well. Your mind, thoughts and intellect are gateways to your soul or spirit as well as gateways to this dimension that you all know as Earth. If you lived in a world where everyone always spoke the Truth, if one person had the thought to tell a lie and did so, it would give life to lying and pollute the Truth. Arrogance, pride, anger, hatred, cheating, lust, greed, selfishness, deception, war, etc. are toxic to your soul or spirit and understanding. When my Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, my Council of Elders, lead your thoughts, words, actions, feelings, emotions and affections, they become filters and purifiers of your soul or spirit and your mental environment.

You must watch your thoughts for your thoughts become your words. You must watch your words for your words become your actions. You must

watch your actions for your actions are your destiny, whether in this world's physical environment or in the spiritual and other environments and dimensions.

If you truly want to help the physical dimension of nature and the environment, first we must change the spirit and mental environment so that greed becomes compassion, selfishness becomes charity and generosity, pride and arrogance become humility and respect, and so on. As long as people are neglecting my Council of Elders, not only are people being violated but nature and the environment are being constantly violated and destroyed as well. If you want to end all wars you cannot do this by disarming the people for they will continue to fight using rocks, sticks or their fists. You must disarm the spirit and the thought processes in order to truly end war. And so it is with nature and the environment. You cannot stop pollution and destruction of the environment without changing the human spirit.

Just to remind you once again of my Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, my Council of Elders, their names are:

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

PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM THESE "AWAKENING" MESSAGES IN ANY WAY and feel free to share these messages with anyone and everyone you choose.

May your mind and heart be open to major changes that are truly needed.

Your Faithful and True Servant and Friend,
Most High (The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God)

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

Awakening Booklet Now Available

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

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You may email
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or phone 814-259-3680.

Thank you.

Starting a New/Old Column: The Go-Back Club

Introduction by Iona Conner, Publisher

I have lived long enough to speak of "the good ol' days" with sincere regret that we have moved so far ahead of ourselves and the ability of our planet to manage so many humans who have learned over the years how to be extremely destructive and stupid.

In our home, we live a fairly old-fashioned life with no TV, no microwave, no dishwasher, no dryer and very old furniture. We are not the least but fussy about how things look, even ourselves.

Long ago I decided that I may have been more suited to life before the invention of television, which I truly abhor. Then it occurred to me that I might have even liked the challenges of living before the invention of the automobile.

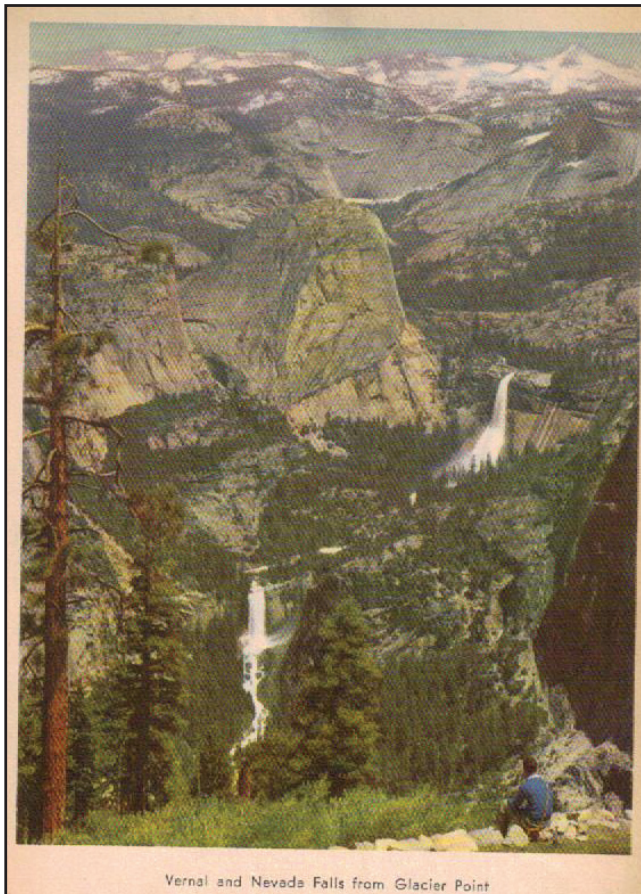
Once I made a stab at starting a Go Back Club but it wasn't very successful. That was about 15 years ago. Guess what? Things have gotten worse! Personally, I love figuring out tricks and short-cuts to make life easier, better for Earth and much more enjoyable.

Now it's time to give some serious thought to times that were simpler, calmer, less cluttered and less crazy.

I found this wonderful old dinner invitation that my mother had held onto for years so I decided to launch this column with that. My grandfather loved Yosemite and even met John Muir there. Perhaps this invitation had something to do with their chance meeting over 100 years ago. The picture is of Vernal and Nevada Falls from Glacier Point; the menu didn't scan well so I retyped it. You'll note that even back in 1952, ecologists had to be creative in fundraising.

Imagine those times, if you will. Feel free to send us your ideas for going back in time, seeking contentment in old-fashioned ways which others will enjoy reading about and possibly trying.

I have been wanting to do this column for months. 'Wanna' join my club?



Vernal and Nevada Falls from Glacier Point

CAMP CURRY	YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK
DINNER	
Wednesday, July 30, 1952	
* *	
Celery hearts	California olives
<i>Choice of:</i>	
V-8 vegetable juice	Pineapple juice
Puree of tomato, croutons	Chicken broth
<i>Choice of:</i>	
Roast domestic duckling, raisin dressing, apple sauce	
Bar B Q loin of fresh pork, candied sweet potatoes	
Poached Kennebec salmon, Newburg sauce	
Mixed fresh vegetables	Mashed potatoes
Dinner rolls	
Pear and cottage cheese salad	
<i>Choice of:</i>	
Apricot pie	Cocoanut pudding
Fruit jello	Watermelon
Devil food cake	Orange sherbet
Chocolate sundae	
Tea, Iced Tea, Coffee, or Milk	
* *	
Please order Box Lunches from Hostess the night before needed.	
<i>Help protect Yosemite forests from fire.</i>	



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