



# The Order of the Earth

## News, Views and Musings about our Planet

The Order of the Earth Volume 7, Number 12, Issue 69: December 2007

### 11 Solutions to Halting the Environmental Crisis

by Yifat Susskind, excerpt printed with permission

(*Alternet.org* October 31, 2007)--You probably don't need to be told that the threat of climate change is real. If you're concerned about the issue, it's fairly easy to conjure the apocalyptic scenes of widespread drought, frequent deadly storms, mass hunger, and wars over natural resources like oil and water. Much harder to come by are examples of positive actions that can avert these disasters and ease the crisis in places where they are already in play. So let's skip the litany of catastrophes that await if global warming is not controlled. Instead, why not focus on some solutions? None are perfect or complete, but each offers a model of positive change that is more than theoretically possible -- it is already happening.

Many of these examples are small-scale and local. That's instructive because our best hope for sustainability -- in agriculture, industry, energy, lie in community design, and government --



*Andrea Glidden, a 26-year-old single mother, opens Huntingdon County, PA's first solar energy store. Photo by Iona. (Look for full story in our January issue.)*

may lie in local, small-scale models like some of those presented here. It may seem as though (to page 9)

### The Perfect Drought: Will Population Growth and Climate Change Leave the West Without Water?

by Jon Gertner, excerpts edited by John Conner

(*New York Times Magazine* October 21, 2007)--Diminished supplies of fresh water might prove a far more serious problem in the US than slowly rising seas. Even the most optimistic models for the second half of this century suggest that 30-70% of the Sierra Nevada snowpack will disappear. There's a two-thirds chance that this will be a disaster, and that's in the best scenario.

In the Southwest this past summer, the outlook was equally sobering: catastrophic reduction in the flow of the Colorado River -- which mostly consists of snowmelt from the Rocky Mountains. Some 30 million people depend on that reduced river would wreak havoc on seven states -- California, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Arizona. (next page)

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## From the Editor



*Dear Readers,*

Our “Big Launch” is just around the corner, coming out in January. You’ll notice a few repeat articles which I felt were so important that they should go to 2,000 people instead of 100. I am going to extend all of our subscriptions one month to make up for the repeats.

“The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings” is the current expression of a little book I wrote 12 years ago representing my thoughts for a movement away from mainstream society into a grassroots rebellion, aimed at creating a more revered natural environment and a greater measure of peace on Planet Earth.

We would never have gotten to this point without the help of Kim Stenly, Christine Maccabee and Katherine Lukaszewicz. They have been wonderfully inspiring to me with their new ideas and total support. I want to thank all of my paid subscribers for their loyalty. David Minnis has renewed his subscription six times!! Thank you, my friends.

Now, let me wish you all a joyful holiday—whichever one or ones you celebrate. May you have peace and joy in your hearts.

We’ll be back in January with our “real” newspaper!

*Fondly, Iona*

*(Drought from page 1)* A lesser Colorado River would almost certainly lead to a considerable amount of economic havoc, as the future water supplies for the West’s industry, agriculture and growing municipalities are threatened.

A report by the National Academies on the Colorado River basin recently concluded that the combination of limited Colorado River water supplies, increasing demands, warmer temperatures and the prospect of recurring droughts “point to a future in which the potential for conflict” among those who use the river will be ever-present.

An ongoing drought has brought the flow of the Colorado to its lowest levels since measurements began 85 years ago. The Colorado basin is already 2 degrees warmer than it was in 1976 and it is foolhardy to imagine that the next 50 years will resemble the last 50. Lake Mead, the enormous reservoir in Arizona and Nevada that supplies nearly all the water for Las Vegas, is half empty, and models indicate that it will never be full again.

Every available gallon of the Colorado River has been appropriated by farmers, industries and municipalities. And yet, the region’s

population is expected to keep booming e.g. 60 million Californians in 2050, compared to 36 million today.

Towns that rely on groundwater face a big disadvantage. Water tables all over the U.S. have been dropping, sometimes drastically, from overuse. Some cities in Colorado will exhaust their accessible supplies by 2050.

“Climatologists seem to agree that global warming means the earth will on *(continued on next page)*

## “The Order of the Earth” is a Monthly Publication

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

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

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

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average get wetter. More rain and snow will fall in those regions closer to the poles and more precipitation is likely to fall during sporadic intense storms rather than from smaller, more frequent storms. But many subtropical regions closer to the equator will dry out. The southwest will ultimately be subject to significant atmospheric and weather alterations. More alarming is that the models do not concern only the coming decades; they also address the present. It's happening right now. You can't call it a drought anymore, because it's going over to a dryer climate. No one says the Sahara is in drought.

The big picture is worrisome. Even if the precipitation in the West does not decrease, higher temperatures by themselves create huge complications. Snowmelt runoff decreases. The immense reservoirs lose far more water to evaporation. Meanwhile, demand increases because crops are thirstier. Yet, importing water from other river basins becomes more difficult, because those basins may face shortages too.

You don't need to know all the numbers of the future exactly. You just need to know that we're drying. And so the argument over whether it's 15% or 20% drier is irrelevant. Because in the long run, that decrease, accumulated over time, is going to dry out the system.

According to Roger Pulwarty, a climatologist at NOAA, the worst outcome would be mass migrations out of the region, along with bitter interstate court battles over the dwindling water supplies. But well before that, if too much water is siphoned from agriculture, farm towns and ranch towns will wither. Meanwhile, Colorado's largest industry, tourism, might collapse if river flows became a trickle during summertime. Already, warmer temperatures have brought on an outbreak of pine beetles that are destroying pine forests. He says that a crisis presents an opportunity to think through a problem. A catastrophe is different. It is one of several possible outcomes that follow from a crisis. We're at the point of crisis on the Colorado River.

Pat Mulroy, the head of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, asked if limiting the growth of the Las Vegas metro area would help: "This country is going to have 100 million additional people in the next 25-30 years. Tell me where they're supposed to go. Every community says, Not here."

There's too many people here already. For a large urban area that is the core economic hub of any particular area, to even attempt to throw up walls? I'm not sure it can be done. Besides, the problem isn't growth alone. We have an exploding human population, and we have a shrinking clean-water supply. Those are on colliding paths.

The people who move to the West today need to realize that they're moving into a desert. If they want to live in a desert, they have to adapt to a desert lifestyle.'

## **IPPC Report Very Scarey: Three Articles**

### **A World Dying, But Can We Unite to Save It? Pollution in the seas is now spreading global warming, says a devastating new climate report**

by Geoffrey Lean

VALENCIA, Spain (*The Independent* November 18, 2007)

—Humanity is rapidly turning the seas acid through the same pollution that causes global warming, the world's governments and top scientists agreed yesterday. The process—thought to be the most profound change in the chemistry of the oceans for 20 million years—is expected to disrupt the entire web of life of the oceans and to make climate change worse.

### **U.N. Chief Seeks More Climate Change Leadership**

by Elisabeth Rosenthal and Andrew C. Revkin

VALENCIA, Spain, (*The New York Times* November 18, 2007)—Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, describing climate change as "the defining challenge of our age," released the final report of a United Nations panel on climate change here on Saturday and called on the United States and China to play "a more constructive role."

His challenge to the world's two greatest greenhouse gas emitters came just two weeks before the world's energy ministers meet in Bali, Indonesia, to begin talks on creating a global climate treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

### **Here it is: The Future of the World, in 23 Pages**

by Mike McCarthy

VALENCIA, Spain (*The Independent* November 19, 2007)

—It is about the size and weight of a theater program and when it was published in Valencia, Spain, at the weekend, the first eagerly grabbed copies were held together by a hastily-punched staple. Yet these 23 pages are crucial for the future of the world.

This is the key document on climate change, and from now on you can forget any others you may have read or seen or heard about. This is the one that matters:

[www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4\\_syr\\_spm.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr_spm.pdf)

## Climate Change Testimony Was Edited by White House

by Andrew C. Revkin, excerpt

### Original Draft Testimony:

...overall public health. In addition, health and the environment are closely linked, *as strongly demonstrated by the issue of climate change*. Because of this linkage it is also important that potential health effects of environmental solutions be fully considered.

### Manipulated and Submitted Testimony:

...for overall public health. In addition, health and the environment are closely linked. Because of this linkage it is also important that potential health effects of environmental solutions be fully considered.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*The New York Times* October 25, 2007—hidden on the bottom of page 14)—The White House made deep cuts in written testimony given to a Senate committee this week by the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on health risks posed by global warming, but the director agreed yesterday with administration officials who said the cuts were part of a normal review process and not aimed at minimizing the issue..

Dr. Gerberding, who addressed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on Tuesday, said she had freely spoken for more than a year about the implications for public health should warming from the buildup of greenhouse gases proceed as scientists project. Still, cuts made to her written testimony included the only statements casting the health risks from climate change as a problem, describing it variously as posing “difficult challenges” and as “a serious public health concern.”



## Earth is Reaching the Point of No Return, Says Major UN Report

by Lewis Sith, excerpt



LONDON, England (*CommonDreams.org* October 25, 2007)—The speed at which mankind is using and abusing the Earth’s resources is putting humanity’s survival at risk, scientists have said. The bleak assessment of the state of the environment globally was issued as an “urgent call for action” amid growing concerns of worldwide waste, neglect and governmental inertia.

Fundamental changes in political policy and individual lifestyles were demanded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as it gave warning that the “point of no return” for the environment is fast being approached.

The damage being done was regarded by the UN programme as so serious that it said the time had come for the environment to be a central theme of policy-making instead of just a fringe issue, even though it would damage the vested interests of powerful industries.

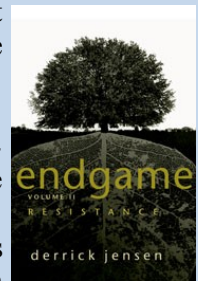
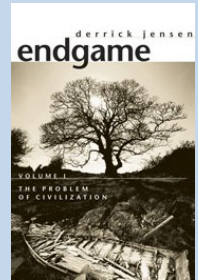
“The report provides incontrovertible evidence of unprecedented environmental change over the last 20 years that, unless checked, will fundamentally undermine economic development for current and future generations,” she said.

The report, the fourth Global Environment Outlook: environment for development (GEO-4), assessed the impact on the environment since 1987. It was drafted on the basis of reports by almost 400 scientists, all experts in their fields, whose findings were subjected to review by another 1,000 scientists.



## ***Endgame* by Derrick Jensen**

(excerpts from his book, *Endgame*, published in two volumes—  
a "must read" if you love this Earth—  
reprinted with permission from the author)



Two days ago I was at a meeting of local grassroots environmentalists. One longtime activist approached me to say, "I read your books, and even if your facts are true and your analysis is correct—and it really seems they are—I cannot allow myself to go there, because I would not survive in this system. I need denial, even if I know that's what it is, and I need to hope that the system will change on its own, even if I know it won't."

A high school student bags the groceries. She's been through the mill. Twelve years of it, not counting her home life, twelve years of sitting in rows wishing she were somewhere else, wishing she were free, wishing it was later in the day, later in the year, later in her life when at long last her time—her life—would be her own. Moment after moment she wishes this. She wishes it day after day, year after year, until—and this was the point all along—she ceases anymore to wish at all (except to wish her body looked like those in the magazines, and to wish she had more money to buy things she hopes will for at least that one sparkling moment of purchase take away the ache she never lets herself feel), until she has become subservient, docile, domestic. Until her will—what's that?—has been broken. Until rebellion against the system comes to consist of yet more purchasing—don't you love those ads conflating alcohol consumption (purchased, of course, from major corporations) and rebelliousness?—or of nothing at all, until rebellion, like will, simply ceases to exist. Until the last vestiges of the wildness and freedom that are her birthright—as they are the birthright of every animal, plant, rock, river, piece of ground, breath of wind—have been worn or torn away.

Free will at this point becomes almost meaningless, because by now victims participate of their own free will—having long-since lost touch with what free will might be. Indeed, they can be said to no longer have any meaningful will at all. Their will has been broken. Of course. That's the point. Now, they are workers. They are productive members of this great and benevolent structure of civilization that brings good to all it touches. They are happy, even if this happiness requires routine chemical assistance. There is no longer any need for force, because the people—or more precisely those who were once people—have been fully metabolized into the system, have become self-regulating, self-policing.

Welcome to the end of the world.

- ◆ 45 thousand square miles of forest are lost across the world each year.
- ◆ 60% of the world's major rivers have been dammed or diverted
- ◆ 34%: the amount by which the world's population has grown in the last 20 years
- ◆ 75 thousand people a year are killed by natural disasters
- ◆ 50%: the percentage by which population of fresh fish have declined in 20 years
- ◆ 20%: How much the energy requirements of developed countries such as the United States have increased in the period.

*Source: Global Environment Output 2007*



Charles Morris of Wyandotte, Michigan, is not your average priest. Not only have he and his parishioners created an organic garden, installed solar hot water, solar panels and a windmill (not shown), but they started Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIPL) to help other area churches counteract the effects of climate change. Photos by Iona; story on page 7.

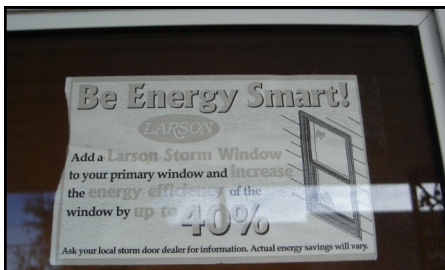


St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church transformed the rectory's side lawn into an organic garden. Fr. Charles Morris has received national recognition for his parish's energetic environmental work.

St. Elizabeth's participated in the National Solar Tour. Now there are 215 congregations participating in MiIPL. "It's in all our traditions and our scriptures...It's our responsibility to bring the moral values and the spiritual vision to the conversation about the environment," he says.



A solar fan on the rectory roof removes hot air from the attic, and another solar collector on the garage roof powers the pump which moves antifreeze through the solar water heater.



The front door of the rectory welcomes visitors and reminds them that upgrading your doors and windows can help the environment. This sign says adding a Larson storm window to your primary window increases the efficiency by up to 40%. "We're all part of God's creation. If someone like me doesn't speak about its care, who will? The changes we've made here, that's a form of preaching."



Rev. Charles Morris shows off pipes in the rectory basement that deliver water heated by the sun. The church saves about \$20,000 a year on utility bills thanks to \$150,000 worth of energy-saving investments the parish has made in the last few years.



Fr. Charles points out the controls in the basement of the rectory for the solar panels on the roof. Morris, 57, was named to *Rolling Stone* magazine's Honor Roll last year for being a "man of his word" and leading other congregations to improve their energy efficiency.



## Catholic Church in Michigan Outshines Most Others

by Iona

Father Charles Morris and the parishioners at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Wyandotte, Michigan are way ahead of most others in transforming their buildings and grounds into environmentally superb models to educate people in their church community and neighborhood.

Charles took a sabbatical four years ago in order to have time to start up a wider outreach effort, called Michigan Interfaith Power and Light. It's part of a nationwide movement among religious congregations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in their parishes. Doing so helps global warming and also saves thousands of dollars in utility bills.

My husband, John, and I have known Charles for at least 10 years, maybe even 15. He was one of the earliest priests who understood what we were trying to accomplish when we first set out to help all types of churches in the northeast and Midwest start up environmental committees.

Charles's church was already doing many good things, like the garden, an organic cooperative store in the basement, protesting polluting companies, etc. It was really fun to work with these people because they were so much more enthusiastic and aware than many of the other churches we had visited, and we visited hundreds.

In October, we attended an event that Michigan Interfaith Power and Light organized to keep developing the programs that had been launched, to bring in new people, and to educate all those who attended.

I had a chance to take pictures of Charles and some of the improvements his church has made since we were last there several years ago (see page 4).

There is a 400 kilowatt wind turbine on the rectory roof; the photovoltaic solar panels provide direct electrical power to seven of the circuits in the rectory; the garden supplies organic produce to church members; the parish has an arrangement with a local farmer to deliver their part of a "Cow Share," so they receive fresh milk, cheese, butter and eggs from free-range chickens; the rectory is lit with compact fluorescents light bulbs, some of which are controlled by movement sensors; the rectory was included in a national "Solar House Tour;" the front door welcomes visitors with an educational sticker about its energy-saving qualities (this made me want to know more and save up for two for our own home); and there was a "Pesticide-Free Lawn" sign on the front lawn further announcing to the world that this church cares about the future.

## Web Sites for the Caring of Creation

by Michael Ochs, excerpt

Chair Environmental Talk Force of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

When the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was given to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Al Gore, the Nobel committee chairman said, "I want this prize to have everyone asking what they should do about global warming."

In that regard, as writer and activist Bill McKibben has said in his sermon *The Comforting Whirlwind: God and the Environmental Crisis*, "Our religious communities are deeply important. They are almost the only institutions left in our society that posit some other goal other than accumulation for our existence here on this planet."

Here are some helpful web sites from and for the religious community to help us understand our role in caring for creation.

[www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org) **Web of Creation: Ecology Resources to Transform Faith and Society** has links to 70 faith-based groups, 30 ecological organizations and 20 denominational contacts; daily activities that make a difference, a Green Congregations guide, reference to the **Earth Bible: Reading the Bible from the Perspective of the Earth** (Pilgrim Press), etc.

[www.nrpe.org](http://www.nrpe.org) **The National Religious Partnership for the Environment (NRPE)** includes these partners: Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Council of Churches of Christ, and the Evangelical Environmental Network. Statements, activities, issues, profiles, etc.

[www.ncecojustice.org](http://www.ncecojustice.org) **Eco-Justice Program of the National Council of Churches of Christ.** Includes campaigns, initiatives, networks, resources, partnerships, and curriculum, action guides (for example, *Healthful Living*; *Mindful Living: Human Health, Pollution and Toxics*; *Water Stewards: Toolkit for Care of Local Watersheds*).

[www.restoringeden.org](http://www.restoringeden.org) **Restoring Eden: Christians for Environmental Stewardship.** Campaigns, resources, supports concerns for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Endangered Species Act, tribal cultures justice & human rights, climate change. Denominational statements, Bible verses, theologies and sermons, term papers, etc.

[www.interfaithenergy.com](http://www.interfaithenergy.com) **Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE)** is a Pennsylvania-based effort that helps churches reduce their energy costs.



## Authority Unveils Waste-to-Energy Incinerator Plan

by Kim Stenley

Last week the long-awaited waste-to-energy [WTE] plan was unveiled before the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in an open work session.

At the meeting, Michael Marschner, Frederick County's director of Utilities and Solid Waste Management, and Robin Davidov, director of the Northeast Maryland Solid Waste Disposal Authority (NMWDA), recommended that "the BOCC authorize the NMWDA to obtain best and final proposals from both Proposers and complete a Service Agreement with the Preferred Proposer, based on a regional 1,500-ton-per-day [TPD] Frederick County Regional Facility, subject to Carroll County's decision to participate in a regional facility with Frederick County."

Representatives from Carroll were present to express the county's interest in participating in the plan. Have Carroll's commissioners expressed an interest in the plan? I was under the impression they had not yet decided.

The proposers are Covanta and Wheelabrator, companies that build mass-burn municipal solid waste incinerators. According to a staff report, the plan involves building the 1,500-ton-per-day incinerator next to the Ballenger Creek-McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant, near the Monocacy River.

The facility would be designed, built and operated by the NMWDA. According to *Gazette* reporter Sherry Greenfield, the incinerator would cost \$323 million: "Frederick County's share of the bill would be \$194 million." The Authority would finance the facility with tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds.

According to the report, "the regional concept provides the lowest per ton cost for the disposal of Frederick County's solid waste . . . Frederick County's first year cost of the WTE, assuming 20 year financing, conservative energy prices and asset optimization is \$1M less/year than the County is currently paying, and \$2.68M less/year than the projected cost of out-of-County hauling and landfill disposal." Is the projected debt service and operating costs worth the anticipated cost savings?

The 1,500 TPD Montgomery County facility was built and is owned by the NMWDA. It is expected to cost taxpayers a total of \$750M once the bonds are paid off in 2016. Montgomery County pays in excess of \$40M a year to the Authority to operate the facility, in addition to other associated costs and other solid waste management expenses. Do Carroll and Frederick taxpayers want to share this expense for the next 20-30 years, given the volatility of the market?

Frederick would earn a Renewable Energy Benefit (REB) of 5 percent of net electricity sales per year, paid by the Authority, for hosting the facility. According to the report, "the REB is estimated to be \$840,000 in 2012." The report doesn't explain how this number is derived.

The plan is based on the assumption that Frederick will

provide 900 tons of waste per day, 100 tons per day more than is exported now, and Carroll would provide roughly 20 truck loads of trash per day. The Authority would request approval from Frederick to "optimize energy recovery rates . . . by sub-contracting excess waste capacity to another Authority member."

For optimal operation, recycling rates would have to remain low and additional trash may have to be imported, so there's enough fuel to attempt cost effectiveness. If this doesn't work, the Standard Benefit Charge could be raised to replace lost revenue. But if a shortfall of waste is already predicted (since Carroll can't possibly provide 600 tons of trash per day), why should Carroll and Frederick residents buy a bigger facility than they need?

Would a joint resource recovery park be more cost effective and do the job just as well? Perhaps the two counties could partner to do a cost/benefit analysis comparing resource recovery and WTE.

The Frederick BOCC decided not to invite Carroll County to join them in building a regional facility at this time. They decided it would be in their best political interest to hold a public hearing near the proposed site to gauge whether or not folks like the idea of importing trash and living near an incinerator.

According to Frederick Commissioner Lennie Thompson the current plan "is not an equal partnership. You're shifting the entire political issue from Carroll County to Frederick County and Frederick County gets all the grief. The only way you can make an equal partnership is to site it on the border of Carroll and Frederick counties."

I wonder how Carroll and Frederick residents would feel about that.

*Kim Stenley is a Carroll County Times copy editor and a member of the Sierra Club Catoclin Group, which issued a Freedom of Information Act request to the Frederick BOCC regarding WTE.*



Kim Stenley has been studying the web of life, and humans' complex relationships in it, for as long as she can remember. She's a wife, mother and activist, currently working to promote sane, sustainable solid waste management practices in Carroll and Frederick Counties. She also has a fourth job and lives in Maryland. Email her at [kstenley@mcdaniel.edu](mailto:kstenley@mcdaniel.edu).



(11 Solutions from page 1) large-scale problems require large-scale solutions. But most big institutions and processes are driven by the very people and ideas that have generated our global crisis. It's in the local and the small that the majority of people can exercise agency and decision-making power...

To overcome our global environmental crisis, we need solutions that are at once visionary and concrete. Here are some of the many innovations that are ours to develop.

**1. What if women -- the majority of the world's farmers -- could resist the commercialization of agriculture and strengthen food-centered economies?** When the World Bank forced Kenyan farmers to start growing tea for export instead of food, Kenyan women took the lead in resisting those policies. Through their Green Belt Movement, women planted over 40 million trees to offset deforestation caused by tea plantations and created initiatives to promote sustainable farming. Today, the Green Belt Movement includes hundreds of thousands of people across Africa.

**2. What if poor rural families were given land so that they could grow their own food?** Through mass civil disobedience and political organizing, the Landless Workers' Movement in Brazil succeeded in overturning government policy and securing 15 million acres of farmland for 250,000 families. The families' average income is now four times the minimum wage.

**3. What if Indigenous Peoples' collective rights were recognized, ending the attack on those who have managed and maintained the world's most delicate ecosystems for millennia?** The passage of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples recognizes Indigenous Peoples' right to control their territories and resources, which hold much of the Earth's remaining biodiversity and half its untapped fossil fuels. Now, Indigenous women are working to ensure that governments honor the Declaration.

**4. What if economic policies recognized that preserving the environment was more important than obtaining fossil fuels?** Ecuador's President Correa has announced that he will not drill for oil in Yasuni National Park. The decision marks the first time an oil-producing country has formally chosen to forgo oil exploration.

**5. What if governments valued people's happiness over economic growth?** The government of Bhutan has replaced the singular, narrow standard of Gross Domestic Product with a measure it calls Gross National Happiness. Life expectancy in Bhutan has risen by 19 years since

the "happiness index" was established in 1972.

**6. What if genuine democracy -- the precondition for policies that benefit people over profits -- were to flourish?** In the past eight years, Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, Uruguay, and Bolivia have elected governments that are forging alternatives to US-led corporate globalization. The Indigenous and social movements that brought these governments to power are redefining the state through a shift from representative democracy (easily controlled by elites) to participatory democracy.

**7. What if we could redress the forced impoverishment of the Global South?** Communities around the world have formed a movement working to craft debt cancellation policies that can support national sovereignty and women's human rights...

**8. What if climate change could be stopped?** According to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we have the know-how to reduce global carbon emissions by 26 billion tons by 2030 -- that's more than enough to avoid the 2-degree Celsius rise in temperatures that would bring on the worst consequences of global warming.

**9. What if governments realized that striving for limitless economic growth is not a solution, but a cause of poverty and ecological collapse?** Thailand has pioneered a "sufficiency economy," based on low growth to reduce poverty and conserve natural resources.

**10. What if we saw the need to de-industrialize our societies as an opportunity, not a crisis?** In the UK, "transition towns" are creating new modes of locally-rooted agriculture, commerce, energy, transportation, housing, and government that are the building blocks of a "post-carbon future." Today, 80 percent of Cuban agriculture is organic and the country is largely self-sufficient.

**11. What if a critical mass of people the world over realized the need for urgent action?** People on every continent are mobilizing to address our global crisis. They are not waiting for governments or outside leadership, but are organizing their own community-based solutions. Women are at the heart of much of this organizing. Working at the crossroads of economy and ecology, they are propelling a transformation of global values and policies on which our future depends.

*Yifat Susskind is communications director of MADRE, an international women's human rights organization.*

## Animal Extinction--The Greatest Threat to Mankind

by Julia Whitty, Part IV, *Mother Jones magazine*

The first campaign out of the Wildlands Project's starting gate is the "spine of the continent," along the mountains from Alaska to Mexico, today fractured by roads, logging, oil and gas development, grazing, ski resorts, motorized back-country recreation and sprawl.

The spine already contains dozens of core wildlands, including wilderness areas, national parks, national monuments, wildlife refuges, and private holdings. On the map, these scattered fragments look like debris falls from meteorite strikes. Some are already partially buffered by surrounding protected areas such as national forests. But all need interconnecting linkages across public and private lands—farms, ranches, suburbia—to facilitate the travels of big carnivores and the net of biodiversity that they tow behind them.

The Wildlands Project has also identified the five most critically endangered wildlife linkages along the spine, each associated with a keystone species. Grizzlies, already pinched at Crowsnest Pass on Highway Three, between Alberta and British Columbia, will be entirely cut off from the bigger gene pool to the north if a larger road is built. Greater sage grouse, Canada lynx, black bears and jaguars face their own lethal obstacles further south.

But by far the most endangered wildlife-linkage is the borderland between the U.S. and Mexico. The Sky Islands straddle this boundary, and some of North America's most threatened wildlife—jaguars, bison, Sonoran pronghorn, Mexican wolves—cross, or need to cross, here in the course of their life's travels. Unfortunately for wildlife, Mexican workers cross here too. Men, women, and children, running at night, one-gallon water jugs in hand.

The problem for wildlife is not so much the intrusions of illegal Mexican workers but the 700-mile border fence proposed to keep them out. From an ecological perspective, it will sever the spine at the lumbar, paralyzing the lower continent.

Here, in a nutshell, is all that's wrong with our treatment of nature. Amid all the moral, practical, and legal issues with the border fence, the biological catastrophe has barely been noted. It's as if extinction is not contagious and we won't catch it.

If, as some indigenous people believe, the jaguar was sent to the world to test the will and integrity of human beings, then surely we need to reassess. Border fences have terrible consequences. One between India and Pakistan forces starving bears and leopards, which can no longer traverse their feeding territories, to attack villagers.

The truth is that wilderness is more dangerous to us caged than free—and has far more value to us wild than consumed. (Eminent Harvard biologist Edward O.) Wilson suggests the time has come to rename the "environmentalist view" the "real-world view," and to replace the gross national product with

the more comprehensive "genuine progress indicator," which estimates the true environmental costs of farming, fishing, grazing, mining, smelting, driving, flying, building, paving, computing, medicating and so on. Until then, it's like keeping a ledger recording income but not expenses. Like us, the Earth has a finite budget.



Panther photo from [www.wildlifeadoption.org](http://www.wildlifeadoption.org)

### Disappearing World: The Red List

More than 16,000 species of the world's mammals, birds, plants and other organisms are at present officially regarded as threatened with extinction to one degree or another, according to the Red List (a database measuring the global status of Earth's 1.5 million scientifically named species).

Maintained by the Swiss-based World Conservation Union (IUCN-sic), the Red List is one of the gloomiest books in the world, and is set to get even gloomier.

Since 1963 it has attempted to set out the conservation status of the planet's wildlife, in a series of categories which now range from Extinct (naturally), through Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and Near-Threatened, and finishing with Least Concern. The numbers in the "threatened" categories are steadily rising.

Taxonomists at the IUCN regularly attempt to update the list, but that is a massive job to undertake—there are about 5,000 mammal species in the world and about 10,000 birds, but more than 300,000 types of plant, and undoubtedly well over a million insect species, and perhaps many more. Some species, such as beetles living in the rainforest canopy, could become extinct before they are even known to science.

The last Red List update, released in May last year, looked at 40,168 species and considered 16,118 to be threatened—including 7,725 animals of all types (mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, insects, etc.) and 8,390 plants.

*This article is reprinted with permission from Mother Jones (©2007, Foundation for National Progress). You can subscribe to the print or online version for \$10 a year at [www.motherjones.com](http://www.motherjones.com). Julia Whitty's latest book is Fragile Edge: Diving and Other Adventures in the South Pacific.*



## **Iraqi Women Journalists Win International Award While Risking Their Lives**

(*The New York Times* Editorial, excerpt October 24, 2007)  
—The International Women’s Media Foundation awarded its “courage in journalism awards” yesterday to women who risk their lives covering the news. One award was given to six Iraqi women who work in the McClatchy Newspapers bureau in Baghdad, a job so dangerous that they cannot take the chance of being photographed...

Speaking for the six, Sahar Issa had a powerful message that we wanted to share with our readers: “To be a journalist in violence-ridden Iraq today, ladies and gentlemen, is not a matter lightly undertaken. Every path is strewn with danger, every checkpoint, every question a direct threat. Every interview we conduct may be our last. So much is happening in Iraq. So much that is questionable. So much that we, as journalists, try to fathom and portray to the people who care to know...

“My country is now lawless. Innocent blood is shed every day, seemingly without purpose. Hundreds of thousands have been killed for seemingly no reason. It is our responsibility to do our utmost to acquire the answers, to dig them up with our bare hands if we must.

“We live double lives. None of our friends or relatives know what we do. My children must lie about my profession...Every morning, as I leave my home, I look back with a heavy heart, for I may not see it again—today may be the day that the eyes of an enemy will see me for what I am, a journalist, rather than the appropriately bewildered elderly lady who goes to look after ailing parents, across the river every day. Not for a moment can I let down my guard.

“I smile as I give my children hugs and send them off to school; it’s only after they turn their backs to me that my eyes fill to overflowing with the knowledge that they are just as much at risk as I am.

“So why continue? Why not put down my proverbial pen and sit back? It’s because I’m tired of being branded a terrorist: tired that a human life lost in my country is no loss at all. This is not the future I envision for my children. They are not terrorists, and their lives are not valueless. I have pledged my life—and much, much more, in an effort to open a window through which the good people in the international community may look in and see us for what we are, ordinary human beings with ordinary aspirations, and not what we have been portrayed to be.

“Allow me to reach out. Help us build bridges of understanding and acceptance. Even though the war has cast a dark shadow upon your nation and mine—it is never too late.”

## **Schools Unite to Plan Better Climate/Societal Future (update)**

### **To the Greatest Generation:**

**Focus the Nation is changing history.** Thank you. With your hard work, we have become the biggest national teach-in in US history. Still 90 days out, we have already blown by our goal of one thousand schools and other institutions signed on.

Make sure that the four components of Focus the Nation will succeed at your event:

**The National Teach-in: On January 31<sup>st</sup>, thousands of students on every campus**, millions of students nationwide, participate in workshops and panels, brainstorming global warming solutions.

**Green Democracy: Campus to Congress**. Tell top decision-makers in this country about solutions. Invite every US senator and congressperson to engage in person.

**Choose Your Future. Vote on the top five solutions to global warming**. Proposed solutions range from a coal moratorium, to large scale renewables investment, to initiatives to strengthen forests for carbon storage. Every political leader in the country will hear your voice. Join the discussion today!

**The 2% Solution: A national, interactive webcast**, airing live the evening of January 30<sup>th</sup>, featuring Stanford climate scientist **Stephen Schneider**, sustainability expert **Hunter Lovins**, and green jobs pioneer **Van Jones**. Show the webcast to launch your teach-in. Screen it at your high school, faith group, civic organization, or at a house party. Our goal—10,000 screenings and a determination TO STOP GLOBAL WARMING.

We are writing from Powershift here in DC in early November, with 6,000 youth leaders determined to change America. The energy is electrifying. And now these young people are heading home to build Focus the Nation. **In your lifetimes, collectively you will rewire the entire planet with clean energy technologies, create tens of millions of jobs, lift billions of people out of poverty—creating a just and prosperous world. With your optimism, and your grace, and your wisdom, you will change the future. And then you will become, truly, the Greatest Generation.**

Eban Goodstein, Project Director, Focus the Nation  
info@focusthenation.org, www.focusthenation.org  
503-342-6863



**the longest night**©\*

by Barbara Knox

Darkness comes early, inching on her belly  
into bottom lands along the creek. Crouching,  
she climbs slowly, crests the western ridge,  
then stretches tall and lights the stars.

She stills hunters' guns,  
signals blaring pickup lights  
to leave the valley silent.

A late moon rises through brittle air,  
moonbeams fracture frost,  
scatter bits of rainbow over fields.

Through frigid hours she tends the stars,  
watches each slowly flicker out as at last  
it reaches the other side of night.

Dawn comes late, yawning,  
summons the sun eagerly, then  
steals down slopes, nestles in hollows.

Thrusting beams through bare branches, sun  
proclaims triumphant resurrection,  
grandly changes rainbowed frost to diamonds.  
Mist, rising luminous from fields,  
drifts into new day.

*\*In pre-Christian times, legends tell us that the ancient people of Europe were afraid on the longest night of the year, the winter solstice, that the sun would not rise again without their help, so they lighted bonfires on the hills and kept a vigil, drumming and chanting to scare away evil spirits and to entice the sun to return.*

*Barbara's book of poems, "the limberlost," was copyrighted and published in 2005 and is available for \$10. Her own illustrations adorning the booklet will delight you. To get your copy, send a check payable to "Barbara Knox," 17305 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860.*



**A HOLIDAY BLESSING**

IN THIS FOOD  
I SEE THE  
PRESENCE OF  
THE ENTIRE  
UNIVERSE  
SUPPORTING ME.

Submitted by Jane Blewett and  
Lou Niznik, Laurel, Maryland

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO LAUNCH  
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## Garden Ramblings

by Christine Maccabee

Through the many days and nights of winter, trillions of seeds lay sleeping. They rest in their icy cradles of soil and stone awaiting the warmth of spring. Offspring of grasses, flowers and trees, these seeds, though inactive, are changing nonetheless, are being prepared by moisture and essential freezes which we humans must endure by piling on layers of clothing. Naked, these small seeds lay exposed to all the elements, without one word of complaining. They are in a state of dormancy, yet being prepared for germination by a process we humans call stratification. Many seeds would not sprout a root without such preparation.

Stratification, though a perfectly natural process, is often used by botanists under controlled conditions in order to germinate the toughest of seeds. Some large nurseries start their fruit and nut trees, and shrubs such as dogwood and holly, from seed by use of this method. It is a bit more trouble than you and I would go to, requiring these hard seeds to be layered in damp sphagnum moss, peat, or vermiculite and chilled for 1 to 4 months. Many wildflower seeds also need this freeze periods. I have learned through trial and error that germination rates of wildflower seed mixes is much higher if the seeds are sown in the fall or winter. With seed mixtures you might order through the mail, frequently you will see instructions to place your seeds in the freezer for a period of time, prior to sowing them in the spring. As for vegetable seeds, simply keeping them in a cool place, not freezing, is usually sufficient. All seeds will suffer if too warm and too dry.

As human beings, we experience many cold, even difficult times in our lives, perhaps as a form of "human stratification." Surely out of struggle and depth of feeling have come some of our greatest symphonies, art masterpieces, writings and other human accomplishments too innumerable to list here. Against all odds, such as Beethoven's deafness or Van Gough's madness, even out of the depths of depression, and frequently through sheer determination, creative potential and genius are released through the cracking of a sort of protective epidermis. One of my very favorite songs to perform is by Dottie Rambo whose pain nearly drove her to suicide. "Beside Still Waters" is a powerful song expressive of her pain, and yet the faith and hope she had in order to overcome it. Human stratification...hmmm.



As I sit by my window, gazing out onto frozen gardens, fields and mountains painted in shades of grays and browns, I acknowledge my own need for this "down" time. For many of us winter can be too cold, too solitudinal, even depressing. No one is exempt from those feelings at this time of year. To comfort myself, I reflect on all those seeds I scattered on a large prepared area in front of my home, an area that was once wasted space, unused lawn. If all goes well, those seeds will stratify and manifest into a beautiful, as well as useful, community of mostly native plants such as black-eyed Susan, ox-eye daisy, pinks, coneflower, cornflower, lupine, cinquefoil, evening primrose, vervain, moth mullein and larkspur. Each perfect bloom which I will witness throughout the warm months ahead will have come forth as a result of successfully prepared seeds, some of which are even tinier than a grain of mustard seed.

Time passes, all too swiftly some say. Even lonely, frozen winter days will pass more pleasantly if we contemplate the flowers to come, the potential within the soil, and the potential within ourselves. All we need, like the seeds, is to weather the elements of our lives with patience and hope.

**Christine Maccabee is a Master Wildlife Habitat Naturalist. She is available for telephone consultations about making your property more wildlife and wildflower friendly. Call her at 301-271-2307.**

## Green Youth Corner: Light Pollution

by Matthew R. McLaughlin

Though common, the assumption that light pollution (obtrusive or excessive artificial light) only poses a danger to aesthetic beauty and the view through a few telescopes is incorrect. The adverse effects of light pollution range from health problems in humans to devastating environmental damage.

According to a 2001 FMRI (Florida Marine Research Institute) report by Blair E. Witherington, research indicates that sea turtle hatchlings rely almost entirely on visual cues to locate the sea, the predominant cue being light. Under natural conditions the reflective surface of the ocean is the brightest horizon, but excessive light from cities and resorts brightens the inland, confusing hatchlings trying to make their way to sea. Though extreme cases of artificial light interfering with hatchling navigation have been documented, such as the discovery of hatchling bodies in nearby fires, according to Witherington "Accounts of sea-finding disruption presented in literature do not properly represent the vast extent of the problem... More often than not, 'lost' hatchlings are preyed upon by beach crabs or shorebirds or become exhausted and dehydrated deep in nearby dune vegetation." Because all sea turtle species are classified as either endangered or threatened, the problem of light pollution on our beaches is particularly serious.

Though the danger to sea turtles is disconcerting, the creatures most affected by light pollution seem to be birds. FLAP (Fatal Light Awareness Program), an organization that rescues and keeps a count of birds injured in the Toronto area due to the dangers of disorienting light pollution and glass surfaces, reports that over 4,000 birds were recovered in 2005. According the FLAP, numerous species of birds migrate at night and are guided in part by stars, but because of light pollution many birds become disoriented and sometimes even fly directly into brightly lit structures. Disorientation caused by light pollution and glass surfaces make for a deadly combination, and even puts species that are in decline at risk.

In 1994 it was also suggested by Colin Henshaw and Graham Cliff that light pollution could cause a decline in insects and as a result affect species higher up the food chain, most notably birds who feed on insects. Insects that are attracted to lights hover around the bright lights of cities, left on throughout the night, often until they collapse from exhaustion or die from starvation. A 2006 article entitled, *Is*

*Light Pollution Killing Our Birds?*, published in the United Kingdom confirms that environmental groups such as Butterfly Conservation have recorded large declines in many insect populations, certain moth species have declined in number by as much as 98% since 1968. Though the article does not propose that there is yet any evidence to support that insect decline is the result of light pollution, it does require us to explore the possibility.

Even if such a connection is made, the average person may wonder why a decrease in the insect population is worth turning off our lights over, but few people know that the excessive light that is polluting our nights also increases the risk of breast cancer in women. Studies done by Walter Willett first indicated that women who worked night shifts were predisposed to develop breast cancer. Studies since have shown that the cause is excessive exposure to light which decreases the amount of melatonin in women's blood, a hormone that keeps breast cancer cells dormant. In a study done at

Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, female medical students were asked to give three blood samples, one during the day and two at night. The samples taken at night after students spent two hours in total darkness contained the highest levels of melatonin.

Whether we evolved and adapted to it or were designed for it, the environment and humans need both day and night. It is important for the health of our bodies and the world, but unfortunately man always desires more time, more daylight. The damage caused by light pollution should do more than just inspire us to find new ways of producing light that is safer, but it should be a reminder to us that night, as much as day, has an important place in our lives.



**Baby Green  
Sea Turtle**



*Matthew McLaughlin completed his degree at the Christopher Newport University of Virginia. He majored in English with a concentration in creative writing and is currently a freelance writer. Matthew is looking to continue his education by attending graduate school and receiving a degree in journalism. Matthew is an avid environmentalist and a great outdoor enthusiast.*



## Three Cultures (or) How Simple is “Simple?”

by Iona, with special thanks to Gwen Stubbington in England, for WW II rationing information

I’ve always shunned ostentatious signs of wealth. As far back as I can remember, I’ve lived fairly simply even though the opportunity to possess more was there. I can’t explain it so I’m not even going to try in this short space.

About 20 years ago, I came to the conclusion that I should have been born before television. Not too long after that, I modified my thinking to say that I believe I would have fit quite nicely into the world as it was before the invention of the car. I would have even made a great Luddite back at the start of the Industrial Revolution in England, smashing machines which were stealing jobs and turning people into mechanical robots exposed to toxic substances and grueling working conditions.

I’m going to look at three cultures on three continents. First is a little story about my trip to a Kibbutz in Israel many years ago. At that time of my life, I was working as an air pollution inspector in the middle of New Jersey, where smells gag you. But, I was a “Jersey Girl” and I wanted to do something great for the land. I wanted to create an alternative, organic farm community near Rutgers in the middle of suburbia. For three years I worked with an incredibly idealistic group of people who also saw the vision of saving a farm, building a few small, clustered solar homes on one corner of the land, and sharing the work of organic farming, raising sheep, cooking, childcare, eldercare, laundry, building maintenance, etc.—all while becoming an open school of nature, inviting people in to see another way of life, right here in the U.S.A. Funny enough, the name we chose for this community back in the ‘80s was “Homeland.”

Since I was the main one organizing meetings and forging ahead with visionary plans, I reached a point where I got tired of hearing people ask, “Have you ever lived in community?” or “Have you ever lived on a farm?” To both, the answer was, “No.”

It was from this lack of experience that I decided to go work on a Kibbutz about 18 years ago. Most volunteers were young Jews. I was a middle-aged WASP. But I did it! I spent a month working side-by-side with the Jew-

ish community in a wonderful Kibbutz in the Negev desert. Some day I’ll write a much longer story about that, but today I want to make a different point.

During my work cycle in the silk-screening business (tableclothes, napkins, t-shirts) which they had established for older women (humph! I was only 44), I learned about a Waldorf/Earth-based kibbutz in northern Israel so I planned a mini-vacation, a weekend at the other kibbutz.

It was on the long bus ride through Israel that I saw my first Bedouin encampment. Bedouins are nomadic Arabs who travel the deserts by camel and survive by roaming and tenting. When I saw their culture I thought, “That’s really quite a life!”

I’m not sure I’d want to go back to pre-history. The Bedouin way of life is ancient: people, camels, goats, sheep, desert—move when necessary. But some elements of severe simplicity are attractive to me, a citizen of a materialistic empire.

In September 16<sup>th</sup>’s *Baltimore Sun Paper*, an article caught my eye: “Israel’s Bedouins Want Their Land and Resist Urbanization.” WOW! I KNOW WHAT THEY’RE TALKING ABOUT! I’ve been there. I’ve seen them. I admire them. And now they’re in trouble. They may have been in trouble before, but on September 16<sup>th</sup>, I was face-to-face with them again, figuratively speaking, through the eyes and mind of a good reporter.

After reading the entire article, I thought I’d like to join the group that’s trying to help them retain their nomadic way of life and their land.

What happened to me next was unexpected. The Bedouin article framed the faces of 143 “civilized” people, mostly Americans, mostly white, all smiling, all with nice teeth, all with pretty hair, all posing coquetishly for the camera in a CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield ad. The words “More choices. More experience. More doctors. More reasons to smile.” were printed in a blank box in the midst of the faces.

What an incongruity.

Choices? Not many choices for Bedouins. Health insurance? Not a chance.

Doctors? Do Bedouins go to a doctors? (to 16)



*(Three Cultures from previous page)*

Reasons to smile? If you're being displaced from a land you've inhabited longer than those who are trying to remove you and make your life like theirs? No thanks.

**Afterward:** Same day—September 16<sup>th</sup>—another story, this one also in *The New York Times*. “The Search for Sand Is No Day at the Beach.” All right. Bedouins are desert people. Deserts of the world are expanding with global warming drying up lakes and rivers. Erosion has been a problem for a long time. In the United States, sandy beaches are disappearing. This article mentions the ways Miami and other Southern Florida (as well as northern beaches) are trying to find ways to replenish their sands. Dredging. Buying sand from the Bahamas (imagine, people in our country thinking they can destroy other nations' beautiful beaches to preserve the ones they have recklessly let slip away in their neglect of our coastlines and the whole climate change issue). Then *The Times* mentioned making sand out of glass, reversing the process of turning sand into glass? How much energy that would take? And then there are Bedouins, who know how to live in sandy deserts and survive. Interesting.

I'd better be quiet. Floridian politicians might try to buy Bedouin sand.

**After the Afterward:** My friend in England, Gwen Stubbington, sent me some World War II articles about rationing, recycling and conservation by British people during the war which I found fascinating. So somewhere between excessive Americans and nearly possession-less Bedouins, here's a chance to tell you about a hybrid--English folks during the war. Since I believe fuel rationing is going to be necessary in this country (and probably others), I'll share the details of the food rationing program with you so you can get the idea. It's unbelievable!

A British woman recently wrote a book on the subject which starts off:

*Perhaps this is a good place to recall the rations. These varied slightly from month to month as foods became slightly more or less plentiful.*

*This is the ration for an adult for a week:*

**Bacon and ham:** 4 ounces

**Meat:** Sausages were not rationed but difficult to obtain; offal (waste products from butchering) unlimited, but sometimes formed part of the meat ration.

**Butter:** 2 ounces

**Cheese:** 2 ounces, sometimes it rose to 4

ounces and even up to 8 ounces

**Margarine:** 4 ounces

**Cooking fat:** 4 ounces, often dropping to 2 ounces

**Milk:** 3 pints (six 8-ounce glasses), sometimes dropping to 2 pints (four glasses). Household (skimmed, dried) milk was available, one packet each four weeks.

**Sugar:** 8 ounces

**Preserves:** one pound every two months (2 ounces per week)

**Tea:** 2 ounces (Ed.: tea leaves?)

**Eggs:** 1 shell egg a week if available but at times dropping to 1 every two weeks; dried eggs—1 packet a month

**Sweets:** 3 ounces (rarely available)

*In addition, there was a monthly points system. As an example of how these could be spent, the 16 points allowed you to buy one can of fish or meat or 2 pounds of dried fruit or 8 pounds of split peas. Babies and younger children, expectant and nursing mothers, had concentrated orange juice and cod liver oil from Welfare Clinics together with priority milk. This milk was available to invalids.*

Gwen said that the rationing lasted for many years after the war and that citrus fruits, bananas and other foods from abroad were not available “of course.” Sometimes even potatoes and vegetables were unavailable. *(continued on next page)*

### December 8: Climate Action Day

In two weeks the U.N. climate conference will convene in Bali, Indonesia. The ground rules will be set there for the all-important negotiations for the post-Kyoto treaty. It is imperative that the U.S. take a constructive proactive role. Just as we in the U.S. have witnessed this year a revolution in public concern, awareness, and determination to act, the world around us is waking up to the climate crisis. On Saturday **December 8th: International Day of Climate Action**, (midway through the Bali conference) there will be demonstrations in **more than 50 countries**.

**Details at [www.climatecrisiscoalition.org](http://www.climatecrisiscoalition.org)  
[info@climatecrisiscoalition.org](mailto:info@climatecrisiscoalition.org)**



*(Three Cultures from previous page)*

Everyone had a ration book and food prices were pegged at a standard rate so that poorer people got what they needed. Large numbers of people found their diet considerably improved and as a result, the whole population became slimmer and healthier than it is today. At the beginning of the war, the government launched the Dig For Victory campaign, encouraging people to dig up their rose beds and herbaceous borders and plant vegetables instead.

Gwen enclosed an article called "Make Do and Mend" by Jill Norman, from the *Daily Express* in West Sussex. Here's an excerpt:

*Keeping a family afloat during the war years was never an easy task. Many items of daily life which we tend to take for granted were either rationed or in increasingly short supply.*

*Food rationing is probably the first thing we think of now but the rationing of fuel, when most houses were heated by coal fires, had an even more direct effect on people.*

*Making briquettes out of coal dust, taking shallow baths and using a hay box for slow cooking were some of the recommendations. Even after the war, people were encouraged to save power badly needed by industry in order to speed up economic recovery.*

*Now, with a greater awareness of green issues, we are belatedly realizing that the global urgency to act responsibly is just as necessary as was the wartime effort. Curbs on clothing were just as severe as those on fuel. Clothes rationing began in June 1941 and went on until 1949. The coupons allowance was originally enough for one suit a year and went down from there.*

*Knitting wool and dressmaking material were rationed; blackout material was not. Work outfits, mending yarn, bootlaces, muslin and lint were exempt. Poorer families and those with several children were the most disadvantaged but perhaps better equipped to deal with the hardship.*

*Clothes were handed down, as they always had been, and it was often the child first up in the morning who was best dressed...*

*Manufacturers were restricted to producing a very limited range of clothing. Utility Clothing was in-*

*roduced in 1941 and Utility Furniture remained in production until 1952. Women were not to be defeated by Utility Clothing; they still attempted to look stylish. Stockings were no longer available so they dyed their legs with tea and drew "seams" down the back of them with eyebrow pencil.*

*Hats, bags and gloves were what made an outfit and, since hats were off-coupon, some stylish home-made headgear appeared...*

*Many other goods we take for granted—string, paper, pens, pencils, soap and washing powder—were in very short supply...*



*Some medicines were unavailable and pharmacists resorted to knowledgeable country herb gatherers for medicinal plants such as foxgloves, nettles and nightshades.*

*These days, wartime's shortages on the domestic front will be remembered mostly for the government's anti-waste and Make Do and Mend campaigns. Encouraging people's resourcefulness in salvaging and recycling has definite resonance for the 21<sup>st</sup> century when many of us are beginning to wage our own war on waste.*

And now, back to my comparison of three cultures on three continents (ours, Bedouins' and Brits'), I believe we each need to decide how to gear down. Drastically.

I've done a lot already but I'm still not satisfied. I want to be more primitive. I'm at the "Simple American" level now, but I prefer to be at the "barely above rationing" level. It's my current challenge.

Care to join me? Write about your efforts and we'll publish your story to share with others.

Food rationing is probably the first thing we think of now but the rationing of fuel, when most houses were heated by coal fires, had an even more direct effect on people.

### “No New Coal” Rally Draws a Crowd

An estimated 150+ people attended our "No New Coal" rally Monday night at the University of Montana, which we co-sponsored with MontPIRG. It was very energizing and unifying with guitar, drumming, rapping, singing and speeches, plus an artistically-rendered color banner as a backdrop to the stage. Several people took advantage of our open mic. The rally was covered by both KPAX and KECI television stations and the *Kaimen*. The *Missoulian* ran an article on the rally on Sunday.

Thanks to our speakers, Matt Leow, Betsy Hands, Paul Shively, and JR Roof as well as the rapper/musicians who performed. Special thanks to those who helped pull the rally together including Seth Pogue, Tiffany Pelak, Charyn Ayoub, JR Roof, Twilly Cannon, Claudia Brown, Joyce Pritchard and others who handed out flyers and handbills. Thanks to Ashley Holtorf for taking photos.

Unfortunately, Dr. James Hansen (the most famous government employee who keeps speaking out about global warming despite President Bush’s attempts to silence him and who delivered a lecture later that evening at the University) was unable to attend...but he mentioned our rally more than once from the stage during his lecture, stressing the critical importance of citizen pressure in adequately addressing the global warming threat.

David Merrill, Executive Director  
GlobalWarmingSolution.org



### Logging is Part of a Plan to Preserve Adirondacks

by Anthony DePalma, excerpt

ADIRONDACK FOREST PRESERVE, New York (*The New York Times* October 29, 2007)—...Environmentalists cheered when the (Nature) Conservancy swooped in to buy the Finch holdings, but a stark reality is now setting in. Not all 161,000 acres will be preserved as public wilderness. The terms of the pulp supply agreement are confidential, but foresters with knowledge of the deal said the conservancy could cut at least 65,000 tons of pulpwood trees a year for the mill—which is about 15 percent less than Finch Paper mill cut in the Adirondacks last year. (Finch, Pruyn is considered one of the last remaining large privately-owned parcels in Adirondack Park containing 144 miles of river, 70 lakes and ponds, more than 80 mountains and a vast unbroken wilderness that only loggers and a few hunters have ever seen.)

The conservancy expects eventually to sell much of the land to the state. But to pay the enormous debt it incurred and the \$1 million in annual property taxes, the group will, in the near term, have to sell some portion of the property to private owners.



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## Letters to the Editor

very impressive mom!!!

Iona,

It looks lovely. Good work.  
Glen Barry, Denmark, Wisconsin

Dear Iona

The newsletter is fabulous! Great look and great content!

Marianne Rothschild, Mt. Airy, Maryland

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

What a great news paper!! It is a fledging now. When it goes up to a certain stage, it will be much easier to publish the newspaper. It is already moving and it will get momentum soon, I hope. I salute you, editor in chief.

This afternoon, we took a walk in Over Peck County Park, which you know. We were surprised to see apple blossoms in the last day of October. The flowers are almost in full blossom. Maybe the trees are confused because of warm temperatures. It was a little bit windy but it was like a spring breeze. The leaves of the trees are still hanging green. I believe they want to take a rest but the weather does not allow them to take a rest. They want to leave their places to the new ones which come in the spring but the warm weather does not allow them to do so. What's going on??? I observed small things and I report to you from Overpeck Bergen County Park.

This morning I met Mr. Havel, former president of Czechoslovakia at *The New York Times*. He wrote a column about the deterioration of the environment of the Earth. The title was "Our moral footprint. Let me quote him in the last sentences: "As a result of our endeavor and our irresponsibility, our climate might leave no place for us. If we drag our feet, the scope for decision-making, and hence for our individual freedom, could be considerably reduced."

Now is the time, before it is too late, for every one of us to participate in the holy movement to save mother nature and civilization. You bear a banner marching forward and we follow you as comrades.

You are not alone. Let us move on!!  
Pyong Roh, Hackensack, New Jersey

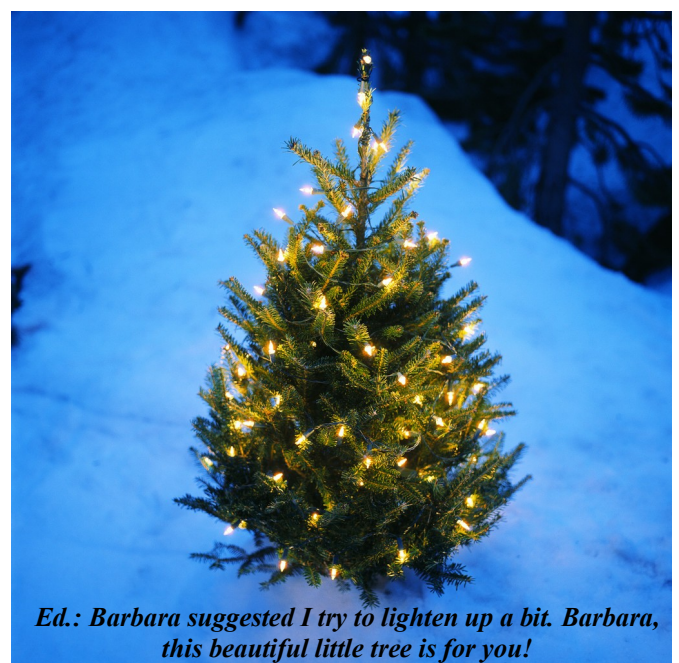
Hi Iona,

Always good to hear from you. The story about the car that died with over 400,000 miles is amazing. And I look forward to you making a difference with global warming which is a big issue that our current politicians choose to ignore as it won't get them many votes. I fear that people today are very short-sighted and have no care or idea of the long-term repercussions of their immediate actions. It's all about 'today' and 'me,' and leave the mess for the next guy and our kids' kids.

I think it's that way in big corporations too which is why Ford and GM are in the mess they're in. What happens with them can have a profound effect on our economy. I think these are all signs of things to come, and it may not be pretty.

So we need people like you to keep these issues top-of-mind. I just thought of something...you might be able to serve better as a lobbyist or at least be more in their faces. Have you ever thought of that? They have a LOT of influence and can affect a lot of change. Just a thought.

That's about it. Stay in touch.  
Barbara Benko, South Plainfield, New Jersey



*Ed.: Barbara suggested I try to lighten up a bit. Barbara, this beautiful little tree is for you!*

## Grassroots Power

### Plans for Dozens of Coal Power Plants Scrapped or Delayed Due to Costs, Climate Concerns

by Matthew W. Brown, AP, excerpt

BILLINGS, Montana (*Environmental News Network* October 18, 2007)--At least 16 coal-fired power plant proposals nationwide have been scrapped in recent months and more than three dozen have been delayed as utilities face increasing pressure due to concerns over global warming and rising construction costs. The slow pace of new plant construction reflects a dramatic change in fortune for a fuel source that just a few years ago was poised for a major resurgence.

The U.S. Department of Energy's latest tally of pending coal plants, released last week, shows eight projects totaling 7,000 megawatts have been cancelled since May. That's besides the cancellation earlier this year of eight plants in Texas totaling 6,864 megawatts. Utilities have also pushed back construction on another 32,000 megawatts worth of projects, according to the Energy Department.



### House OKs Bill to Expand Protected Land

by Angela Manese-Lee, excerpt

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*The Roanoke Times* October 24, 2007)--The U.S. House of Representatives gave its approval Tuesday to a bill that would create more than 53,000 acres of new wilderness or national scenic areas in Virginia. The bill would also expand six existing wilderness areas in portions of Bland, Craig, Grayson, Giles, Lee, Montgomery and Smyth counties within Jefferson National Forest. Among the wilderness areas that would be expanded by the Virginia Ridge and Valley Act is the Mountain Lake Wilderness Area in Giles and Craig counties, which would gain 5,476 acres. Representative Rick Boucher (D-Abingdon), is the bill's primary sponsor. Senator John Warner introduced the legislation in the Senate.

### Pennsylvania Wilds Initiative Wins National Tourism Award



Photo by Kirk Johnson  
Friends of Allegheny Wilderness

Pennsylvania's efforts to build partnerships and work toward a brighter economic future for its north central woodlands got a big endorsement recently when the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) bestowed one of its four "Phoenix Awards" to the Pennsylvania Wilds initiative. The presentation was made at the group's annual conference in Manchester, England.

"The Pennsylvania Wilds effort is starting to show tangible results, and we're very pleased that the hard work and vision of so many dedicated individuals is recognized," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said.

The Society of American Travel Writers took notice of the Pennsylvania Wild's successes—and was impressed. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that in recognizing the initiative, the society's awards chair, Peggy Bendel, was quoted as saying the project "involves unprecedented cooperation between several state agencies, as well as a unique partnership between state and local partners. No other initiative exists in the country on this scale and level of strategic thinking.

"The little hotels and restaurants, shops and diversions in this vast area are still locally owned, and this remains a rural region free of urban sprawl—a place of forests and friendly, small-town people, giving it a sense of place in the very best sense," Bendel said.



## Grassroots Power



### A Principal Who Cracks Down on Stress

NEEDHAM, Massachusetts (*The New York Times* October 29, 2007)--It was 6:30 p.m. The lights were still on at Needham High School, here in the affluent Boston suburbs. Paul Richards, the principal, was meeting with the Stress Reduction Committee. On the agenda: finding the right time to bring in experts to train students in relaxation techniques.

Don't try to have them teach relaxation in study hall, said Olivia Boyd, a senior. Students, she explained, won't want to interrupt their work. They were already too busy before or after school for the training.

No one is busier than Josh Goldman. Captain of varsity tennis, president of the Spanish club and a member of the student council and the Stress Reduction Committee, Josh was not able to squeeze in the meeting at all...

Here is the high-powered culture that Mr. Richards is trying to change, even if only a little.

But cultural change does not come smoothly. When Mr. Richards stopped publishing the honor roll in the local newspaper last winter, a move aimed at some parents who had turned the lists into a public accounting, Rush Limbaugh accused him of politically correct coddling of students, and Jay Leno mocked the school on national television. Richards received hate mail from all over the country.

Mr. Richards is undeterred. "It's not that I'm trying to turn the culture upside down," he said. "It's very important to protect the part of the culture that leads to all the achievement," he said. "It's more about bringing the culture to a healthier place."

His new stress committee is starting to come up with recommendations, like the relaxation consultants, and is surveying students about unhealthy stress. This term, Mr. Richards is talking up the yoga classes that are required of all seniors. He has asked teachers to schedule homework-free weekends and holidays...

Mr. Richards is just one principal in the vanguard of a movement to push back against an ethos of super-achievement at affluent suburban high schools amid the extreme competition over college admissions. He has joined like-minded administrators from 44 other high schools and middle schools — most in the San Francisco Bay Area but others scattered from Texas to New York — to form a group known as S.O.S., for Stressed Out Students.



### Grant to Support New Environmental Curriculum at Warren Wilson

ASHEVILLE, North Carolina (Warren Wilson College Press Release, October 26, 2007)--Warren Wilson College has been awarded a \$193,265 grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations to develop a groundbreaking environmental curriculum, *Advancing Environmental Literacy*.

Using the concept of "full cost accounting," the *Advancing Environmental Literacy* project will provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary study of the broad implications of critical environmental concerns. The goal is to better understand issues within a framework of sustainability—a "full cost accounting" that considers the environmental, economic and social/cultural impacts of realities and remedies.

Environmental advocate Bill McKibben, author of "The End of Nature," says *Advancing Environmental Literacy* "puts Warren Wilson College at the leading edge of the curve in undergraduate environmental studies, as one of the few [colleges] to make economics a full-fledged part of the ecological discussion. I'm convinced that this is the next critical wave in environmental studies."



### Schools Embrace Environment and Sow Debate

by Winie Hu

SCARSDALE, New York--(*The New York Times* October 25, 2007)--Every weekday at 2:30 p.m., a line of luxury sedans and sport utility vehicles idles outside Scarsdale Middle School in Westchester County. Exhaust fumes pollute the atmosphere, even though posted signs decree this a "No Idling Zone" and students berate parents for violating it.

"I normally do abide by it," said Loryn Kass, 41, as she hastily turned off her BMW sedan while waiting for her daughter on a recent afternoon.

The school pickup line has become the latest front in a growing school-based environmental movement that has moved far beyond recycling programs and Earth Day celebrations to challenge long-accepted school norms.

Since 2004, dozens of public and private schools in Westchester, New York City and Long Island have adopted no-idling zones, switched to plant-based cleaners in their buildings and, to a lesser extent, banned pesticides from playgrounds and playing fields, according to Grassroots Environmental Education, a non-profit group that began a campaign promoting all three measures.

## Grassroots Power



### **PennFuture Hails Pennsylvania Senate Passage of Historic Global Warming Bill**

HARRISBURG, Pennsylvania (November 20, 2007) – Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) today heralded the Pennsylvania Senate for overwhelmingly passing the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act (SB 266), by a margin of 47-3.

"This bipartisan outpouring of support shows the seriousness of our climate problem, and the determination of our elected officials to face it squarely," said John Hanger, PennFuture's President and CEO.

The bill, sponsored by Senator Ted Erickson (R-Chester, Delaware) is virtually identical to the bill passed last month by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The Climate Change Act will require Pennsylvania to conduct an inventory of the sources and amounts of global warming pollution, set up a registry that will allow businesses and industries to track their emissions and get credit when they reduce their pollution, create a stakeholder group to advise the Department of Environmental Protection about the implementation of the Act and charge DEP with developing a state plan to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gasses.

### **President Bush Doesn't Get His Way**

Submitted by Cole Hons, State College, Pennsylvania

Amazing. For the first time in seven years, President Bush won't be getting his way. That's because yesterday the Senate followed the House and voted, 79-14, to override the President's veto of a popular water resources bill. The bill would fund about 900 projects, including millions of dollars to protect the Gulf Coast from storms, restore the Florida Everglades and replace seven Depression-era locks on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers. You know, the kind of stuff government *should* be doing, thanks to the hard work and vigilance of people like you.

(From TrueMajorityAction.org)

### **Spain to Demolish Illegal Coastal Homes**



MADRID, Spain (Reuters via *Environmental News Network* October 29, 2007)--Spain plans to demolish illegally built homes and hotels along an eighth of its coastline to halt rapid destruction of its Mediterranean and Canary Island beaches, the *El Pais* newspaper reported on Monday. The \$7-billion plan aims to reclaim 482 miles of coastline and put an end to illegal urban development that threatens Spain's tourism industry, one of the country's biggest sources of foreign cash, *El Pais* reported.

The Socialist government will present the plan to regional authorities on Wednesday and promote it as a means to attract wealthy tourists who seek natural beauty rather than concrete resorts, the newspaper said. The European Parliament has condemned the impact of tourist development on the Mediterranean environment and traditional communities, especially in the Valencia region. Even Spain's tourist bosses say the industry faces competition from cheaper, less spoiled destinations.

Environmentalists blame corruption and incompetence among local councils for the destruction of Spain's coastline which is disappearing under concrete at a rate of three soccer pitches a day, according to Greenpeace.

## Devise Enforces Silence on Cellphones, Illegally

by Matt Richtel, excerpt

SAN FRANCISCO, California (*The New York Times* November 4, 2007)—One afternoon in early September, an architect boarded his commuter train and became a cellphone vigilante. He sat down next to a 20-something woman who he said was “blabbing away” into her phone.

“She was using the word ‘like’ all the time. She sounded like a Valley Girl,” said the architect, Andrew, who declined to give his last name because what he did next was illegal.

Andrew reached into his shirt pocket and pushed a button on a black device the size of a cigarette pack. It sent out a powerful radio signal that cut off the chatterer’s cellphone transmission—and any others in a 30-foot radius.

“She kept talking into her phone for about 30 seconds before she realized there was no one listening on the other end,” he said. His reaction when he first discovered he could wield such power? “Oh, holy moly! Deliverance.”

## YOUR TOILET TISSUE ALLOCATION, MA’AM

by Jim Hightower, with permission

It has taken years of secret research, consultations with focus groups, and trial-and-error engineering work – - but, at last, the corporate scientists have come up with the answer we’ve all been anxiously awaiting: five sheets.

That’s the amount of toilet paper that Kimberly-Clark Corporation has determined that its new product – the world’s first-ever, hands-off, fully-automatic, wonderama, electronic tissue dispenser – should dole out. Wave a hand in front of one of the device’s motion sensors and—zzzt—out zips your five-sheet allocation.

A Kimberly-Clark spokesman excitedly says that this gizmo will help the corporation capture the \$1 billion a year “away-from-home toilet paper market.” Pointing out that washrooms in restaurants, offices, airports, and other places already have automatic faucets, flushers, and towel dispensers, he notes, “the one part of the room where there’s not an automatic option is toilet tissue.”

Oh, great – as anyone knows who’s been to washrooms in those places, the machinery constantly goes on the fritz, and now they’re going to extend this same electronic “convenience” to toilet paper. I think the CEO of Kimberly-Clark should have to list his personal cell phone number on each machine, so we know whom to call when it refuses to give us our five sheets.

By the way, what if you want six sheets? Oh, said the enthusiastic corporate spokesman, “People generally in life will take what you give them.” So, Kimberly-Clark is betting that America has devolved from the rebellious spirits of the Boston Tea Party and the Declaration of Independence to a people so compliant that we’ll meekly accept whatever amount of toilet tissue our corporate providers allow.

I think that Kimberly-Clark’s honchos are in for a surprise. My guess is that this corporation is going to find quite a few of its electronic dispensers ripped from the walls of washroom stalls all across America.

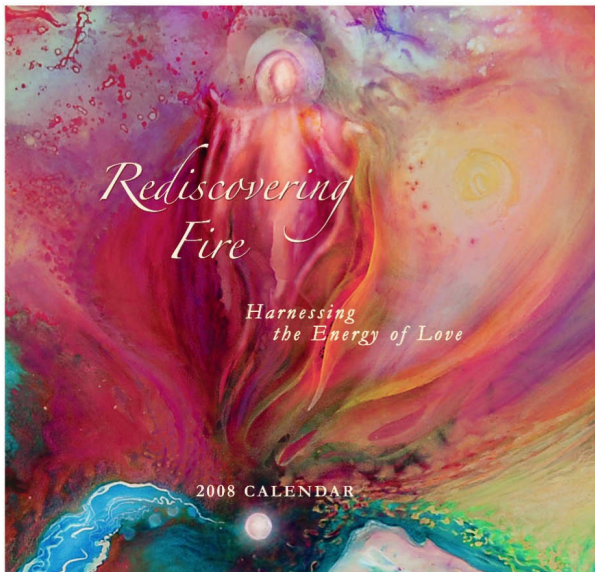
For more information on Jim Hightower’s work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, visit [www.jimhightower.com](http://www.jimhightower.com).

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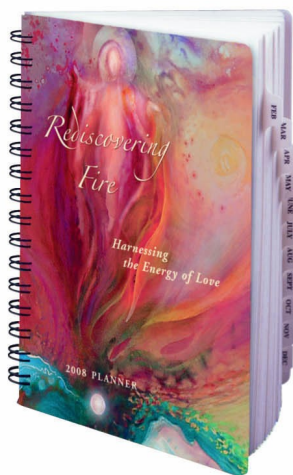
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