



The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings about our Planet

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Billboards Calling Pennsylvania Coal "Clean and Green"

ThePittsburghChannel.com

Have you noticed new billboards on area highways, telling you that Pennsylvania coal is now clean and green?

Most people think of coal as black and dirty, so what are the signs all about?

The organization posting the billboards claim it's a grassroots group of families. The name is Families for Pennsylvania Coal, and it claims that coal is now a clean and renewable energy source. But critics said the group is nothing more than the coal industry itself, trying to put a new spin on an old fossil fuel.

The message is hard to miss when you're driving on the Turnpike, Interstate 79 or Route 51. The billboards are part of a state-wide advertising campaign by the four-year old organization, which is also known as Force. "We got tired of just hearing the negative and seeing the negative in the paper and decided that we wanted to have a voice," said



Force Executive Director Jeanine Rainone.

But who exactly is "we?"

According to brochures Force was handing out at the Longwall Mining Convention in Pittsburgh last month, it's a nonprofit, grassroots Pennsylvania corporation.

"It obviously gives them a better, more sympathetic viewpoint to say that families say that coal is clean, even if it's really dirty, than if Consolidated Coal is saying it," said Jim Kleisser of the Center For Coalfield Justice.

Kleisser said Force emerged in 2003 in response to public outrage over homes in Greene and Washington counties being damaged by the effects of Long-

wall Mining.

Force's founder doesn't dispute that. "There was a huge impact of a lot of people driving against coal because of Longwall Mining and Longwall Mining legislation, so when you'd hear something bad in the papers, there was no one standing up to support the other side," said Force President Doug Farnham. Force claims in its brochure that it provides information on coal-related issues in a factual and unbiased manner.

"Force is CONSOL Coal and these other companies because in order to be a member of Force you have to be a member company and that's who their members are," Kleisser said.

When asked if he could sit with a straight face and say Force is a grassroots organization of the common people, Farnham said he could. Farnham, owner of Farnham and P-File, a coal industry supply company
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Green Burials Growing in Popularity

NEWFIELD, New York (*New York Times* excerpt July 2, 2006) It sits on the eastern fringe of New York's Finger Lakes region and is bounded on three sides by 8,000 acres of protected forests: the perfectly natural place to spend eternity. The 93-acre Greensprings Natural Cemetery is the

first of its kind in New York and one of just a handful in the United States, where interest in "green" burial is just taking root.

Carl Leopold, a retired Cornell University plant scientist, bought one of the first 20 plots sold. "It's so sensible," he said.

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Dear Readers,

It is time for me to express my profound gratitude to three women who are helping me make "The Order of the Earth News" even better while we're revving up our motors for the Big Launch of our tabloid newspaper in January.



First, Kim Stenley had the vision and perception to want to work with me to expand and improve this newspaper several months ago. Our mutual friend, Christine Maccabee, is working with us in the background. I have known Christine for about 15 years and Kim for just a few, but we three are very close in our beliefs and attitudes about caring for and protecting our Earth home. They are wonderful friends.

Just this past month, I had the pleasure of watching Katherine Lukaszewicz's award-winning documentary called "Organic Frederick" and was enchanted by it. I liked it's local flavor and even know several of the people interviewed for the film. It reminded me of our previous two homes in Frederick County, where the organic food movement was in full swing, unlike our present home. Katherine's talents go beyond filmmaking, and she has created this September edition of our newspaper. She also will help me learn how to do this in the future.

It is hard to put into words the thankfulness I feel for these three women's contributions to my long-time dream of publishing an alternative, environmental newspaper. Thank you all-Kim, Christine and Katherine. You are great!

Fondly, Iona

Continued from page 1 (PA Coal)

that shares its office building with Consol Energy and Force, said his company helps Force with its bills. "We subsidize all we can to make this successful," he said. In fact, Force doesn't pay any if its own expenses, according to the group's IRS tax return.

In the meantime, Farnham has formed a new company that's working with CONSOL Energy on a combustion technology that will burn coal waste without emitting as much particulate matter into the atmosphere.

Governor Ed Rendell gave Farnham's company a \$1 million grant to develop the technology, and Farnham has given Rendell \$21,000 in political contributions since 2005. "I support politicians who I think can get the job done," Farnham said. "And we were fortunate to support some of the ones who got this job done."

And Farnham wants you to know about that job getting done and so he's telling you that coal is now clean and green. "If you can take coal and transform (it) into energy and not have any pollution, that's green energy," Farnham said.

"I believe it's just a complete oxymoron," said Lisa Marcucci, the founder of the Jefferson Action Group. "There is no such thing as clean coal in my opinion."

The above was an excerpt from a report by Team 4 reporter Jim Parsons that aired July 25, 2007, WTAE Channel 4 Action News

Continued from page 1 (Green Burials)

"Putting bodies in a waterproof, permanent container protected from the environment, is ridiculous."

At Greensprings bodies cannot be embalmed or otherwise chemically preserved. They must be buried in biodegradable caskets without linings or metal ornamentation. The cemetery suggests locally harvested woods, wicker or cloth shrouds. Concrete or steel burial vaults are not allowed. Nor are standing monuments, upright tombstones or statues. Only flat, natural fieldstones are permitted as grave markers (they can be engraved). Shrubs or trees are preferred.

And only one person is allowed in each 15-foot-by-15-foot plot.

"This is more than just dig a hole in the woods and roll them in. We see it as a natural return to the Earth, becoming part of the circle of life," said Mary Woodsen, a lifelong conservationist and the cemetery's president.

"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 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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Endgame by Derrick Jensen

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

PREMISE TEN: The culture as a whole and most of its members are insane. The culture is driven by a death urge, an urge to destroy life.

PREMISE ELEVEN: From the beginning, this culture—civilization—has been a culture of occupation.

PREMISE TWELVE: There are no rich people in the world, and there are no poor people. There are just people. The rich may have lots of pieces of green paper that many pretend are worth something—or their presumed riches may be even more abstract: numbers on hard drives at banks—and the poor may not. These "rich" claim they own land, and the "poor" are often denied the right to make that same claim. A primary purpose of the police is to enforce the delusions of those with lots of pieces of green paper. Those without the green papers generally buy into these delusions almost as quickly and completely as those with. These delusions carry with them extreme consequences in the real world.

PREMISE THIRTEEN: Those in power rule by force, and the sooner we break ourselves of illusions to the contrary, the sooner we can at least begin to make reasonable decisions about whether, when, and how we are going to resist.

PREMISE FOURTEEN: From birth on—and probably from conception, but I'm not sure how I'd make the case—we are individually and collectively enculturated to hate life, hate the natural world, hate the wild, hate wild animals, hate women, hate children, hate our bodies, hate and fear our emotions, hate ourselves. If we did not hate the world, we could not allow it to be destroyed before our eyes. If we did not hate ourselves, we could not allow our homes—and our bodies—to be poisoned.

PREMISE FIFTEEN: Love does not imply pacifism.

PREMISE SIXTEEN: The material world is primary. This does not mean that the spirit does not exist, nor that the material world is all there is. It means that spirit mixes with flesh. It means also that real world actions have real world consequences. It means we cannot rely on Jesus, Santa Claus, the Great Mother, or even the Easter Bunny to get us out of this mess. It means this mess really is a mess, and not just the movement of God's eyebrows. It means we have to face this mess ourselves. It means that for the time we are here on Earth—whether or not we end up somewhere else after we die, and whether we are condemned or privileged to live here—the Earth is the point. It is primary. It is our home. It is everything. It is silly to think or act or be as though this world is not real and primary. It is silly and pathetic to not live our lives as though our lives are real.

PREMISE SEVENTEEN: It is a mistake (or more likely, denial) to base our decisions on whether actions arising from them will or won't frighten fence-sitters, or the mass of Americans.

PREMISE EIGHTEEN: Our current sense of self is no more sustainable than our current use of energy or technology.

PREMISE NINETEEN: The culture's problem lies above all in the belief that controlling and abusing the natural world is justifiable.

PREMISE TWENTY: Within this culture, economics—not community wellbeing, not morals, not ethics, not justice, not life itself—drives social decisions.

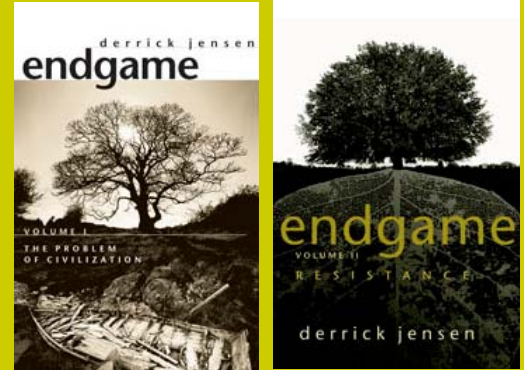
Modification of Premise Twenty: Social decisions are determined primarily (and often exclusively) on the basis of whether these decisions will increase the monetary fortunes of the decision-makers and those they serve.

Re-modification of Premise Twenty: Social decisions are determined primarily (and often exclusively) on the basis of whether these decisions will increase the power of the decision-makers and those they serve.

Re-modification of Premise Twenty: Social decisions are founded primarily (and often exclusively) on the almost entirely unexamined belief that the decision-makers and those they serve are entitled to magnify their power and/or financial fortunes at the expense of those below.

Re-modification of Premise Twenty: If you dig to the heart of it—if there is any heart left—you will find that social decisions are determined primarily on the basis of how well these decisions serve the ends of controlling or destroying wild nature.

*Copied with permission from the author. Premises One through Nine appeared in our last issue. More thoughts from Derrick Jensen's *Endgame* to follow in our next issue.*



No Time for Activism as Usual

by Ted Glick

The Weather Makers, a book by Tim Flannery, is one of the best sources for those who want to understand the global heating process that is seriously destabilizing the world's climate. In it, Flannery explains the three main 'tipping points' "that scientists are aware of for Earth's climate: a slowing or collapse of the Gulf Stream; the demise of the Amazon rainforests; and the release of gas hydrates from the sea floor. . . There is some geological evidence for all having happened in Earth's history. . . Given the current rate and direction of change, one, two or perhaps all three may take place this century."

A climate 'tipping point' is a point beyond which it will be very difficult if not impossible to prevent catastrophic climate change, truly apocalyptic climate change.

We may be seeing one unfolding right now. That is how serious the climate crisis is. That is why, a month from now, **on September 4th, the day Congress returns to D.C., a Climate Emergency Fast will be launched** which will see some of us go without food for weeks. For me personally, it will be open-ended; there is no set ending date.

A July 24th news story by Geoffrey Lean in Britain's *Independent* newspaper, "A disaster to take everyone's breath away," underlines why some of us are taking this admittedly dramatic—some would say extreme—action. Lean reported that "severe drought is returning to the Amazon for a second successive year. And that would be ominous. New research suggests that one further dry year beyond that could tip the whole vast forest into a cycle of destruction. . .

"The consequences would be awesome. The wet Amazon Basin would turn to dry savannah at best, desert at worst. This would cause much of the world to become hotter and drier. In the long term, it could send global warming out of control, eventually making the world uninhabitable."

The New York Times management was clearly concerned by this news. One week later they carried a major story, "Brazil, Alarmed, Reconsiders Policy on Climate Change," on page three. They quoted Philip Fearnside of the National Institute for Amazon Research as saying, "Obviously the uncertainty range is huge, but the momentum is pushing us in that direction, and the fact that it is close is important, because the process is like steering a big ship. People on the Titanic saw the iceberg, but they couldn't turn in time."

As I write this column it is four years after one of the most disastrous single climate events this century — the death of 35,000 people in August 2003 in western Europe as a result of a

summer heat wave. Something of this magnitude had never happened before in recorded history. It was this event which forced me to undertake serious study to understand what was happening as far as global heating, which in turn has led to my full-time activism on this issue for the last three years.

In that time I've seen a lot of positive developments. There is no question but that there has been a political sea change on this issue here in the USA. Large majorities of the population, Democrat, Republican and independent, support moving rapidly to a clean energy economy. As a result, there is some movement on Capitol Hill involving mainly Democrats but also a handful of Republicans toward the possible enactment of global warming legislation this fall.

The problem is that it is unrealistic in the extreme to expect this Congress, under normal circumstances, to adopt the kind of legislation needed, given the power of the coal, oil and automobile industries over legislators of both parties.

We need to make this fall a very UNNORMAL circumstance. We need a deep and wide, grassroots political uprising demanding a major

course correction on energy policy, a rapid shift to energy conservation, efficiency and clean, safe and jobs-creating renewable energy. We need to demand that we fight climate change, not wars for oil! Literally, we need our government to act as if the country was in mortal danger, on a war footing, declaring nonviolent war on behalf of our threatened ecosystem, joining forces with peoples and governments all over the world who will welcome us with open arms if we do. The U.S. could go from the most hated country on the planet to a very different reality in just a few short years.

This is an issue that transcends politics, and there are many concrete examples of how this understanding is growing among our peoples. One of the most recent is a statement, "Scientists and Evangelicals Unite to Protect Creation," released in January of this year and signed by 30 prominent scientists and religious evangelicals, including conservatives. It stated:

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Continued from page 4 (No Time for Activism)

"We declare that every sector of our nation's leadership—religious, scientific, business, political and educational—must act now to work toward the fundamental change in values, lifestyles and public policies required to address these worsening [climate and environmental] problems before it is too late. There is no excuse for further delays. Business as usual cannot continue yet one more day."

But in a war, including a morally just nonviolent war for survival, troops are needed who are willing to make sacrifices, willing to disrupt business as usual, willing to get in the faces of those who have their hands on the levers of power. Those hands must be reversed or removed to enable a great turning of our Titanic-like system which is moving rapidly toward that dangerous iceberg, that tipping point which we must do all in our power to avoid.

Can we do it? Is it too late? Hard questions, very hard, because a sober assessment of the odds against us is not encouraging. It's not just the power of the corporate interests dragging the whole world toward the precipice; it's the uncertainty about if we have enough time to make the dramatic changes necessary, if the global heating process is so far advanced that we have little chance to reverse course.

There are days when I despair over these odds, these realities. But then I remember that there is really no one who knows for sure what the future holds. The vast majority of scientists believe that we do have enough time to avoid climate catastrophe if we move quickly now. And I think of the lesson of history that, all of a sudden, seemingly from out of nowhere, massive uprisings of the people have ended laws allowing segregation that had been in place for centuries, or overthrown apartheid, or brought down a hated wall dividing the people of a country.

Mahatma Gandhi, probably the greatest nonviolent revolutionary of the 20th century, once said that, "Fasting is the sincerest form of prayer." Beginning now, deepening on September 4th and for some of us for weeks afterward, let us pray and act not just for future generations but for those living right now.

"There is no excuse for further delays. Business as usual cannot continue yet one more day."

To join or for additional information about the Climate Emergency Fast, go to www.climateemergency.org.

Ted Glick is the Coordinator of the U.S. Climate Emergency Council and is in the leadership of No War, No Warming, which is **planning mass nonviolent civil disobedience on Capitol Hill this October** (www.nowarnowwarming.org). He can be reached at indol@igc.org or at P.O. Box 1132, Bloomfield, N.J. 07003.

I Never Expected... ©

I never expected my dead self to feel
being washed, being dressed, being wound in a sheet,
then placed in the earth in a box made of wood,
with a tree at my head and a stone at my feet.

I thought that one's consciousness ended with death.
So I hoped for my body to nourish a tree.
For me it was good to be buried right here,
in this permanent place I had chosen to be.

For a time I was sleeping while being absorbed.
I was slowly becoming the seedling white oak.
I felt sunshine and breezes that ruffled my leaves;
felt my roots deeply anchored as soon as I woke.

My own children, their children, great-grandchildren came.
They all marveled to see such a fine, handsome oak.
My son and his friends would bring offerings to me;
and daughters laid flowers and cried when they spoke.

I endured bitter winds, savored soft falling snows.
As the years fell away my old friends came less often.
There were times when they talked of the deaths of my children,
and one day they brought a great grandchild's small coffin.

After eons I noticed my bark had grown rough.
Dead branches blew down; I kept losing my balance
when storm winds blew hard. I no longer could stretch
to reach down for my food, with my roots in abeyance.

After hundreds of years as a sentient tree
I now know I will never be permanent here.
Will I know I'm the termite a woodpecker eats,
or the hawk that's digesting a bird that was near?

Will memories come back of the lives I have led
as a chipmunk or river or firestorm in space;
all I've been since the wondrous beginning of time?
Will I ever engage the divine face to face?

by Barbara Knox
Shade Gap, PA and Sandy Spring, MD.
(See information about Barbara under "Grave Tree")

GREENHOUSE GASES LIKELY DROVE NEAR-RECORD U.S. WARMTH IN 2006

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, August 28, 2007 — Greenhouse gases likely accounted for more than half of the widespread warmth across the continental United States last year, according to a new study by four scientists at NOAA's Earth System Research Lab in Boulder, Colo. Last year's average temperature was the second highest since record-keeping began in 1895. The team found that it was very unlikely that the 2006 El Niño played any role, though other natural factors likely contributed to the unusual warmth. The findings will appear September 5 in the *Geophysical Research Letters*, a publication of the American Geophysical Union.

The NOAA team also found that the probability of U.S. temperatures breaking a record in 2006 had increased 15-fold compared to pre-industrial times because of greenhouse gas increases in Earth's atmosphere.

Preliminary data available last January led NOAA to place 2006 as the warmest year on record. In May, NOAA changed the 2006 ranking to second warmest after updated statistics showed the year was 0.08 degree F cooler than 1998.

The annual average temperature in 2006 was 2.1 degrees F above the 20th Century average and marked the ninth consecutive year of above-normal U.S. temperatures. Each of the contiguous 48 states reported above-normal annual temperatures and, for the majority of states, 2006 ranked among the 10 hottest years since 1895. "We wanted to find out whether it was pure coincidence that the two warmest years on record both coincided with El Niño events," says lead author Martin Hoerling of NOAA/ESRL. "We decided to quantify the impact of El Niño and compare it to the human influence on temperatures through greenhouse gases." El Niño is a warming of the surface of the east tropical Pacific Ocean.

Using data from 10 past El Niño events observed since 1965, the authors examined the impact of El Niño on average annual U.S. surface temperatures. They found a slight cooling across the country. To overcome uncertainties inherent in the data analysis, the team also studied the El Niño influence using two atmospheric climate models. The scientists conducted two sets of 50-year simulations of U.S. climate, with and without the influence of El Niño sea-surface warming. They again found a slight cooling across the nation when El Niño was present.

To assess the role of greenhouse gases in the 2006 warmth, the NOAA team analyzed 42 simulations of Earth's climate from 18 climate models provided for the latest assess-

ment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The models included greenhouse gas emissions and airborne particles in Earth's atmosphere since the late 19th century and computed their influence on average temperatures through 2006. The results of the analysis showed that greenhouse gases produced warmth over the entire United States in the model projections, much like the warming pattern that was observed last year across the country.

For a final check, the scientists compared the observed 2006 pattern of abnormal surface temperatures to the projected effects of greenhouse-gas warming and El Niño temperature responses. The U.S. temperature pattern of widespread warming was completely inconsistent with the pattern expected from El Niño, but it closely matched the expected effects of greenhouse warming.

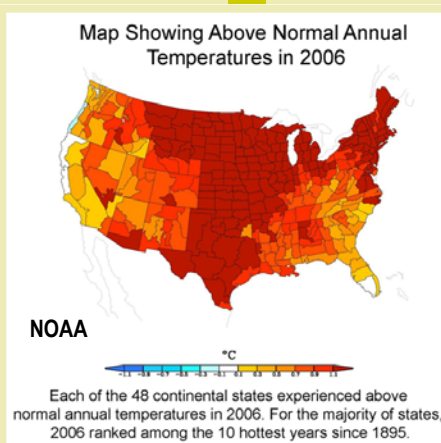
When average annual temperature in the United States broke records in 1998, a powerful El Niño was affecting climate around the globe. Scientists widely attributed the unusual warmth in the United States to the influence of the ongoing El Niño. "That attribution was not confirmed at the time," says Hoerling. "Now we have the capability, on the spatial scale of the United States, to better distinguish natural climate variations from climate changes caused by humans." The

authors also estimate that there is a 16 percent chance that 2007 will bring record-breaking warmth.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 70 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

Media Contact: Anatta, anatta@noaa.gov, NOAA Research, 303-497-6288.



Action Alert: Stop Ocean City, New Jersey from Using Ancient Rainforest Timbers for Boardwalk Decking: An Important Precedent Must Be Set That Industrial Logging of Ancient Forests Must End, Even if "FSC Certified"



Rainforest Portal, a project of Ecological Internet - Aug. 13, 2007

Ocean City, New Jersey is a seaside resort that has a 2.5 mile wooden boardwalk fronting the Atlantic Ocean. This boardwalk is home to amusement parks, candy shops, pizza parlors, and t-shirt stores. While the atmosphere is all about fun, a serious threat to ancient rainforests is playing out regarding the city's choice of decking material. Citizens are campaigning to stop the city from using FSC certified ipê timbers (often referred to as Brazilian Walnut or Iron Wood) for its current one-block boardwalk re-construction project and for any future re-decking projects



The selection of ipê wood as the boardwalk material of choice is not new to Ocean City. The city replaced three blocks of boards with ipê in 1989-90 and one block in 1995-1996. In 1996, when Ocean City announced a plan to re-deck the entire boardwalk with ipê, a grassroots group, Friends of the Rainforest (FOR), formed to oppose the use of rainforest wood. After 22 months of successful campaigning, with the assistance of New York-based Rainforest Relief, (www.rainforestrelief.org) the City Council adopted a Resolution in May 1997 which stated that they "...will no longer purchase tropical rain forest hardwood for the boardwalk in Ocean City and recommends to future governing bodies that they investigate all the ramifications of using tropical rainforest hardwood before changing the policy". Environmentalists cheered the victory and thought that Ocean City would be doing its part to protect ancient rainforests from that point on.

Fast forward ten years to January 2007 and the issue of using ipê industrially harvested from ancient rainforests rears its ugly head again. But this time, the city presents ipê as an environmentally responsible choice as long as it is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified. While the evidence is mounting worldwide regarding major problems with FSC's certification of ancient forest logging as "responsible" while implying environmental sustainability, the city uses the endorsement that major environmental organizations give to FSC-certified products as justification for using ipê. With support letters in hand and the green light from FSC supporters such as Rainforest Alliance-

SmartWood, Greenpeace, and WWF, the city council, media, and public are told that the way to save the rainforest and its people is through the purchase of FSC wood from first-time ancient rainforest logging. Educating the city council, the administration, and the public regarding the mounting evidence to the contrary has become a major task

Certifiers admit that they only certify operations as "well managed" and never "sustainable". Yet the public and buyers are continually told by importers, retailers and journalists that certified wood is "sustainable". Ipê is being logged only from old growth rainforests and scientific studies have shown that even so-called selective "low-impact" logging is permanently damaging to old growth rainforests and the biodiversity they support. There is no such thing as ecologically sustainable first time industrial logging of primary and old-growth forests, and keeping large ancient forest intact is a requirement to address climate change and achieve global ecological sustainability. Citizens have repeatedly requested a public forum to discuss the failures of FSC certification and the insufficiencies of the city's materials analysis, but their requests have been ignored. In addition, the city lied regarding the availability and viability of alternate materials, and the economic analysis presented to City Council was incomplete and flawed

Despite these lies, misinformation, the 1997 resolution, six months of protests, and a unanimous vote by the Ocean City Environmental Commission recommending that ipê not be purchased, in June 2007, City Council voted 4 to 3 in favor of purchasing ipê and **the purchase, while going forward, is reversible if we take action now to stop it**. The city maintains that purchasing FSC certified wood is an environmentally responsible solution despite attempts to inform them otherwise, including Norway's ban on the purchase of tropical timber and the disastrous certification of Peru's FSC Venao Forestal which included widespread illegal logging. It is entirely possible that some of the timber for Ocean City's boardwalk will come from Peru's illegally logged and FSC certified timber.

Based upon false and misleading information from major environmental groups, the City of Ocean City is about to purchase ancient rainforest wood in the name of environmental responsibility. In order to protect ancient forests, the people who live there, and global climate; this purchase must be stopped and an important precedent set that industrial scaled ancient forest logging must end forever.

To take action now, contact Glen Berry:
glenbarry@ecologicalinternet.org or www.climateark.org



Rainforest Alliance Database Now Includes More Than 1,000 Conservation Projects in the Americas

NEW YORK, New York (*Environmental News Network* August 2, 2007)—

The Eco-Index, an online database of conservation projects in the Americas created by the Rainforest Alliance, now features more than 1,000 projects in English and Spanish. The site recently started including projects in the United States and Canada, making it the premiere vehicle for the conservation community to share information about initiatives in the Americas.

"As the number of projects to conserve tropical ecosystems continues to grow and the pinch on our natural resources tightens, it is crucial to share information and learn from each others' lessons," said Diane Jukofsky, director of communications, marketing and education at the Rainforest Alliance. "Researchers in the Americas can use the Eco-Index to learn from others who have worked on similar projects and avoid duplicating efforts and missteps."

The Eco-Index has grown steadily since it was launched in January 2001 with 70 projects. Now, the 1,000 plus projects in the database represent the work of more than 700 non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and government ministries in the Americas. Project profiles outline contact information, summaries, objectives, funders, budgets, accomplishments, lessons learned, methodology, links and reports.

"The Eco-Index is different from other information-sharing initiatives in the region, as it goes beyond listing hard data," said Melissa Krenke, Eco-Index project coordinator. "In addition to reports and publications, the Eco-Index comprehensively describes valuable information about project methodologies, lessons learned and conclusions. Non-science based projects, such as those managed by community organizations, are also developing creative conservation approaches. We believe it is just as important to share information about these innovative and effective projects as it is to share hard numbers." (See www.rainforest-alliance.org)

Mexican Police Arrest Loggers over Activist Murder

by Reuters (excerpt) **MEXICO CITY, Mexico** (*Environmental News Network* August 3, 2007)—Mexican police have arrested two lumberjacks accused of murdering an anti-logging activist, authorities said Thursday, following criticism from environmental group Greenpeace of official foot-dragging

A spokesman at the state attorney general's office said police arrested the two men, who are brothers, Wednesday. Authorities are searching for two other men in connection with the May 15 killing. Prosecutors called the detention proof the government is tackling illegal logging.

Illegal logging destroys some 64,000 acres of Mexican forest each year, the government says, putting Mexico near the top of a U.N. list of countries losing primary forest fastest. Environmental activists say the figure is far higher...

14th Annual Allegheny Defense Project Fall Gathering September 14-16, 2007

- Work to Defend the Forest!
- Hike Allegheny Wilderness!
- Lessons in Rock Climbing, Rappelling, and Caving.
- Learn about Logging, Oil/Gas Drilling, and new Forest Plan.

Join the Allegheny Defense Project near Sugar Bay in the proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness for our 14th Annual Fall Gathering on September 14-16. The proposed Chestnut Ridge Wilderness consists of a largely roadless forest area east of Tracy Ridge National Recreation Area. The Forest Service recently recommended this area for Wilderness protection in its 2007 revised Forest Plan. Unfortunately, oil and gas companies are threatening to start drilling in these areas, compromising this area's Wilderness character. We need your help to make sure the Allegheny National Forest is not turned over to the timber and oil and gas industries!

RSVP Now!

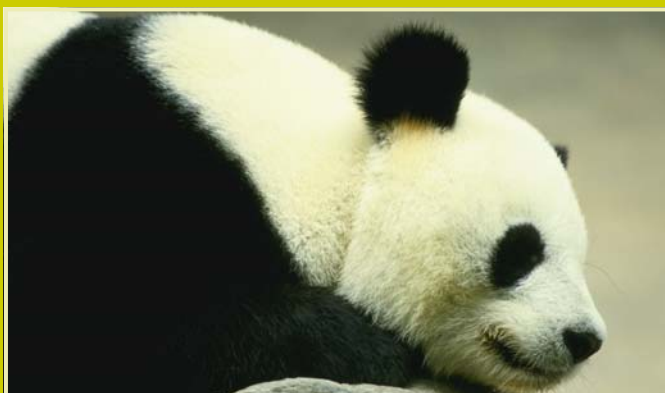
Event runs from Friday evening (7pm) to Sunday Afternoon (2pm). For more info, or to carpool, contact an organizer near you!

ANF Region: Bill Belitskus, (814) 778-5173
Erie Area: Megan Rulli, (717) 514-4256
Pittsburgh Area: Jim Kleissler, (412) 559-1364
www.alleghenydefense.org

Extinction is Forever

Animal Extinction--The Greatest Threat to Mankind

by Julia Whitty, Part I, *The Independent*



PLANET EARTH (*CommonDreams.org* April 30, 2007)--In the final stages of dehydration the body shrinks, robbing youth from the young as the skin puckers, eyes recede into orbits, and the tongue swells and cracks. Brain cells shrivel and muscles seize. The kidneys shut down. Blood volume drops, triggering hypovolemic shock, with its attendant respiratory and cardiac failures. These combined assaults disrupt the chemical and electrical pathways of the body until all systems cascade toward death. Such is also the path of a dying species.

Beyond a critical point, the collective body of a unique kind of mammal or bird or amphibian or tree cannot be salvaged, no matter the first aid rendered. Too few individuals spread too far apart, or too genetically weakened, are susceptible to even small natural disasters: a passing thunderstorm; and unexpected freeze; drought. At fewer than 50 members, populations experience increasingly random fluctuations until a kind of fatal arrhythmia takes hold. Eventually, an entire genetic legacy, born in the beginnings of life on Earth, is removed from the future.

Scientists recognize that species continually disappear at a background extinction rate estimated at about one species per million per year, with new species replacing the lost in a sustainable fashion. Occasional mass extinctions convulse this orderly norm, followed by excruciatingly slow recoveries as new species emerge from the remaining gene-pool, until the world is once again repopulated by a different catalogue of flora and fauna.

From what we understand so far, five great extinction events have reshaped Earth in cataclysmic ways in the past 439 million years, each one wiping out between 50 and 95 percent of the life of the day, including the dominant life forms; the most recent event killing off the non-avian dinosaurs. Speciations followed, but an analysis published in *Nature* showed that it takes 10 million

years before biological diversity even begins to approach what existed before a die-off.

Today we're living through the sixth great extinction, sometimes known as the Holocene extinction event. We carried its seeds with us 50,000 years ago as we migrated beyond Africa with Stone Age blades, darts, and harpoons, entering pristine Ice Age ecosystems and changing them forever by wiping out at least some of the unique mega-fauna of the times, including, perhaps, the sabre-toothed cats and woolly mammoths. When the ice retreated, we terminated the long and biologically rich epoch sometimes called the Edenic period with assaults from our newest weapons: hoes, scythes, cattle, goats, and pigs.

But, as harmful as our forebears may have been, nothing compares to what's under way today. Throughout the 20th century the causes of extinction--habitat degradation, overexploitation, agricultural monocultures, human-borne invasive species, human-induced climate change--increased exponentially, until now in the 21st century the rate is nothing short of explosive. The World Conservation Union's Red List--a database measuring the global status of Earth's 1.5 million scientifically named species--tells a haunting tale of unchecked, unaddressed, and accelerating biocide.

When we hear of extinction, most of us think of the plight of the rhino, tiger, panda or blue whale. But these sad sagas are only small pieces of the extinction puzzle. The overall numbers are terrifying. Of the 40,168 species that the 10,000 scientists in the World Conservation Union have assessed, one in four mammals, one in eight birds, one in three amphibians, one in three conifers and other gymnosperms are at risk of extinction. The peril faced by other classes of organisms is less thoroughly analyzed, but fully 40% of the examined species of Planet Earth are in danger, including perhaps 51% of reptiles, 52% of insects, and 73% of flowering plants.

By the most conservative measure--based on the last century's recorded extinctions--the current rate of extinction is 100 times the background rate. But the eminent Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson, and other scientists, estimate that the true rate is more like 1,000 to 10,000 times the background rate. The actual annual sum is only an educated guess, because no scientist believes that the tally of life ends at the 1.5 million species already discovered; estimates range as high as 100 million species, with 10 million as the median guess. Bracketed between best- and worst-case scenarios, somewhere between 2.7 and 270 species are erased from existence every day.

Including today.

To be continued next month.

It's Time to Power Down (The Party's Over)

by Kim Stenley, Taneytown, Maryland

"Oil isn't forever. It's a finite resource. We are relying upon countries that don't like us to sell us their oil. We're competing against other countries to buy oil Increasing world demand and global peak oil, or stagnating production, means that oil prices will rise. The end of cheap oil is coming and coming fast. It is a tsunami we can predict that will have devastating consequences worldwide."

This was Maryland's Representative Roscoe Bartlett (R) responding to a question about why he didn't support the Energy Act of 2005.

It's now 2007, and according to author James Howard Kunstler, "Populations of Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and Iran are growing; car sales in Russia are up 50 percent this year; even Norway is using more of its own oil every year. These nations are consuming about 25 percent of their total liquids [regular crude plus natural gas liquids and condensates]. Basically, the picture shows that net exports from these nations will run to zero in nine years. And they will be low enough within five years to throw the importing nations into complete economic paralysis." We're one of those nations. But I don't see America vigorously planning for the post carbon world that is quickly approaching, and this concerns me.

I just finished reading John G. Howe's *The End of Fossil Energy and the Last Chance for Survival*, third edition (2005). It's an excellent starting point for understanding the complexities of energy, peak oil and the end of fossil fuels. I recommend everyone who can afford \$10 to buy it, read it and share it with friends, neighbors and community leaders.

Howe, a retired engineer, reminded me that things are going to change drastically in my family's, especially my six-year-old son's, lifetime. It made me start thinking again about what I should be doing to help us prepare for the very near future: I've got a lot to learn and do by 2025.

It's easy to forget about the future in modern America. We live under the assumptions that growth fuels wealth and is inevitable and that the comforts and pleasures of today will always be available, if only we can afford them. It's easy to forget that the lives we enjoy or aspire to are only possible because of access to resources, which are dwindling.

Just ask those still alive about living in the early 1900s and the rapid changes that only came about because of abundant and cheap fossil fuels: refrigerators and other appliances; indoor plumbing, heating and hot water; transportation systems and the

vehicles that carry us anywhere we want to go; and the foods we eat whenever and wherever we want, even if they are exotic or out of season.

Climate change is finally getting the attention it deserves, but it is only one prong of the three-pronged crisis our country faces: an increasing population coupled with the end of cheap

fossil fuels will change each of our lives. Fossil fuels are the reason for our 300,000,000 and growing population. As population increases, finite supplies and access to them will decrease.

Knowing this are we going to continue to burn our children's futures at increasing rates, as we find ways to consume more energy each year? Or are we going to muster up the courage to show restraint, to start retooling our lives and rationing our resources so that future generations have better

chances for survival?

The best part about Howe's book is it outlines his "Five Percent Plan to Energy Sustainability." He shows us how we can continue enjoying cold drinks, warm food, hot showers (every two days), TV, computer and communications, washing machines, vacuums and toasters - with less energy. To do this we need to conserve, reach negative population growth, go solar and stay put or travel slowly.

Our forebears got us this far, weathering the Great Depression and two world wars along the way. But if we are to prevail and retain the knowledge fossil fuels have afforded us, we have to start powering down and planning for a future without them.

We can't keep partying and hope for the best when they run out, denying our children and future generations chances for decent lives. We need to acknowledge the tsunami is gathering strength and plan accordingly.



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.



Garden Ramblings

by Christine Maccabee

Have you ever noticed, when you turn on the radio and listen to a popular music station how most of the songs are about human love, romantic love found or lost? Occasionally there may be one about children, and even more rarely, you might hear a song about a person's relationship with nature, or their feelings about war. "From a Distance" was very popular for awhile because it went straight to the heart of everyone's feelings. Going back a bit further, "What the World Needs Now" spoke of the need for more love in order to heal a world, both human and as I interpret it, natural.

Now, I love a good love song--of the human variety--so don't get me wrong when I say that I wish there were more love songs about nature on the air. However, our love connection with the natural world is as important as our love connection with people. In fact, when things go wrong in our lives, when some person hurts us, or dies, and we're singin' the blues, the love connection with nature is always there, like a best friend, to soothe and to heal us.

And the song it sings is indeed a beautiful one! Whose heart is not cheered by the sweet song of the finch or song sparrow on a gray winter day, reminding us of coming beauty of spring? Up here in the mountains where I live, hearing the voices of thousands of love-sick frogs and toads ringing through the valley in early spring in concert with the myriad of crickets and katydids, is enough to distract me from any gloomy thought I might be harboring.

Frequently, on a summer evening, I am spellbound by the overwhelming, pulsating aliveness of it all. The sound is of

symphonic proportions, and as soothing as the strings of a Ravel symphony. It is at once astounding and profoundly romantic. Also, biologically-speaking, all of these voices tell me that my little mountain valley is ecologically very healthy, and I am heartened to know this. I am also determined to preserve it.

So truly, I don't really need to hear songs about nature on the radio when I can hear nature's original love song right outside my door. Still, human inspiration spilling out into song and word is important.

One musician truly moved by love of the natural world was John Denver. Sure, he wrote good human love songs, but the ones which touch me the most deeply are those that burst forth as an expression of his incredible love for, and connection to, the natural world. He considered the wilderness his real home. Not only did he sing about his love, but he acted on it, doing his part to protect the Alaskan tundra, the wolves of Yellowstone, the precious oceans of the world, and much more. John's heart was touched by the wonder of Creation, and in turn this same heart reached out to touch the world back.

We can all learn through John Denver the lessons of love, for caring for the Earth is truly a matter of the heart, a love song all can sing!

Christine Maccabee is a Certified Master Wildlife Habitat Naturalist and Musician in Sabillasville, Maryland



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Growing Old at Home

by Iona Conner

Older people who are losing the ability to get around or maintain their homes independently are part of a "Grassroots Effort to Grow Old at Home," according to a *New York Times* article by Jane Gross on August 14, 2007.

George and Anne Allen (both 82) got together with their neighbors in a Washington, D.C. suburb and formed a nonprofit corporation to line up "providers of transportation, home repair, companionship, security and other services to meet their needs at home for as long as possible," Gross said of the effort. To help finance this work, the organization collects membership dues.

Rather than lock themselves away in an age-restricted community (which I often compare to *The Twilight Zone* because it's so totally artificial), the Allens want to remain in their own locale, which is a normal neighborhood complete with all ages and no restrictive and dumb ordinances.



There are over 100 communities like this in the United States. Many of them refer to themselves as "villages, playing on the notion that it takes a village to raise a child and also support the aged in their decline," writes Gross.

Such villages are expected to open soon in Cambridge, Massachusetts; New Canaan, Connecticut; Palo Alto, California and Bronxville, New York. "Members of all these groups share an independent streak--and the willingness to plan for the future," states the article.

AARP conducted a poll of their members which showed what may seem obvious--90% of Americans over 60 want to finish their lives in "familiar surroundings."

I know from experience that moving to a new area drains one's energy and creates a lot of stress. First, the move itself is horrible to go through physically and, second, there's all the adjusting and learning that is necessary to make the new residence and territory seem like home. Not to mention the paperwork like change of address notices to all family, friends, utilities, etc.

If anyone would like to learn more about these upcoming "grow-old-with-us" communities, contact Philip McCallion, director of the Center for Excellence in Aging Services at the State University of New York in Albany.

Grave Tree

by Barbara Knox

She wanted to become a tree gradually, have tree roots absorb her decomposing body. So they buried her like a fish in a hill of corn, a seedling oak to mark her grave. Her neighbors explained, "She didn't want proper burial. Wanted to be compost. Wasn't from around here," They bought cemetery plots.

She had imagined her seedlings foresting hills, leaves filtering hawk-patrolled skies, freshwater mussels restored to the creek. She had planted warmer climate trees. They said, "World warming? I like warm winters. Summers I turn the AC colder."

The future?

Heat suffocates once lush valleys. Parching winds strip her oak. Skeleton tree roots cease probing for water. "Our wells are going dry. Never did that before," they say.

or

It thunders like great buildings collapsing; a deafening bolt streaks down her oak. Sap boils, exploding branches, exposing white wood. Forced to the forest floor, its roots claw the air. They say, "Worst storm in memory. But always had crazy weather here."

or

When her hills are timbered, her tree is spared as a grave marker. "You should respect the dead," they agree. Another flood plunges down clear-cut slopes, mud rivers surge, pick up brush and boulders. The lone tree is battered then buried alive. "Folks need places to live." They build a new development.

or

Bulldozers gouge a road. Whining chain saws tag after. Chickadees scold as the saw cuts through her tree, harvesting lumber. "It was just an old woman's dream." They are paid for the sale. The money blows green in the hot, dry wind.

Barbara Knox is a retired psychologist who draws inspiration for much of her writing from her farm near Shade Gap, PA. She has reclaimed its circa-1850 house and is an enthusiastic organic gardener. An environmental activist and amateur naturalist, she has begun to restore her 150-acre farm to native forests, wetlands and meadows. 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. Send check payable to "Barbara Knox," 17305 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring, Maryland 20860.

Women Speak

Wandering Around an Albuquerque Airport Terminal

by Naomi Shihab Nye

Women In Black, Frederick, Maryland

After learning my flight was detained four hours, I heard the announcement: If anyone in the vicinity of gate 4-A understands any Arabic, please come to the gate immediately. Well -- one pauses these days. Gate 4-A was my own gate. I went there.

An older woman in full traditional Palestinian dress, just like my grandma wore, was crumpled to the floor, wailing loudly. "Help!", said the flight service person. "Talk to her. What is her problem? We told her the flight was going to be four hours late and she did this."

I put my arm around her and spoke to her haltingly. "Shu dow-a, shu-biduck habibti, stani stani schway, min fadlick, sho bit se-wee?" The minute she heard any words she knew -- however poorly used - she stopped crying. She thought our flight had been cancelled entirely. She needed to be in El Paso for some major medical treatment the following day. I said, "No, no, we're fine, you'll get there, just late, who is picking you up? Let's call him and tell him."

We called her son and I spoke with him in English. I told him I would stay with his mother till we got on the plane and would ride next to her -- Southwest. She talked to him. Then we called her other sons just for the fun of it. Then we called my dad and he and she spoke for a while in Arabic and found out of course they had ten shared friends. Then I thought just for the heck of it why not call some Palestinian poets I know and let them chat with her. This all took up about two hours.

She was laughing a lot by then. Telling about her life. Answering questions. She had pulled a sack of homemade mamool cookies -- little powdered sugar crumbly mounds stuffed with dates and nuts -- out of her bag -- and was offering them to all the women at the gate. To my amazement, not a single woman declined one. It was like a sacrament. The traveler from Argentina, the traveler from California, the lovely woman from Laredo -- we were all covered with the same powdered sugar. And smiling. There are no better cookies.

And then the airline broke out the free beverages from huge coolers -- non-alcoholic -- and the two little girls for our flight, one African-American, one Mexican-American -- ran around serving us all apple juice and lemonade and they were covered with powdered sugar, too. And I noticed my new best friend -- by now we were holding hands -- had a potted plant poking out of her bag, some medicinal thing, with green furry leaves. Such an old country traveling tradition. Always carry a plant. Always stay rooted to somewhere.

And I looked around that gate of late and weary ones and thought, this is the world I want to live in. The shared world. Not a single person in this gate -- once the crying of confusion stopped -- has seemed apprehensive about any other person. They took the cookies. I wanted to hug all those other women, too. This can still happen, anywhere. Not everything is lost.

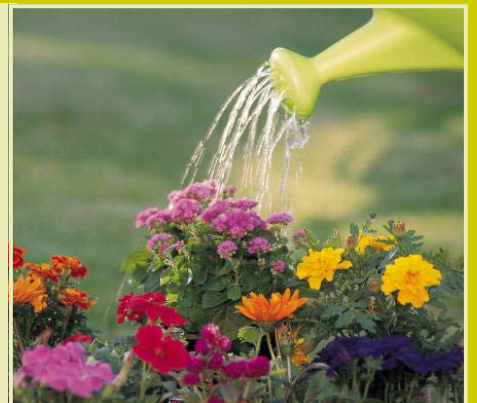
This story came across the Women in Black US listserv. It has been around the world by now.



Summer Water Conservation Tip

I have been saving runoff water from the kitchen every day now. I just collect it in big pots, pitchers, anything I can to save it and take it outdoors to water the garden, trees and bushes with. Since I work out of the house part of the day, I'm not home all day using water, and I end up making three trips a day outside with it, but at least I am not having to water from the hose because of it, except one big watering about every three days or so. This is a good means of saving water, and it certainly is interesting to realize how much water we waste down the drain every day! It's just drinking water, water from rinsing dirty dishes, washing fruits and vegetables, etc. I even sometimes take out water with some dish suds in it if there's not too much of it--I don't want to kill anything out there! Just thought others might not be realizing how we can conserve water in these dry times! :-)

Nancy K.



Summer 2007 Grassroots Coalition Update

by John Conner, grassroots1@pa.net

This summer we took several steps forward:

- In many churches we met for the first time with those who signed up after the Masses in June. Far less than 50% of those who signed at the Masses up showed up at the evening meetings, but those who did show up were willing and enthusiastic. We came to see that although they were interested in learning more about Climate Change, their primary interest lay in activities. So we laid the groundwork for starting on activities when we go to the next meeting of our churches in August and September.
- Some of those who came to the meetings brought friends from outside the church, which bodes well for the future, as we must draw in great numbers.
- Along those lines, one of the churches, St. Mary's in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, has a large Hispanic element, which responded strongly to our appeal. There, about 45 people, ¾ of whom are Hispanic, came to our first meeting. We realized immediately that, although it's possible to have someone translate orally, we need someone to translate our written documents. So we're starting an appeal to everyone we know for such a person.
- A very encouraging thing happened at that meeting at St. Mary's. When we mentioned the need for people to go to other churches in the area to invite parishioners to join in this effort, one person said that she is willing and able to do that. So we are in the process of arranging 1-2 Saturdays to prepare her and others for that outreach.
- We completed outfitting ourselves with a traveling office. We had a laptop computer, bought with a donation by a long-time supporter. In July we bought an all-in-one printer-copier-scanner. These, along with a cell phone, give us a capacity we have lacked. One really good thing now is that we can go to a meeting one night in a distant city, learn how a certain document should be improved, change it before the next meeting and print it out for those who come to that second meeting. We can also send it by email.
- Now are at home, preparing for our next trip, to New Jersey churches. One thing this entails is bringing our 223-page summary of Global Warming up to date. Every day new information appears from many sources, which we access mainly on the Internet and then we put excerpts from these documents into our book, which, given the countless hours of reading and typing that have gone into it, is a bargain at \$25.
- Our cities now include: Baltimore, Brooklyn, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, Keyport and Hackettstown, New Jersey, Milwaukee, New York (Manhattan and Brooklyn), Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Trenton.
- Recently, someone said that the problem is that Americans are reactive, not proactive, to which there is a lot of truth. One of many obstacles.
- One observation from all this reading and reflection: This planet is in store for very major changes. If the past is any guide to the future, the strong will continue to dominate the weak and to destroy the environment whenever it suits them.



Documentary on Organics Wins 2007 Aegis Film/Video Award

"Organic Frederick: A Portrait of a Growing Community," a documentary by Frederick-area filmmaker and long-time organic consumer, Katherine Lukaszewicz, recently won the 2007 Aegis Video/Film Award. The film explores how organics are entering the American mainstream, one community, like Frederick, Maryland, at a time.

With the annual sales of organic products steadily increasing, the documentary comes at a timely period when, fueled by growing consumer demand, the organic industry is poised to explode onto the mainstream markets. Former Maryland Governor, **Robert Ehrlich**, introduces the film and national television personality and health expert, Dr. Andrea Pennington, is the narrator. Ed Roy provided original music.

Lukaszewicz, who created, wrote and produced the film on a very small budget, did it to bring organic awareness to her community. "The more people buy organic products, the more they support organic agriculture, and therefore a healthier environment for themselves, their families and the planet," she says.

In its 18th year, the Aegis Awards has established itself as a leading competition for professional video and film makers, and each year receives approximately 2500 entries. The mission of the Aegis Awards competition is to provide a forum to recognize the people and organizations responsible for developing some of the most effective video/film productions being produced today.

For more information on "Organic Frederick" and upcoming screening schedule, visit www.organicfrederick.com.



International Day of Peace in Frederick: September 21, 2007

Ed Hinde and a committee of others are organizing the city around this day to affirm (their values). They hope to inspire many groups to create their own observances that week.

Conceived by the United Nations General Assembly in 2001, this special day is designed to observe a day of peace and nonviolence, and to (acknowledge) the rededication of ourselves in creating a global culture of peace. This year, there are already over 2,000 celebrations scheduled worldwide, with more to come. In Frederick, we will commemorate the day by organizing and coordinating activities designed to foster tolerance and unity, and a re-devotion to serve our entire community.

Peace starts with each one of us and with all of us -- won't you and your organization join us by creating an special observance all your own? As we work together in a common pursuit of peace on this day, we will amplify our collective voices to the world."

One activity already planned is the **September 21st evening presentation by Sister Helen Prejean** (known to many of us from "Dead Man Walking") at St. John the Evangelist Church, speaking on the **repeal of the Death Penalty**. We hope to hold a vigil later in the year on this issue. Sponsored by St. John's Peace and Justice committee, MD CASE and others.

For further information on Frederick's International Day of Peace and for ideas on how your organization can participate, please contact Ed Hinde: Office (240) 235-6322; Mobile (305) 772-0901; edhinde@aol.com

Courage is found in action.
It has to be learned--and earned.
Doug Hall

Creating a Culture of Peace: Nonviolence Training for Personal & Social Change

Saturday, September 15, 2007; 8 am to 6 pm

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ, 15 West
Church Street, Frederick, Maryland

Our goal is to build a culture of peace, justice and reconciliation by:

- Grounding participants in the principles and practice of active nonviolence as a way of life and social change.
- Offering tools and building skills for nonviolent social change.
- Using a popular education approach which values individuals experience and wisdom, as well as the group's collective learning process.
- Employing a variety of tools to accommodate diverse learning styles.
- Identifying personal and spiritual resources for the work of active nonviolence.
- Building trust and a sense of community to support a commitment to action.
- Planning personal and social nonviolent projects and actions.
- Reducing fear and hopelessness with a sense of empowerment and readiness.

Cost: Registration Fee is \$10.00

For more information and to register please contact Daniel Frasier: 301-662-4430

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THANKS FOR HELPING US GROW!!!

Green Youth Corner



Tim Richards Co-Director, Citizens for a Green Mt. Airy

Tim Richards, a junior at Haverford college and a Philosophy major, has a passion and vision for sustainability that is rooted in autonomous communities that own and produce their own food and energy. In an attempt to realize his philosophy, he started *Citizens for a Green Mount Airy*, a grassroots group in his

hometown, Mt. Airy, Maryland, in May of 2007 with two friends, Josh and Andy, who had helped to originally envision the group. *Citizens for a Green Mount Airy* was officially taken off the ground thanks to a grant Tim received from *the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship* at his school to start the group as his summer internship.

Since May, they have held education workshops about organic food, a town-sponsored water conservation workshop, a grow-your-own-food workshop at a local organic farm, as well as hosting a community park cleanup day and a Town Hall Renewable Energy Forum. Tim has coordinated several bulk purchasing collectives, including one for 100 rain barrels to help ameliorate the town's water troubles; dual-flush toilets, compact fluorescent light bulbs. In the works, are also renewable energy certificate/green tag purchasing collectives. Most importantly, Tim has begun work with the town and renewable energy companies to form a community energy project, most likely a solar farm with some micro wind turbines.

To learn more about Tim's group, visit www.greenmountairy.org

Our suicidal poets (Plath, Berryman...et al.) spent too much of their lives inside rooms and classrooms when they should have been trudging up mountains, slogging through swamps, rowing down rivers. The indoor life is the next best thing to premature death. Edward Abbey

Hanna Poffenbarger The Climate Project

Frederick, MD. Hanna Poffenbarger has been passionate about the environment since she was in elementary school and learned about recycling and the rainforest. She was a member of Walkersville High School's environmental club in her junior and senior years of high school, helping with the school's recycling program



and expanding it to include the cafeteria, planting trees on the schoolyard, and painting a mural of biomes in the school. She went to a Walkersville town meeting and helped convince the burgess and commissioners to sign the *U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement*, stating that the town would take steps locally to stop global warming. She was also part of her school's Envirothon team, which won first in the county and state competition and placed 16th at the Canon Envirothon in Geneva, New York. She led the team in the fifth issue portion of the test, which was alternative energy.

Hanna organized a candidates' forum on environmental issues for the county commissioner candidates with the help of Frederick County's *Service Learning Advisory Board (SLAB)*. The forum was well attended and was an opportunity for candidates to speak about their plans to deal with environmental issues in Frederick County. Also with SLAB, she implemented a recycling program at Frederick's *In the Street* festival last fall. This year, the group is partnering with *Community Commons* and *My Organic Market* to make the effort even more effective. In the winter of 2007, she was trained by Al Gore and *The Climate Project* to give his talk on global warming. She agreed to give the talk 10 times within a year, and has since given it about 14 times throughout the community. Hanna helped plan Frederick's *Step It Up* rally for global warming in the spring of 2007 and served as a volunteer coordinator and speaker at the event.

Hanna and her dad have raised their own chickens for eggs and their family likes to buy locally grown food. They have a rain barrel and compost pile in their backyard. She will be attending the *University of Maryland*, majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. Her other interests include reading, playing tennis, and doing service-learning projects.

Green Snapshots

Some Happy News for a Change!

(Letter to Cole Hons from Natural Resources Defense Council)

Dear Christopher,

I have terrific news to share about two of our most important courtroom battles. First, a federal court has temporarily blocked the Shell Oil Company from drilling exploratory wells this summer off the coast of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Just last month I alerted you that we were rushing to court to stop the drilling before it could start -- and prevent any chance of an oil spill blanketing the shore of the Arctic Refuge and turning it into a long-term toxic waste site.

By putting Shell's operation on hold until the full case can be heard, the court has granted an eleventh-hour reprieve to polar bears and other wildlife, and shown its concern about the impacts of drilling. We're gearing up for a full hearing next week in federal court.

Now the second -- and equally dramatic -- victory: with the U.S. Navy about to train with dangerous, mid-frequency sonar during nearly a dozen upcoming exercises off the southern California coast, a federal judge has stepped in -- at NRDC's request -- and blocked the use of the sonar!

We are demanding that the Navy put common-sense measures in place to protect whales and other marine mammals from a lethal technology that has caused whale strandings and deaths around the world. The court's injunction is "preliminary," which means that this fight is far from over. Nevertheless, it is a stunning setback for the Navy, and it supports our contention that whales should not have to die for military practice.

These twin victories are very important steps forward in our campaign to thwart the Bush administration's ongoing assault on America's wildlife and wild places. And you made them possible -- through your unflagging and generous support of NRDC. I want to thank you, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the attorneys and staffers who are working so tirelessly on these cases. What a great day for the environment!

Sincerely,

Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council (Submitted by Christopher "Cole" Hons, State College, PA)



Canada Expands National Park in Northern Wilds

CALGARY, Canada (*Environmental News Network* August 9, 2007)--The Canadian government said Wednesday it would double the size of Nahanni National Park Reserve in the remote southwest corner of the Northwest Territories, adding new protection for the region's wildlife. Ottawa will add 5,400 square kilometers (2,085 square miles) of land to the park, which now covers nearly 4,800 square kilometers. The expanded park will be nearly the size of Jamaica.

Once Rare Black-Footed Ferrets Make Comeback in U.S. West

by Maggie Fox, Reuters

WASHINGTON, D.C. (*Environmental News Network* August 10, 2007)--The black-footed ferret, once the rarest mammal in the world, has made an astonishing comeback in the U.S. state of Wyoming after a captive breeding program, researchers said Thursday.

Federal Judge Halts Logging in Washington Habitat of Threatened Spotted Owl

by Donna Gordon Blankinship, Associated Press

SEATTLE, Washington (*Environmental News Network* August 2, 2007) --A federal judge issued a preliminary injunction Wednesday to stop Weyerhaeuser Co. from logging in spotted owl habitat on four parcels of private land in Washington. U.S. District Judge Marsha J. Pechman did not grant, however, an additional request by the Seattle Audubon Society to stop the state of Washington from granting permits to log in spotted owl habitat. The injunction from logging covers spotted owl habitat within 2.7 miles of the center of four circles of land in southwestern Washington that are owned by Weyerhaeuser.

Federal Judge Dismisses Off-Road Suit in Death Valley, Protecting Surprise Canyon

FRESNO, California (*Environmental News Network* July 26, 2007)--A federal court has denied an attempt by off-road vehicle enthusiasts to reopen a rare, fragile desert stream in Death Valley National Park to extreme vehicle use. The off-roaders' group had sued the federal government claiming it had a right to use the streambed under a repealed Civil War-era law known as R.S. 2477. District Court Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill dismissed the suit for lack of jurisdiction.

Green Snapshots

A Big Win Against Corporate Control of Water

by Megan Tady, *InTheseTimes.com*

STOCKTON, California (*alternet.org* August 4, 2007)—Bill Lokyo never expected to find himself embroiled in a six-year battle over water with a multinational corporation and city officials in Stockton, California "We all thought this would only be a one-year fight," Lokyo says. But Lokyo and the group Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton (CCOS) felt compelled to challenge a rushed deal that turned the city's publicly owned water system into a for-profit venture. This month, their perseverance paid off when the city finally sent privatization packing.

"We believed that we were right," Lokyo says. "And when you believe that, you just can't stop."

In 2003, against the wishes of many Stockton residents, the city signed a 20-year contract with the company OMI-Thames to manage its wastewater, water and stormwater system. The CCOS, joined by the Sierra Club and the League of Women Voters of San Joaquin County, filed a lawsuit under the California Environmental Quality Act to halt the project until it allowed for public participation. Judges twice ruled in favor of the groups, and on July 17, city officials voted to rescind their appeal and dissolve what *Food and*

Water Watch, a group that challenges corporate control of water resources, has called the "most notorious water privatization deal in the United States."



Hybrid Train in Japan Does Its Tiny Part to Fight Global Warming

by Yuri Kageyama, *Associated Press*

SAKU, Japan (*Environmental News Network* July 30, 2007)—Winding past rice paddies and lazily blowing its whistle along bubbly creeks, this two-car train in rural northern Japan is the latest entrant in the battle against global warming. Following its runaway success with hybrid cars, Japan is bringing the world hybrid trains. Regular passenger runs are set to begin Tuesday on a short mountain route, the first time a diesel-electric hybrid train will be put into commercial service.

First Program in North America to Offer Free Rail Transit with Car Sharing Membership

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania (*Transport Topics Online* July 16, 2007)—PhillyCarShare has announced the launch of a groundbreaking, first-in-its-industry program called "Free Rail to CarShare" that will reimburse its members for SEPTA use when they connect from the public transit service to a PhillyCarShare vehicle. Members who use subway, trolley and regional rail service and send in their receipts (not required for subway/trolley) will be reimbursed as a credit to their PhillyCarShare accounts, up to \$7 round-trip for regional rail and \$2.60 round-trip on rapid transit and subway-surface. With over 30 eligible stations in the promotion representing every rail line in the SEPTA system, notable stations include: 69th Street, Frankford, Fern Rock, 30th Street, City Hall, 8th & Market, and neighborhood stations along the R6, R7, and R8 regional rail lines in Northwest Philadelphia. (See www.phillycarshare.org).



"This is a pioneering partnership," said Clayton Lane, AICP, Deputy Executive Director and Co-Founder, PhillyCarShare. "Never before has rail transit been free with car sharing."

Agreement Would Protect Indian Cellar Property

HOLLIS, Maine (*Environmental News Network* July 16, 2007)—The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national nonprofit conservation organization with an office in Portland, announced today that it has reached an agreement with Maine Woodland Properties, Inc. to purchase the 58-acre Indian Cellar property, which lies along the Saco River downstream from Salmon Falls in Hollis. TPL plans to work with the town to seek grants and donations that will help the town acquire the property for permanent conservation. The current owners have proposed a 12-home subdivision on the property, but have now agreed to sell the land to TPL, which has until July 30, 2008 to complete the purchase. In the next year, the town will apply to the Land for Maine's Future Program to help defray its cost of the purchase, and also seek private donations.

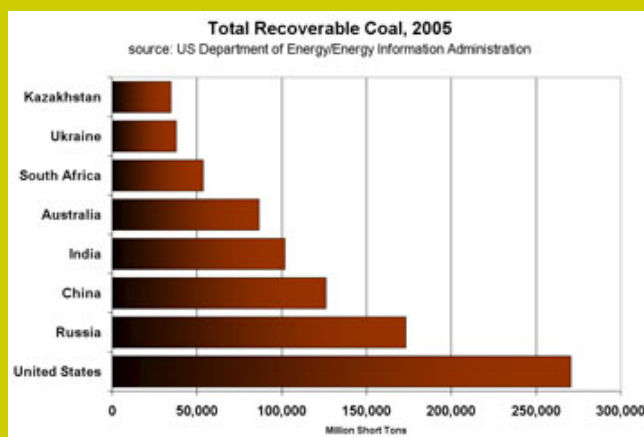
Green Snapshots

20 Coal Projects Canceled as Global Warming Fears Mount

(PennFuture, July 25, 2007)—Coal-fired power plants are fast being shelved as environmental concerns mount, reports the *Wall Street Journal*. "As recently as May, U.S. power companies had announced intentions to build as many as 150 new generating plants fueled by coal, which currently supplies about half the nation's electricity," writes Rebecca Smith. "One reason for the surge of interest in coal was concern over the higher price of natural gas, which has driven up electricity prices in many places. Coal appeared capable of softening the impact since the U.S. has deep coal reserves and prices are low."

"But as plans for this fleet of new coal-powered plants move forward, an increasing number are being canceled or development slowed. Coal plants have come under fire because coal is a big source of carbon dioxide, the main gas blamed for global warming, in a time when climate change has become a hot-button political issue... The rapid shift away from coal shows how quickly and powerfully environmental concerns, and the costs associated with eradicating them, have changed matters for the power industry."

Smith cites the cancellation of eight coal plants in Texas under the private-equity deal to buy TXU Corporation earlier year as "an early sign of the changing momentum" for the industry. Nearly two dozen coal projects have been canceled since early 2006. Florida, North Carolina, and Oregon have all seen projects dumped.



Current coal reserves. Source: US Department of Energy/Energy Information Administration

Red and Pink Corals Get U.N. Trade Protection

by Alister Doyle, Reuters

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (*Environmental News Network* June 14, 2007)—Trade in red and pink corals prized as jewelry for 5,000 years will be restricted to try to help the species recover after drastic



over-exploitation, a U.N. wildlife conference agreed on Wednesday. Countries at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) voted 62 to 28 to start regulating export of corals, now harvested mainly in the Mediterranean and Western Pacific in a business worth millions of dollars. Necklaces made of the red and pink corals, collectively known as *Corallium*, can cost up to \$20,000. Many other species of coral are already protected by CITES. "*Corallium*, the most valuable of the pre-

precious corals, has been fished for over 5,000 years," the U.S. proposal said, adding that millions of items and thousands of pounds a year were traded internationally.

"Regulation of trade is necessary to ensure they do not become threatened with extinction," said Andrew Bruckner, a U.S. official who authored the proposal.

Golf Course Hits the Rough: Luxury Mega-Resort Denied to Protect Habitat Plan

COACHELLA VALLEY, California (*Environmental News Network* July 16, 2007)—A Riverside county commission rejected a proposal to build a controversial high-end golf course and resort at the expense of wildlife and regional habitat planning. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club filed suit in May to challenge the Palmwood annexation that was approved by the Riverside Local Agency Formation Commission, a regional agency charged with discouraging urban sprawl.

"Palmwood is an ecological and financial disaster," said Jonathan Evans of the Center for Biological Diversity. "It would have driven a stake through the heart of more than a decade of regional planning." The annexation would have devastated recognized conservation lands at the heart of a regional habitat plan near Joshua Tree National Park.

Green Snapshots

Do You Live in One of the World's 15 Greenest Cities?

(*alternet.org* July 27, 2007)--These metropolises aren't literally the greenest places on earth--they're not necessarily dense with foliage, for one, and some still have a long way to go down the path to sustainability. But all of the cities on this list deserve recognition for making impressive strides toward eco-friendliness, helping their many millions of residents live better, greener lives.

1. **Reykjavik, Iceland.**

2. **Portland, Oregon, U.S.**

4. **Malmö, Sweden**

5. **Vancouver, Canada**

6. **Copenhagen, Denmark**

7. **London, England**

8. **San Francisco, California, U.S.** Nearly half of all 'Friscans take public transit, walk, or bike each day, and over 17 percent of the city is devoted to parks and green space. San Francisco has also been a leader in green building, with more than 70 projects registered under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification system. In 2001, San Francisco voters approved a \$100 million bond initiative to finance solar panels, energy efficiency, and wind turbines for public facilities. The city has also banned non-recyclable plastic bags and plastic kids' toys laced with questionable chemicals. Next thing you know, they'll all be wearing flowers in their hair.

9. **Bahía de Caráquez, Ecuador**

10. **Sydney, Australia**

11. **Barcelona, Spain**

12. **Bogotá, Colombia**

13. **Bangkok, Thailand**

14. **Kampala, Uganda**

15. **Austin, Texas:** Austin is poised to become the No. 1 solar manufacturing center in the U.S., and its hometown utility, Austin Energy, has given the notion of pulling power from the sun a Texas-sized embrace. The city is on its way to meeting 20 percent of its electricity needs through the use of renewables and efficiency by 2020. Austin also devotes 15 percent of its land to parks and other open spaces, boasts 32 miles of bike trails, and has an ambitious smart-growth initiative, making it a happy green nook in what's widely perceived as a not-so-green state. To put it mildly.



Runners-up

Chicago, IL, U.S.: Mayor Richard M. Daley (D) is striving to make his hometown "the greenest city in America." There's lots of literal greenery: under his leadership, Chicago has planted 500,000 new trees, invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the revitalization of parks and neighborhoods, and added more than 2 million square feet of rooftop gardens, more than all other U.S. cities combined. And there's plenty of metaphorical greening too: the Windy City has built some of the most eco-friendly municipal buildings in the country, been a pioneer in municipal renewable-energy standards, provided incentives for homeowners to be more energy efficient, and helped low-income families get solar power.

Freiburg, Germany

Seattle, WA, U.S.: Mayor Greg Nickels (D) has committed his city to meeting the emission-reduction goals of the Kyoto climate treaty, and inspired more than 590 other U.S. mayors to do the same. True to its name, the Emerald City is also planting trees, building green, and benefiting from biodiesel and hybrid buses.

Quebec City, Canada