



# The Order of the Earth

## News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

### September 2008

## Tri-State Tower Fight Continues

By Heather Fister, California PA



*Journaling in a backyard hammock leads one to contemplate the future of the planet.*

*Photo by Heather Fister*

### From her Hammock: A Plea to Swing into Action to Protect the Land

The day was beautiful. I finished cutting the grass early and was able to have a few minutes to myself. I went out to my hammock with every intention of reading. Instead, as I watched various birds flutter in and out of the thick green

canopy of trees above me, my thoughts turned to Allegheny Power's proposed 500-kilovolt transmission line project.

I grew disturbed, saddened and angry as I thought about the adverse effects this line would have on all that I take comfort in this day: the birds, air, water, and trees. It's no wonder I no longer had the desire to read. So, as I sit here now, at my computer, yearning to release my disappointment about this project and company through writing, I can hardly write

fast enough. After attending every public hearing, evidentiary hearing, reading expert testimonies and doing my own intense research, I know for certain that this project is not needed locally and yet it's being sold to the public as if it were. We, the public, aren't being fed absolute sugar by Allegheny Power, it's liver with a sugar coating ...

Let your mind try and calculate the amount of trees to be ravaged in the 240-mile corridor for replacement of colossal steel towers, trees that help moderate the climate, conserve water, and improve air quality. When mature trees are hacked, what happens is quite simple: Stored carbon is released back into the atmosphere — and carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is the primary cause of global warming.

Now, imagine this: particulate matter, from hazardous pollution far excessive than it is now and so small the human eye can barely see it, if at all, raining upon the land, people and animals, due to added generation. We inhale this toxic matter, have it enter our bloodstream, tissue, and bones. And decades later, we humans will wonder why there's an incredible rise in reproductive problems, mutations, respiratory problems, cancer, and learning disabilities? By this time, it's too late to trace the root of origin on any of them and you will get the usual "these studies aren't conclusive enough".

And then there are other hazardous chemicals (showered onto unwanted  
*Continued on Page 16; more on page 3*

## Frederick County Incinerator Debate Heats Up

Frederick County, Maryland is dangerously close to being the first community in the U.S. to build a trash incinerator in over a decade. Frederick, in partnership with neighboring Carroll County, is considering a \$350 million Waste-to-Energy (WTE) incinerator. After approximately twenty years of operation these incinerators require refurbishment as most were built in the 1980s to mid-'90s when they were in vogue. Today, as many are reaching this stage, some communities are evaluating programs to replace WTE incineration with other more cost effective and environmentally suitable methods.

The most critical element of WTE is an adequate and constant fuel source. Frederick County can only gain fuel source Flow Control within its boundaries. This will be less than 500 tons per day (TPD) of the mandatory 1500 TPD of fuel required for WTE incineration. Frederick is semi-rural and less suitable for WTE than more densely populated counties. Being unable to generate adequate fuel on its own, it will be legally vulnerable regarding fuel requirements set out in contracts for the efficient operation of a WTE incinerator. Some jurisdictions have met legal challenges maintaining adequate fuel inflow.

The Btu content of trash has been increasing steadily over time due in part to the increasing volume of plastic which has one of the highest Btu contents of any fuel group. Historically plastics have not been aggressively recovered and current trends are increasing the recycling rates which is changing the composition of trash and reducing the energy content of trash as a fuel for incineration. As more plastics are recovered through greater recycling efforts, Frederick County will find it difficult to meet its contractual WTE obligations.

For example, certain types of plastic have more than three times the heat value than many biomass materials in trash. Some of these biomass materials do not produce significant heat when combusted and may in fact reduce the heat output of a WTE facility.

At peak performance a 1,500 TPD WTE produces less than 35 megawatts (MW) of power after self-use. In comparison, the proposed Sempra (Catoctin Power) Generating Facility  
*Continued on Page 14*

## What is Happening to The Mountain State?

### In the Name of Electricity: Part II

By Cynthia S. Waugh, Sykesville, MD

Try to imagine what hell looks like. Visit me at Kayford\* and I'll take you through hell's gate.

*Larry Gibson*

\*Kayford Mountain, West Virginia (see page 6)

Last month in Part I, I began this story to tell you about my connection to West Virginia, The Mountain State, of which I mentioned the significance of small towns, outdoor adventure, an easy-going lifestyle that most of us simply dream about, and to begin a process of showing you what your connection is as well. I revealed a few names of famous people that call West Virginia 'home' and interpreted the meaning behind the residents' nick-name: The Mountaineers. Regretfully, my story took an involved turn, as I revealed the inventory of  
*(Continued on Page 6)*

*From the Editor*



Dear Friends,

I promised I'd be back after watching the DVD my new friend, Don Harkins (editor of "The Idaho Observer"), gave me because he wanted to educate me about some of the viewpoints of global warming skeptics, or those who believe there are less-than-admirable reasons which motivate many people in the climate change movement.

I also received information from another new friend, Al Fry, also from Idaho.

After watching the DVD and reading all the information they sent (plus more), I have these conclusions:

1. We all need to find common ground for protecting the Earth;
2. Whatever motivates us to that, be it religion or science or grandchildren or "whatever," this is going to be a life-long and difficult effort;
3. Much of the material I dealt with had references by "scientists" who were funded by Exxon/Mobile so I really don't trust them at all; and
4. Since I have my personal experiences as a former air pollution inspector in New Jersey and since I had my famous swim in the ocean wherein every cell in my body knew the ocean was rising, I will remain true to myself and continue to do the best I can to uncover wonderful articles for your enlightenment and enjoyment.

For the Earth,  
Iona

**1st Amendment to the United States Constitution**

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

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*Masthead Photo by Iona: Queen Anne's Lace growing in our wild front lawn through succession. We are giving Nature back in a land where mowing has gotten out of control. People even mow right up to the road now, where once wildflowers would separate the thoroughfare from the home. Do people really enjoy watching cars? Wouldn't it be wiser and more beautiful to let the edges of the property be laced with graceful and wild stretches? And have some privacy?*

**DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:  
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**"The Order of the Earth News"** 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 90% greenhouse gas reductions by 2030.

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

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

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# Stop the Towers Fight Continues Day and Night

By Rick Layton, Waynesburg PA



*Seen in an office at Allegheny Energy corporate headquarters, 800 Cabin Hill Drive, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.*

Here is an update on the efforts to Stop the Towers. Please pass this information along to everyone in your area as some may not have access to the Internet or this e-blast. As always, you can check with the Stop the Towers Web site (end of story) or call the Energy Conservation Council Hotline at 724-267-3040 for the latest information.

## West Virginia and Virginia Rulings

The West Virginia Public Service Commission has approved TrAIL Co.'s application to construct the AP TrAIL. It is a disappointment, but not really a surprise. The WV Consumer Advocate did NOT look at the need for the line, but rather looked to mitigate the impacts of the line. According to news sources, the state came to a "deal" with TrAIL Co. to bring about 150 jobs to WV (some moved from PA) and to give affected landowners a partial seven year reprieve on their electric bills. The Governor himself made it clear early on that he thought

this project would be good for WV and was able to get contributions to the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity for expansion of the current energy efficiency program from TrAIL Co.

Hope is not completely lost in WV though, as the Sierra Club has vowed to continue the fight by appealing to the state Supreme Court. Also, as was the case in Virginia, the granting of this application is dependent upon both Virginia and Pennsylvania approving the line.

In Virginia, the State Corporation Commission released a "recommended" decision from the hearing examiner that also supported the TrAIL project. Once again, it is conditioned upon both WV and PA approving the line. There were some deals made along the way there as well and at least one major opposition group, CPV Warren, dropped out of the proceedings after the company was purchased by Dominion. As will happen here in Pennsylvania, this is the hearing examiners' recommendation to the Commission. The Commission will give a final ruling in the near future, so

there is still hope. Piedmont Environmental Council and other groups have also vowed to continue the fight! If you would like to read the hearing examiners decision, go to [http://www.pecva.org/\\_downloads/powerlines/documents/statefilings/VA\\_SCC\\_HearingExaminer-Recommendation\\_July2008.pdf](http://www.pecva.org/_downloads/powerlines/documents/statefilings/VA_SCC_HearingExaminer-Recommendation_July2008.pdf).

## Any "Deals" here in PA?

Although it appears that there are no "deals" being made here in Pennsylvania as occurred in WV and VA, you just never know! That is why it is so important that we continue to talk with our elected officials and encourage them to stay vigilant! Let them know that we are, and always will be, opposed to this project! Remind them that the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), the West Penn Power Interveners, and even the Office of Trial Staff, which is a branch of the PUC itself, are all opposed to this project based upon the facts and evidence presented! Be sure to thank them for all they have done in the past, but also encourage them as there is still much to do in the future! This battle is still a ways from being over, and we need them to stay with us all the way to the end. We also need them to keep a watchful eye on any "deals" that TrAIL Co. might try to make! Links for background information, documents and elected officials for Washington and Greene Counties are on our Web site.

## STILL TRESPASSING!

Although TrAIL Co. agreed to abide by a "Code of Conduct" for all of its employees and subcontractors, they're at it again! Only now, it's at night. Subcontractors attempting to complete the environmental surveys, looking specifically for the endangered Indiana Bat, are setting up nets after dark and removing them before daylight. On at least two occasions, residents have found these employees on their property without

permission. In the "Code of Conduct" contained in TrAIL Co.'s answer to the OCA Request for Injunctive Relief, filed on November 7, 2007, TrAIL Co. agreed to: "Obtain unequivocal permission to enter property for purposes of surveying or conducting environmental assessments or other activities. Clearly explain to the property owner the scope of work to be conducted based on the permission given. Attempt to notify the occupant of the property each time you enter the property based on this permission."

Apparently they forgot to tell the environmental surveyors! Thus, it is very important that we (you) contact the police and file a complaint anytime you find TrAIL Co. representatives trespassing on your property. Also, please help police your neighborhood. Call your neighbors when you see cars/trucks sitting along the road near their properties. Because the PUC record is closed, we can not take these issues to the PUC. But we can file police reports and then tell our stories with Letters to the Editor. If we can bring attention to this inappropriate behavior, we can stop it, or at least delay it!

## PUC Decision Delayed

It was expected that the Administrative Law Judges would render a "recommended" decision by mid-July, but that obviously didn't happen. The ALJs had not given a ruling at press time.

The final ruling by the Commission must occur on or before October 5th, which is the one-year anniversary of the NIETC designation. So surely the ALJ's ruling will occur in the next few weeks at the latest. Be sure to check the Web site for updates and developments along the way.

**For more information, go to [www.stophetowers.org/](http://www.stophetowers.org/).**

# STOP THE TOWERS

## Iowa

### Another Example of Extreme Weather: Iowa Flooding

By Lou Rimbach

7:00 AM, Saturday 7/5/08: Lou Rimbach of Salisbury, Maryland boarded a bus full of Presbyterians bound for Mediapolis, Iowa, some 1,030 miles west of home. Well, not all 27 of us on that bus were Presbyterians — there were some Catholics and Methodists etc., mixed in. More importantly, we were all bound for Iowa to stay in the small town of Mediapolis and work for a week helping the nearby town of Oakville recover from the devastating June flooding.

Before the flood there were 191 homes and businesses in Oakville. After the flood, 101 of those homes were damaged, 92 sustaining major destruction. Eleven of the twenty-two businesses also received major damage. Oakville was only one of many towns in Des Moines County devastated by the floods.

Volunteers stayed in homes of Mediapolis Presbyterian church members. The local high school provided hot showers and hearty meals were prepared by several local churches.

Our group of volunteers spent the week cleaning out mud-covered and water-damaged furniture, ripping out water-soaked drywall and flooring. We pumped out basements, carrying out load after load of ruined personal belongings.

In many cases, sadly, all was lost — furniture, appliances, clothing and lifelong treasures. At the end of the week, seven homes had been worked on, totally cleaned out — three of which are now ready to begin the restoration process. All new electrical fixtures, insulation, heating/air conditioning units, drywall, flooring have to be installed, and new paint applied, before residents can return home.

The people of the area need help **DESPERATELY**. One way to help is to go there physically and help with clean-up efforts. Work trips are scheduled to leave for Iowa September 20th and October 11th. Another way to help is to send Lowe's or Wall-Mart gift cards which can be used to purchase needed building materials and damaged personal belongings.

Mail gift cards to: Presbytery of Carlisle, 3040 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011. To get more information about going to Mediapolis call 211-877-0700.

**Lou Rimbach is retired from a "normal" job and now is a full-time political activist and professional volunteer.**

## Pennsylvania

### New Nuke Plant Planned for Bloomsburg

On August 19th, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a meeting at Bloomsburg University to discuss the role the NRC would play in the anticipated review of Pennsylvania Power & Light's application for a combined license for a nuclear power plant combined license including details of the safety and environmental reviews. A key topic was how and when the public would participate in the NRC process, if so desired.

The primary contact is Micahel Canova, NRO/DNRL Surinder Arora, NRO/DNRL, 301-415-0737 or 301-415-1421.

*[Ed.: I wonder what all these letters mean; is the general public supposed to understand this gobbeldy-gook? Below is the email I received about this.]*

Dear Pennsylvania activists:

Below is a copy of a memo we received today from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concerning a public meeting in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania to discuss the upcoming application for a Construction/Operating License for a new atomic reactor in Pennsylvania from PPL. We hope as many of you as possible will make it to this meeting and let PPL and the NRC know that Pennsylvania opposes new reactors!

Feel free to contact us if we can provide more information about the NRC's licensing process or anything else.

Michael Mariotte, Executive Director  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service; nirsnet@nirs.org; www.nirs.org or 301-270-6477.

### Mayor Pushes Bike Path to Connect School and Town

By William Kibler excerpt  
*Altoona Mirror* August 13, 2008 — Altoona Mayor Wayne Hippo has begun to peddle an idea proposed recently by Penn State Altoona Chancellor Lori Bechtel-Wherry: a bike path from the campus to downtown. Hippo shifted up a gear, calling for development of bike and pedestrian paths all over the city. "It all comes back to the [Altoona Blair County Development Corporation] concept of building places where people want to live," Hippo said.

## Maryland

### New Nuke Plant Planned for Calvert Cliffs

August 7, 2008 [Ed.: This is printed for your information, after the fact.]

Dear Maryland Safe Energy Advocates:

Don't let the Public Service Commission (PSC) decide Maryland's energy future without hearing from you!

Click here: <http://www.marylandpirg.org/action/smart-energy-solutions/pscpetition?id4=ES> to sign on to a petition to the PSC asking them to invest in clean energy instead of signing off on nuclear power.

And please come to a public hearing, sponsored by the Chesapeake Safe Energy Coalition (<http://www.safeenergy.org>) on August 12 at the Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore.

The meeting will include a video welcome from Nobel Laureate Jody Williams and brief presentations by economist David Schlissel of Synapse Energy Economics in Boston, MA (CSEC's expert witness in the current Maryland PSC proceeding on Calvert Cliffs-3), solar power entrepreneur Albert Nunez, and others.

And then we want to hear your comments! All of your comments will be transcribed and submitted to the Maryland PSC to become part of the official record.

If you're concerned about Maryland's energy future, want to stop global warming, want to reduce air pollution, want lower utility bills, or want to make sure we're not endangering future generations, now is the time to make your voice heard.

The PSC is collecting public input on Constellation's plans to build a new, \$11 BILLION nuclear reactor at Calvert Cliffs. Act now to add your name to the petition calling for a safe and clean energy future. Imagine how much clean, safe renewable energy \$11 billion could buy for Maryland.

Tell your family and friends urging them to do the same.

Thanks for all you do,  
Michael Mariotte, Executive Director  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service; nirsnet@nirs.org or email: nirsnet@nirs.org; 301-270-6477.

## Canada



### Toronto Pays People to Reduce Carbon Footprint

(Global Warming is Real via Environmental News Network, excerpt July 28, 2008) — The Canadian city of Toronto is paying citizens for going green. What's been named the 'Live Green Toronto Program', launched recently, has \$20 million available over the next five years for citizen-driven carbon savings projects. The funding, in the form of subsidies, will go to projects that will help the city make good on its target of reducing its carbon footprint 6% by 2012.

The city's mayor, David Miller, indicated that Toronto needs all the help it can get to achieve its ambitious plans. The mayor was quoted in the *Toronto Star* commenting that, "The plan's success depends on residents creating change." The Toronto Environmental Office is closely involved with the project. It is this official agency which has negotiated all the criteria for the grants that citizens can obtain for projects involving environmentally safe ideas. Funding will especially be directed to people looking to invest in equipment and materials.

The Live Green Toronto program is structured in a rather unique way. It works with what are termed "activators," environmentalists working for non-governmental agencies. Activators meet people with project ideas and collaborate with them through the first stages. If a project idea survives the idea development stage, citizens will have been granted \$1,000 to \$25,000. They then can apply for full grants of between \$25,000 to \$250,000 for their projects to become reality. The city's long term targets are a 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

*The Toronto Star* reports on a number of brilliant examples of projects that the City of Toronto supports: a solar-heated water system and an inventory initiative of neighborhood trees. The latter project has a goal to plant more similar trees on private property and public parks.

## Georgia



### Judge: Reduce CO2 or Don't Build Coal Plant: Largest Coal Promoter Gets a Slap in the Face

(TheDailyGreen.com excerpt via Environmental News Network, July 1, 2008) — In a ruling believed to be unprecedented, a Georgia judge halted the construction of Dynegy's Longleaf coal-fired power plant because it had not made provisions for reducing its emissions of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas most widely implicated in man-made global warming.

The judge ruled that the plant must limit its pollution, according to the Sierra Club, which has been waging a campaign against Dynegy, an energy company with plans to build more coal-fired power plants than any other.

The Supreme Court has ruled that carbon dioxide can be regulated under the Clean Air Act but the state judge's ruling applies that decision to a specific plant before any state or federal regulations have been set in place ... . Still, environmentalists trying to slow the nation's greenhouse gas pollution were emboldened by the decision; they said it should influence permitting of power plants around the country. It almost certainly will be appealed by the Houston-based company and/or state regulators, which had not put limits on carbon dioxide when it permitted construction.

"Coal-fired power plants emit more than 30% of our nation's global warming pollution," said Bruce Nilles, Director of the Sierra Club's National Coal Campaign. "Thanks to this decision, coal plants across the country will be forced to live up to their clean coal rhetoric."



## No Child Left Inside Initiative

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

By Ruth Roperti, President PA Association of Environmental Educators

About a year and a half ago an initiative was started, inspired by the book Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder by Richard Louv. Led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the North American Association for Environmental Education, this initiative's goal is the passage of the federal No Child Left Inside Act. "This legislation would authorize major new funding for states to provide high-quality environmental instruction. Funds would support outdoor learning activities both at school and in non-formal environmental education centers, teacher training, and the creation of state environmental literacy plans." ([www.eenclb.org](http://www.eenclb.org)) Maryland's Representative John P. Sarbanes introduced this action into the U.S. House and it will be voted on when the representatives return to Washington, D.C. this fall.

Support for this act has been phenomenal; never before has the grassroots impression on Capital Hill been so strong. Currently there are over 600 organization representing 43 million people that are part of the coalition, with 15 to 20 more groups joining each day. Education, recreation, health, and religious groups have joined this cause in addition to those with a strong interest in the environment. It is the largest, most effective coalition ever seen.

When this act is passed (and notice, I am saying "when"), children across the country will all benefit from high quality environmental education. Currently Pennsylvania is the only state where the teaching of environmental education is a stand alone standard. "Children who spend more time outside before age 11 are much more likely to grow up to be environmentally committed as adults," said Larry Schweiger, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, which is also a member of the NCLI Coalition. "The No Child Left Inside Act will stimulate environmental education nationwide and help ensure our young people have the tools necessary to face environmental challenges, such as global warming, that they

will face as adults."

There are many more steps to the day when this act is passed and your help is needed. Visit [www.nclcoalition.org](http://www.nclcoalition.org) for more information and to add your organization to the coalition. There are points there to help you take action and advice for contacting your congressmen. Do not miss this opportunity to be part of this exciting movement!

For questions please contact me at [rroperti@zoominternet.net](mailto:rroperti@zoominternet.net).

*Ruth Roperti, president of Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators (PAEE), lives in Beaver Falls, PA. She taught in Riverside School District in western PA for 37 years, mostly 3rd grade. She currently teaches graduate courses for teachers and continues her 16 year volunteer position as education director for Moraine Preservation Fund at Moraine State Park. Learn more about PAEE at [www.paee.net](http://www.paee.net).*

### Sample Letter to the Editor for Local Newspapers

Like other parents, I worry about kids spending far too much time plugged into electronic devices and not outside exploring and learning about their natural world. It's not unusual to see kids spend hours inside watching television or playing on a computer, and just minutes a day outside.

As kids become disconnected from nature, the ramifications are profound — dramatic increases in childhood obesity, diabetes and attention deficit disorder. We have to re-connect young people to their natural world.

One vehicle for helping do that is pending in Congress — the No Child Left Inside Act, which is **scheduled to be voted on by the U.S. House of Representatives in September**. This legislation, which passed the House Education and Labor Committee with bipartisan support, would get kids outside during the school day by providing new funding for environmental education. The funds would ensure that teachers are

trained to provide high-quality, engaging lessons and would expand environmental learning opportunities here in [YOUR STATE] and around the country.

This legislation is also a strong response to the many complicated environmental challenges we face, including global climate change and an increase in threats to our air and water supplies. We have to make sure our children understand these challenges and are well-prepared to overcome them in the years ahead.

The Act does not create any new mandates on our schools. Instead, it would create incentives to states to create environmental literacy plans. These would serve as a road map for ensuring that all of our students have a solid understanding of the environment.

Environmental education will also lead to better student achievement. Research shows that when environmental education is incorporated into the curriculum or used as an integrating context for learning, students perform better on standardized tests in reading, math, writing, social studies and science.

Other studies have documented that environmental education improves critical thinking skills and motivates students to become more engaged in the classroom and achieve more strongly in their schoolwork. And exposure to engaging environmental lessons will increase students' interest in pursuing careers in the sciences, something we urgently need in the face of international competition.

The Act is being pushed by the No Child Left Inside Coalition, a national coalition that now has more than 600 member organizations, including groups focused on environmental concerns, education, outdoor recreation and public health. All of these disparate groups share a commitment to improving how we teach our kids about their world.

In my view, the No Child Left Inside Act should be a priority for all parents. I urge Rep. X [YOUR REPRESENTATIVE] to support this important piece of legislation.

Let's get kids off the couch and outside to see what they've been missing.

## What is Happening to the Mountain State?



January 4, 2006: This is Kayford Mountain. Can you see the cabins along the road in the bottom of the photo? Photo credit: Southwings



July 23, 2007: Somewhere in the small clump of trees left behind on this mountain is a cemetery belonging to Gibson's family (see quote on page 1). This is Kayford Mountain, West Virginia, home of one of Massey Energy's mountaintop removal sites. Photo credit: Southwings

(Continued from page 1)

West Virginia citizen's interviews regarding Mountaintop Removal.

Meander south/southwest to the lower left part of the state — not the world-class Greenbrier Resort section, rather the opposite side that takes you into Mountaintop Removal (MTR) Country. No longer do you have to deprive yourself as to what hell looks like. Gibson would say that you have arrived. This is MTR ... our source point of nearly half of the east coast's electrical power. In my quest to interview West Virginians who could unofficially define MTR, once the myriad of well-deserved expletives were deleted, this is how it is casually described: a catastrophic pit, scars of death, like a dangerous cancer, a bomb

crater for coal and maggots, a systematic genocide and a nasty way to get power.

Does this make you uncomfortable? It should.

By contrast, prior to MTR this land would have been described as: 'heaven' for an orchid or ginseng lover; 'rugged' for an angler, hiker or photographer; a 'beautiful site' with frost on rhododendron and morning mist to breathe, and 'home' to a healthy wild-turkey brood or cerulean warblers; and, of course, 'home' to humans belonging to a culture unique to Appalachia. Where would you like to position your vacation cabin — with a view near the crater for coal or situated to view thousands of acres of dense forest with the frost on rhododendron?

OVEC (Ohio Valley Environmen-

tal Association) circulates a pamphlet entitled, 'Stop the Devastation,' which defines MTR as "...the strip-mining practice of blasting off the tops of mountains so that huge machines can mine the seams of coal." The Sierra Club's Project Appalachia page states: "Mountaintop Removal is the nation's most destructive form of coal mining. Mining companies clear-cut native forests and use explosives to blow off mountaintops to uncover thin seams of coal. To minimize waste disposal costs, they then dump millions of tons of the waste rock into the valleys below, permanently burying streams. This devastating practice [valley fills] destroys ancient mountains, buries streams and lays waste to wildlife habitat. The blasting, coal dust, poisoned drinking water,

and increased flooding ruin the quality of people's lives and dramatically reduce the value of their property." (<https://secure2.convio.net/sierra/site/Advocacy>)

At one time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defined mountaintop removal as: "... Mountaintop removal can involve removing 500 feet or more of the summit to get at buried seams of coal. The earth from the mountaintop is then dumped in the neighboring valleys." ([www.appvoices.org](http://www.appvoices.org))

After examining this third definition it is easy to envision the potential for nightmarish interpretations. What is a 'top' of a definition states "500 feet or more" may be removed...**or more?** Appalachian Voices (a multi-state group working to end (Continued on page 7)



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## What is Happening to the Mountain State?



Boone Co. WV, December 10, 2005: Previously known as Island Creek Mountain. It appears as if they have taken more than simply the 'top.' The forests are first 'clear-cut.' Next, the streams and creek beds are buried by waste-rock and debris (valley fills). Add to this list the obvious displacement of wildlife habitat in rivers, streams and on land, and factor in all of the displaced individuals and their evacuated homes. Not all damage can be seen immediately, such as all of the well poisoning that occurs when sludge and slurry get into groundwater (from various possibilities such as leaking impoundments, and/or slurry injections, which involve dumping slurry into abandoned deep mines). Many find this lifestyle unattractive and too burdensome and will take a coal company buy-out, if offered. Other families refuse to allow a coal mine owner to force their family out and so they chose to stay to fight for what they own. Photo credit: Southwings

(Continued from page 6) end MTR) reports that at times 800 to 1000 feet of mountaintop have been known to be removed. (www.appvoices.org) Where is the neighboring valley? How far away can a neighbor be? Can they fill in a valley even if a town exists parallel, adjacent or a few miles away? By now you can surmise that MTR is not akin to underground mining, also known as 'deep mining.' Deep mines still exist in Appalachia. Some have been abandoned and some are in full-swing coal production. The difference is that deep mining leaves mountains intact, whereas MTR extracts coal at a much faster rate by blasting away surfaces, tops and sometimes what appears to be entire mountains laid to rest.

If you would like more information, here are some recommended Web sites, books and films:

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

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

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPix;CneseE&NR=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPix;CneseE&NR=1) (Narrated by speakers from [www.ilovemountains.org](http://www.ilovemountains.org) including Woody Harellson)

For those who enjoy musical interpretations and would like to see photos that portray pre- and post-MTR sites, see: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z54oeDJxBkw&NR=1>

Books regarding the use of coal in this nation:

Big Coal by Jeff Goodell

Moving Mountains by Penny Loeb

Bring Down the Mountains by Shirley Stewart Burns, PhD.

And the prize-winning documentary: *Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal and the Fight for Coalfield Justice* (See page 16 for Maryland showing)

**Next month Part III: More MTR information, photos and suggestions on how you can make a difference.**

Both deep mining and MTR companies sell coal to utilities such as Virginia's Dominion Power where it is first burned as fuel at a coal-fired power plant. "Dominion is one of the largest producers and transporters of energy in the United States with a portfolio ... serving 11 states." (www.sierraclub.org) According to the Office of Miners' Health Safety & Training Division, (<http://www.wvminesafety.org/History.htm>) the peak employment statistic in West Virginia mines equaled 130,457. Today, accounting for the easier and quicker way of mining, West Virginia now employs only 15,000 people in the coal-mining industry. (www.appvoices.org)

Jedd Ferris writes in *Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine* (July 2008), "Almost 500 named mountains have been completely destroyed. Over 1,500 miles of streams have been buried with the resulting waste. Over two million pounds of explosives are used in the south [part of West Virginia] every day and in West Virginia alone almost half a million acres have been leveled. That is what life has become in southern West Virginia. Every day good-natured mountain folk are being marginalized by profit mongers, who are allowed to bomb people's backyards for faster access to coal."

Ferris's data regarding explosives is conservative compared to Bill Moyers' and PBS's account of three million pounds being used daily (www.npr.org). To give you an idea of how much ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) explosive can be used, the Oklahoma City bomber, Timothy McVeigh, used 3,800 pounds of ANFO to blow up the Murrah Federal Building. Goodell reports witnessing a 55,000-pound detonation at one coal mine in one blast which is described in his book, Big Coal: The Dirty Secret Behind America's Energy Future (2006). He remarks that tremors and explosions occur on a daily basis in southern West Virginia and can make one feel as if (s)he is in an Air Force bombing range. "Coal mines are responsible for about 70 percent of the 2.5 million tons of industrial explosives that are detonated in America each year."

I hope that at least one section of this (Part II) has spoken to you. Please consider your actions. Whether you decide to stop wasting energy by using less, donate to an environmental group fighting for West Virginia citizens, or to simply read and talk about a sustainable future and educating others regarding MTR — remember, any action can have a ripple effect. Choose one and make waves!

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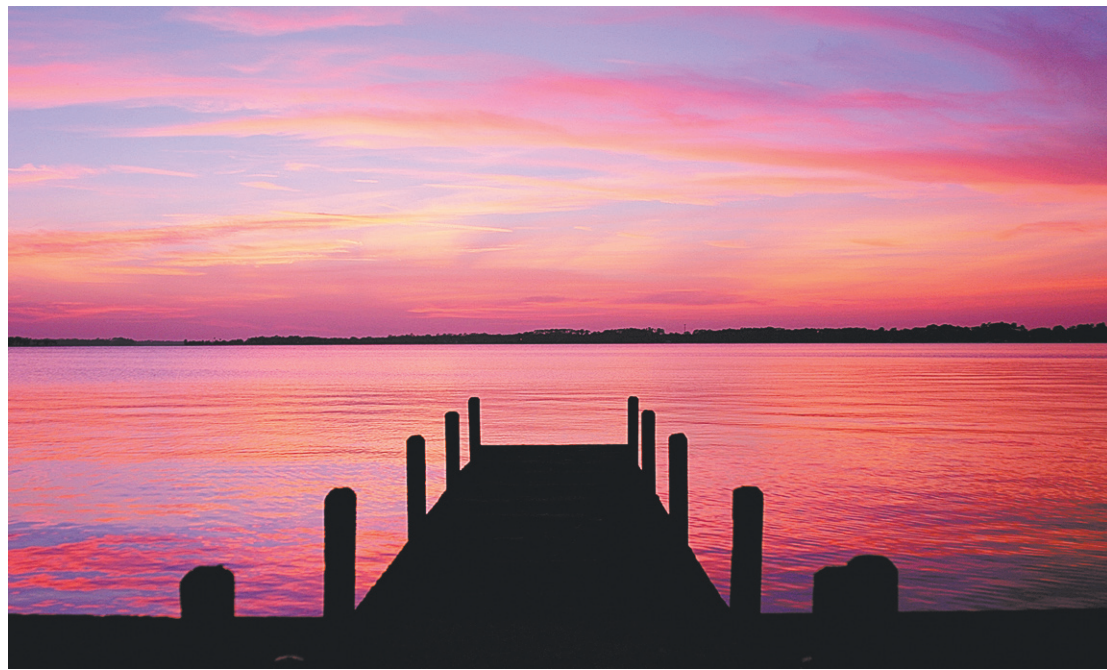


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# Will Loss of Wetlands Accelerate Climate Change?

By Bill Boteler



*This photo was taken at a lake in Central Florida as the colors of the sunset started to take shape. It reminds us of the importance of wetlands in preserving the purity of water quality as well as the end of summer. Photo by Scott Mahon, www.scottmahon.com*

On July 25, a group of 700 scientists from 28 nations concluded a week-long meeting in Cuiaba, Brazil with an urgent declaration concerning the need to preserve the Earth's wetlands with special reference to the problem of climate change. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> International Wetland Conference organized by the International Association for Ecology also known as INTECOL.

It is thought that as much as 1/5 of the world's carbon is currently stored in wetlands, an amount equivalent to the total now in the atmosphere. These wetlands also contain methane, another greenhouse gas, which is more than 20 times as effective in capturing heat as is carbon. The release of these gases now stored in the Earth's wetlands would have a catastrophic effect in accelerating climate change. Despite this fact, wetlands continue to be destroyed worldwide.

In the United States alone, about 60% of our original wetlands have been lost. Between

the 1780's and 1980's, the lower 48 states lost approximately 53% of the original wetland habitat, or about 104 million acres.<sup>1</sup> Much of this land was drained for agricultural and urban development. Thanks to policies adopted to protect what remains, this decline has slowed in recent decades, but we are still losing acreage. Nearly 1.2 million acres were lost during the 10 years ending in 1995. According to Brian Silliman, a Brown University research fellow, the main forces driving this loss are: "Sea level rise, nutrients, invasive species, [and] runaway grazing impacts..." while in developing countries "...reclamation is still a threat."

While loss of wetlands could speed up climate change, some of this loss is itself the result of climate change that is already happening. Current predictions are that global warming will cause sea levels to rise 50-150 centimeters (20-60 inches) in the next century. Estimates of how much wetland would be lost vary depending on as-

sumptions about whether or not coastal inhabitants would allow existing wetlands to "migrate" inland and occupy areas currently devoted to other purposes. One study done in the area around Charleston, South Carolina showed that for a 50-, 150- or 200-centimeter (19.7-, 59.1-, 78.8-inch) sea level rise we would lose between 17-43%, 26-66%, and 29-76% of wetlands respectively if coastal inhabitants were willing to give up land for new wetlands to form. Under more realistic assumptions, a higher percentage of wetlands would probably be lost.

Other climatic factors that threaten wetlands include changes in rainfall, the drying of sources of water feeding them and changes in salinity of the water in coastal areas. All these changes, especially when taking place rapidly, put stress on wetlands vegetation and ecosystems. This summer two wetlands were simultaneously burning on the east coast due to drought conditions. There was a fire in the Great Dismal Swamp (in south-

eastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina) as well as a second fire in the eastern wetlands of North Carolina. Smoke from these fires was widely apparent in Virginia during the month of July. As Earth's climate warms, unusual drought conditions may cause more wetlands to dry to the point where the dead plant material in them ignites and goes up in smoke, releasing the carbon long held in them.

In Arctic areas, as permanently frozen marshlands begin to thaw out, they will release carbon and methane gases that have been stored in them.

Climatic changes don't act in isolation on wetlands ecosystems. These changes can also encourage imbalances among the plants and animals in the system.

Brian Silliman, quoted earlier, has been conducting research into the role of snails called periwinkles in the decline of marshes in the southern United States. It was long thought that stressed soil, too much salt or too little oxygen, were causing the die-

off of coastal marshes. Silliman has conducted experiments in which areas of marshland were fenced off from invading snails and found that in these areas the marsh grass tended to thrive. His studies also found that climate change is strongly associated with the explosion of snail populations: "Severe drought triggers formation of traveling fronts of grazing snails. Then there is runaway consumption, which leads to waves of marsh grass destruction."

Silliman also found that the loss of blue crabs and turtles, which prey on periwinkles, has contributed to their increased numbers: "Protect the crabs and the turtles and you can help save the marshes," he emphasized.

## Sources

<sup>1</sup>Dahl, T. E. 1990. "Wetland Losses in the United States: 1780's to 1980's." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. page13.

Hebert, H. Josef 1997. "Rate of Wetland Destruction Slowing" Associated Press

[http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.usa\\_loss.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/wn/w.n.usa_loss.htm)

### Sea Level Rise:

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/effects/coastal/SLRMassachusetts.html>

### Loss of Land %:

<http://epa.gov/climatechange/effects/downloads/massachusetts.pdf>

### Fires:

<http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/living/Family.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-07-08-0003.html>

### Silliman:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2005/12/051219091308.htm>

### Types of Wetlands:

[http://www.panda.org/about\\_wwf/what\\_we\\_do/freshwater/about\\_fres](http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/what_we_do/freshwater/about_fres)

## To Be Continued Next Month

*Bill Boteler is a writer and environmentalist living and working in Washington, D.C.*



## The Examined Life: On Labor

By Marion Stuenkel, Madison WI

I want labor.

I mean the kind of labor where sweat will run off my brow making my eyes burn and my lips salty. I mean the kind of labor that will make my sturdy peasant body type look as my great grand-ma's did on her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, broad and powerful. Instead I look like a prehistoric stone effigy of an earth mother goddess, which is ludicrous when one is way too old to nourish babies.

Oh — go to a gym I'm told. But I don't want meaningless work, let alone that gyms consume electricity as did the mass production of the bent-metal and petrochemical-made exercise equipment. Burning calories on a treadmill is not like walking up hill and down dale herding sheep. Stretching pulls no weeds nor pitches any hay. Lifting weights does not stack wood. Canned music does not loosen muscles like holding up a violin through an evening of a wedding dance. Doing laps in chemically treated water in a humongous concrete bath tub is no where near as much fun as dancing after a day of shearing — well maybe the day after shearing. I want to hoe, muck out stalls, harvest apples, stoop for blueberries, pick beans.

Oh — go make a garden or join a CSA I'm told. I live in an apartment, the landlord of which rejected my idea of prairie plantings mixed with garden plots, instead continuing the herbicide-bathed English country estate lawn look. I've been a CSA member but not since I sold my car in January, 2001 in order to burn fewer hydrocarbons, which limited access to work days. I buy summer and winter only at the Dane County Farmer's Market. No grocery store chain gets my food dollar. My farmers offer me the opportunity to work, but again individual Kyoto compliance precludes travel. Also that is sort of an elitist concept, that I could go out and play at labor. Certainly more productive than the gym but only laboring at whim, not being a laborer.

The fact is I made choices in my life which make it difficult for me to have what I want now — which is meaningful, productive work and time to think about it. I didn't understand that being a farmer was to be a member of a profes-

sion with more than 10 thousand years of accumulated wisdom of how to care for the earth and one another. A labor that included time to rest and tell the stories, draw the pictures, dance the dances and love the past of the old and the future of the young. All other professions could disappear from our Earth but, without farmers, folk would be sustained only for as long as it took to hunt and gather what was left on our paved, built-over civilized planet. Wouldn't it be less than a year before we'd have eaten everything, including every zoo animal world wide, and started in on each other? Women in Haiti, even now are preparing mud cakes for their children, the recipe for which calls for dirt, vegetable oil and salt. Those mothers used to be farmers but rice, subsidized by my tax dollar, was exported from Arkansas and they lost their land.

Socrates wrote in his *Apology* "... that the unexamined life is not worth living..." His was not an apology in the sense of having made a mistake or having done something wrong. His words were a defense against a charge.

What is my defense against the charge that as the child of the privileged middle class I sought prestige and going down in history? I wanted to be like Clarence Darrow, to be the best I could be. I wanted to serve mankind, make a name for myself and be independent. I didn't mind working hard over books, paper and bureaucratic decisions. I thought real work happened in cities.

Now I don't think it does. In decades of civil service I produced nothing of usefulness except for some intermittent acts of respect and kindness to others and an occasional prevention of institutional injustice.

I do support my farmer's labor by buying from him. The closest I come to labor is taking care of my two-year-old grandson during the day while his parents work.

I hope he grows up to be a farmer.

**Marion Stuenkel is a Kyoto-compliant, anti-nuclear activist modeling simple living for her grandchildren, practicing intentional income-reduction-war-tax-resistance, and eating local food in Madison, Wisconsin.**

## Sanitizer Insanity

By Ginger Leon, excerpt, with permission from *Slingshot* newspaper  
Submitted by Al Fry, Garden Valley ID

Hand sanitizers represent the exact wrong direction humans should be going. Wake up People and smell your nature. Okay, I've seen some bad product ideas catch on — bottled water, drug advertising, antiperspirants, green machines, Botox, air fresheners, blowers, car alarms — things that just don't make life better. But hand sanitizer is topping the list.

It is becoming common practice to slather children's hands with hand sanitizer before they eat. Great. Now picture what goes into their mouths as they eat: dirt, chemical residues, dead bacteria and toxic chemicals designed to kill life. Hand sanitizers are a horrible replacement for washing hands.

Sanitizers are not actually safer. A Purdue University study concluded that "while alcohol-based hand sanitizers may kill more germs than plain or triclosan-based soaps, they do not prevent more infections that make people sick. Instead they may kill the human body's own beneficial bacteria by stripping the skin of its outer layer of oil."

Rolf Halden, an environmental scientist at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, contends that, "The introduction of the hundreds of antimicrobial products has had no discernable impact on the rates of infectious disease in the United States, not a blip on the radar screen."

Indeed studies done on hand sanitizers' effectiveness seem to focus on their ability to kill germs without considering other toxins that may be on our hands or any long-term toxic effects from the ingredients of the sanitizers themselves on our overall health. Of course those selling (and often testing) have a vested interest in keeping you in the dark about chemical toxins while hyping the dangers of nature.

In fact, hand sanitizers may be dangerous to our health. According to the non-profit group Beyond Pesticides, laboratory studies have found a number of different strains of mutated bacteria that are resistant to triclosan and to certain antibiotics. The organization also cites reports of triclosan converting into a carcinogenic class of chemicals known as dioxins when exposed to water and ultraviolet radiation. Besides cancer, dioxins have been linked to weakening the human immune system, decreased fertility, altered sex hormones and birth defects.

We have been sold this product by advertising up a fear of "germs." Well, there are a whole lotta "germs" out there that we live with all the time, most harmless, some helpful. Even most of the ones that can make us sick are common and we only succumb to illness when our natural protections are down. It is a foolish path to imagine that humans will be safe by killing all life that may have the potential to harm us. It is a whole different paradigm than trying to build up our health by building the health of the ecosystem that sustains us.

Hand sanitizers endanger our children by exposing them to toxins, lessening their actual hand-washing, removing the natural oil protection of their skin and potentially creating bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics. There have also been poisonings associated with the high alcohol content in sanitizers that have been ingested by children. (I would be concerned with long-term affects of the ingestion of triclosan and other ingredients as well!)

There are also dangers to the environment. What effects will sanitizer run-off have on our water systems? Two of the ingredients in *Continued on page 16*

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## Endgame by Derrick Jensen

Hailed as the “philosopher poet” of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization, and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen’s book *Endgame* “the best work of nonfiction in 2006 ... . *Endgame* is the most important book of the decade and could stand as the must-read book of our lifetimes.” Be sure to buy both volumes.



*Last Tuesday the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed, killing thousands of people. That same day a portion of the Pentagon also collapsed, killing more than a hundred. In addition, a jet airliner crashed in Pennsylvania.*

[Thus starts the second chapter in *Endgame* followed by three versions of 9/11, starting with the traditional one, then those involving deeper thinking, concluding with this fourth version.]

*Or how about this:* It should be clear to everyone by now — even those with a vested interest in ignorance — that industrial civilization is killing the planet. It’s causing unprecedented human privation and suffering. Unless it’s stopped, or somehow stops itself, or most likely collapses under the weight of its inherent ecological and human destructiveness, it will kill every living being on earth. It should be equally clear that the efforts of those of us working to stop or slow the destruction are insufficient. We file our lawsuits; write our books; send letters to editors, representatives, CEOs; carry signs and placards; restore natural communities — and not only do we not stop or slow the destruction, but it actually continues to accelerate. Rates

of deforestation continue to rise, rates of extinction do the same, global warming proceeds apace, the rich get richer, the poor starve to death, and the world burns.

At the same time that we so often find ourselves seemingly helpless in facing down civilization’s speeding train of destruction, we find that there’s a huge gap in our discourse. We speak much of the tactics of civil disobedience, much of the spiritual politics of cultural transformation, much of the sciences of biotechnology, toxicology, biology, and psychology. We talk of law. We also talk often of despair, frustration, and sorrow.

Yet our discourse remains firmly embedded in that which is sanctioned by the very over-arching structures that govern the destruction in the first place. We do not often speak of the tactics of sabotage, and even less do we speak of violence. We avoid them, or pretend they should not be allowed to enter even the realm of possibility, or that they simply do not exist, like disinherited relatives who show up at a family reunion.

Several years ago I interviewed a long-term and well-respected Gandhian activist. I asked him, “What if those in power are murderous? What if they’re not willing to listen to reason at all?

Should we continue to approach them nonviolently?”

He responded, reasonably enough, “When a house is on fire, and has gone far beyond the point where you can do anything about it, all you can do is bring lots of water to try to stop its spread. But you can’t save the house. Nonviolence is a precautionary principle. Before the house is on fire you have to make sure you have a fire hydrant, clearly marked escape routes, emergency exits. The same is true in society. You educate your children in nonviolence. You educate your media in nonviolence. And when someone has a grievance, you don’t ignore or suppress it, but you listen to that person, and ask, ‘What is your concern?’ You say, ‘Let’s sit down and solve it.’”

I agreed with what he said, so far as it went, but that didn’t stop me from understanding that he’d sidestepped the question.

Before I could bring him back, he continued, “Say a father beats his children. Once he has already reached that stage, you have to say, ‘What kind of a childhood did he have? How did he not learn the skills of coping with adverse situations in a calm, compassionate, composed way?’”

This Gandhian’s compassion, I

thought, was entirely misplaced. Where was his compassion for the children being beaten? I responded that I believed the first question we need to ask is how we can get the children to a safe place. Once safety has been established, by any means possible, I said, and once the emotional needs of the children are being met, only then do we have the luxury of asking about the father’s emotional needs and his history.

What happened next is really the point of this story. I asked this devoted adherent of nonviolence if in his mind it would ever be acceptable to commit an act of violence were it determined to be the only way to save the children. His answer was revealing and symbolizes the hole in our discourse: he changed the subject.

After I transcribed and edited the interview, I sent it to him with a new question inserted, attempting once again to pin him down. What did he do this time? He deleted my question.

Too often this is the response of all of us when faced with this most difficult of questions: When is violence an appropriate means to stop injustice? But with the world dying — or rather being killed — we no longer have the luxury to change the subject or delete the question.

## Weekend Workshop With Derrick in NY

We live in the most destructive culture to ever exist. In Derrick’s talks around the country, he repeatedly asks his audiences, “Does anyone think this culture will voluntarily transform to a sustainable way of living?” No one ever says “Yes.” If we really accept the seriousness of the situation, what would that mean for our strategy and tactics? This is the urgent question we will be

exploring during the Deep Green Resistance (DGR) workshop over the weekend of September 19-21.

Topics include: Organizing the Resistance, Bringing It Down, Bottlenecks and Levers, Security Culture, Liberal vs Radical, Some Conceptual Basics, Fighting Future Fascism, Preparing for the Crash, and Q. & A. with Derrick.

Cost is a sliding scale of \$150-450, which includes meals and lodging/camping. Work exchange and some scholarships are available. DGR is being held at a large private home on a lake near Ithaca, New York. The house is not set up as a retreat center but we can make it work as one. There are five bedrooms that each sleep four people, lots of floor space downstairs that can

be used for sleeping and the great outdoors for camping. The house has four bathrooms. You can also stay at a local motel if you need more privacy. Meal choices are vegetarian or vegan.

We are limiting the number of participants to 50. Register by September 1 at [tours@derrickjensen.org](mailto:tours@derrickjensen.org) but try even though you may be reading this after September 1.

# Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: Part IX

## Selected Examples of Key Sectoral Mitigation Factors

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fourth Annual Assessment Report was released November 17, 2007. "[This is] the most essential reading for every person on the planet who cares about the future," said Geoffrey Lean of *The Independent* on the report's release. Since ours is a Global Warming paper, we are presenting the report as a series. Although we have reproduced all the previous charts for you, page 16 is simply too complicated for me so I ask you to go directly to [www.ipcc.org](http://www.ipcc.org) and look at it. It shows two tables: Comparison Between Global Economic Mitigation Potential and Projected Emissions Increase in 2030 and Economic Mitigation Potential by Sector in 2030 Estimated from Bottom-Up Studies. Below is our next installment.

Sector	Key mitigation technologies and practices currently commercially available. <i>Key mitigation technologies and practices projected to be commercialized before 2030 shown in italics.</i>	Policies, measures and instruments shown to be environmentally effective	Key constraints or opportunities (Normal font = constraints; <i>Italics = opportunities</i> )
<b>Energy Supply</b>	Improved supply and distribution efficiency; fuel switching from coal to gas; nuclear power; renewable heat and power (hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and bioenergy); combined heat and power; early applications of Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS) (e.g. storage of removed CO <sub>2</sub> from natural gas) <i>CCS for gas, biomass and coal-fired electricity generating facilities; advanced nuclear power; advanced renewable energy, including tidal and wave energy, concentrating solar, and solar photovoltaics</i>	1. Reduction of fossil fuel subsidies; Taxes or carbon charges on fossil fuels 2. Feed-in tariffs for renewable energy technologies; Renewable energy obligations; Producer subsidies	1. Resistance by vested interests may make them difficult to implement 2. <i>May be appropriate to create markets for low emissions technologies</i>
<b>Transport</b>	More fuel efficient vehicles; hybrid vehicles; cleaner diesel vehicles; biofuels; modal shifts from road transport to rail and public transport systems; non-motorised transport (cycling, walking); landuse and transport planning <i>Second generation biofuels; higher efficiency aircraft; advanced electric and hybrid vehicles with more powerful and reliable batteries</i>	1. Mandatory fuel economy, biofuel blending and CO <sub>2</sub> standards for road transport; 2. Taxes on vehicle purchase, registration, use and motor fuels, road and parking pricing; 3. Influence mobility needs through land use regulations, and infrastructure planning; Investment in attractive public transport facilities and non-motorized forms of transport	1. Partial coverage of vehicle fleet may limit effectiveness; 2. Effectiveness may drop with higher incomes 3. <i>Particularly appropriate for countries that are building up their transportation systems</i>
<b>Buildings</b>	Efficient lighting and daylighting; more efficient electrical appliances and heating and cooling devices; improved cook stoves, improved insulation; passive and active solar design for heating and cooling; alternative refrigeration fluids, recovery and recycling of fluorinated gases; <i>Integrated design of commercial buildings including technologies, such as intelligent meters that provide feedback and control; solar photovoltaics integrated in buildings</i>	1. Appliance standards and labelling 2. Building codes and certification 3. Demand-side management programs 4. Public sector leadership programs, including procurement 5. Incentives for energy service companies (ESCOs)	1. Periodic revision of standards needed 2. <i>Attractive for new buildings.</i> Enforcement can be difficult 3. Need for regulations so that utilities may profit 4. <i>Government purchasing can expand demand for energy efficient products</i> 5. <i>Success factor: Access to third-party financing</i>
<b>Industry</b>	More efficient end-use electrical equipment; heat and power recovery; material recycling and substitution; control of non-CO <sub>2</sub> gas emissions; and a wide array of process-specific technologies <i>Advanced energy efficiency; CCS for cement, ammonia, and iron manufacture; inert electrodes for aluminium manufacture</i>	1. Provision of benchmark information; Performance standards; Subsidies, tax credits 2. Tradable permits 3. Voluntary agreements	1. <i>May be appropriate to stimulate technology uptake.</i> Stability of national policy important in view of international competitiveness 2. Predictable allocation mechanisms and stable price signals important for investments 3. Success factors include: clear targets, a baseline scenario, third party involvement in design and review and formal provisions of monitoring, close cooperation between government and industry
<b>Agriculture</b>	Improved crop and grazing land management to increase soil carbon storage; restoration of cultivated peaty soils and degraded lands; improved rice cultivation techniques and livestock and manure management to reduce CH <sub>4</sub> emissions; improved nitrogen fertiliser application techniques to reduce N <sub>2</sub> O emissions; dedicated energy crops to replace fossil fuel use; improved energy efficiency; <i>Improve crop yields</i>	Financial incentives and regulations for improved land management, maintaining soil carbon content, efficient use of fertilizers and irrigation	<i>May encourage synergy with sustainable development and with reducing vulnerability to climate change, thereby overcoming barriers to implementation</i>
<b>Forestry/ Forests</b>	Afforestation; reforestation; forest management; reduced deforestation; harvested wood product management; use of forestry products for bioenergy to replace fossil fuel use; <i>Tree species improvement to increase biomass productivity and carbon sequestration. Improved remote sensing technologies for analysis of vegetation/soil carbon sequestration potential and mapping land use change</i>	Financial incentives (national and international) to increase forest area, to reduce deforestation, and to maintain and manage forests; Land-use regulation and enforcement	Constraints include lack of investment capital and land tenure issues. <i>Can help poverty alleviation.</i>
<b>Waste</b>	Landfill CH <sub>4</sub> (methane) recovery; waste incineration with energy recovery; composting of organic waste; controlled waste water treatment; recycling and waste minimisation <i>Biocovers and biofilters to optimize CH<sub>4</sub> oxidation</i>	1. Financial incentives for improved waste and wastewater management 2. Renewable energy incentives or obligations 3. Waste management regulations	1. <i>May stimulate technology diffusion</i> 2. Local availability of low-cost fuel 3. Most effectively applied at national level with enforcement strategies

## Val's Vegetarian Recipe

By Valerie Stanley, Laurel MD

Like every moving, and ultimately life-changing, book I have ever read (such as Dominion by Matthew Scully and Slaughterhouse by Gail Eisnitz), it took me several attempts to delve beyond the dust jacket. It was no different with Empty Harvest: Understanding the Link between our Food, Our Immunity and Our Planet, by Dr. Bernard Jensen and Mark Anderson. Once I got into the book, I was so overtaken by the following quote, I decided to pass it on in this column:

*The long-term deprivation of but a microscopic quantity of one essential nutrient in our diets alters the precise and vital balance of the body's chemicals. Ultimately, this results in symptoms that are the precursors to chronic or fatal disease.*

The book goes on to discuss how important our soil is, how we have damaged it and what we can do to restore it. The book advocates organic produce for our planet's and our health's sake.

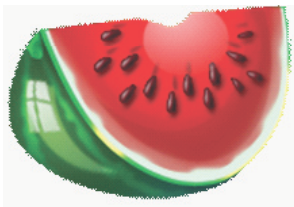
This month's recipe takes advantage of in-season and readily-available fruit plus it bypasses the use of a hot stove or oven! Cool soup can be a satisfying but light meal for hot summer days and evenings. Many people have never heard of fruit soup and I was one of them until it was on the menu for my wedding reception over 20 years ago. It was scrumptious!

### Vegetarian Watermelon Gazpacho

(from About.Com: Vegetarian Food)

Ingredients:

- Approximately 3 cups of watermelon, chopped
- 1 cucumber, diced
- 1 red or yellow bell pepper, diced
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 jalapeno
- 2 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley
- Dash salt and pepper to taste



In a blender or food processor, place about half of the watermelon, cucumber, pepper, and onion and all of the jalapeno. Add olive oil and lemon juice and puree until smooth. Combine the remaining ingredients in a large bowl and mix well. Add to pureed ingredients and stir to combine. Add more salt and pepper to taste. Chill for at least one hour to allow flavors to combine. Stir well before serving. Serve chilled.

### Chilled Cantaloupe Soup

(from All Recipes.Com)

Ingredients:

- 1 cantaloupe peeled, seeded and cubed
- 2 cups orange juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon



Place cubed cantaloupe and 1/2 cup orange juice in a blender or food processor; cover and process until smooth. Transfer to large bowl. Stir in lime juice, cinnamon, and remaining orange juice. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. Garnish with mint if desired.

### Next Month: Power-Packed Muffins!

*Valerie Stanley is an attorney and animal law professor. Her dream is to make eating vegetarian easy and fun. Please send any comments to her at [valjoanst@yahoo.com](mailto:valjoanst@yahoo.com). Valerie quotes T. M. McNally:*

*And it is of course trucks and automobiles and jet fuel – the hard facts of modernity – that have made both God and horses increasingly irrelevant to our culture. What is lost is our respect and affection for – our connectedness to – our fellow creatures, as well as a divine admonition to care for them properly.*

## Is Your Food Really Organic?

By Jill Richardson, excerpt with permission from AlterNet, August 7, 2008

When you buy food with a "USDA Organic" label, do you know what you're getting? Now is a good time to ask such a question, as the USDA just announced Monday it was putting 15 out of 30 federally-accredited organic certifiers they audited on probation, allowing them 12 months to make corrections or lose their accreditation. At the heart of the audit for several certifiers were imported foods and ingredients from other countries, including China.

Chinese imports have had a bad year in the news, making headlines for contaminated pet food, toxic toys, and, recently, certified organic ginger contaminated with levels of a pesticide called aldicarb that can cause nausea, headaches and blurred vision even at low levels. The ginger, sold under the 365 label at Whole Foods Market, contained a level of aldicarb not even permissible for conventional ginger, let alone organics. Whole Foods immediately pulled the product from its shelves.

Ronnie Cummins, the national director of the Organic Consumers Association, emphasizes that most organic farmers "play by the rules." They believe in organic principles and thereby comply with organic standards. Unfortunately, Congress' pitifully inadequate funding for enforcement, including for organic imports from countries like China, "guarantees it'll be easy for unscrupulous players to cheat and that's obviously what's going on here."

Farms that produce USDA-certified organic food are not personally inspected by anyone from the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). As a small and underfunded agency within the USDA (it has fewer than a dozen employees), NOP relies on what it calls Accredited Certifying Agencies (ACAs) to do the legwork. The ACAs take responsibility for ensuring that

any farm or processor bearing the organic label meets the strict requirements for certification.

Since the Chinese government does not allow foreigners to inspect Chinese farms, an extra step is involved for oversight of organics from China: Chinese companies, which are allowed to inspect Chinese farms, subcontract with foreign ACAs. Cummins believes "the safest course of action is ... to say we won't certify imports from China because their law won't allow inspections."

For Americans who shop at the growing number of farmers' markets springing up around the country, the status of organics from China — or even organics from faraway U.S. states — may be irrelevant. Just as the hippies who founded the movement intended, ethical eating extends beyond pesticide-free food for these shoppers, some of whom call themselves locavores, meaning "one who eats food produced locally." They wish to support small farmers and to ensure their food was produced in an environmentally friendly manner by workers who were treated well and paid fairly ...

But for an American looking for high-quality organics, the number one way to ensure that's what you're getting is to buy directly from the farmer. Farmers' markets or CSAs (community supported agriculture — arrangements in which consumers buy a share in a farm and receive weekly boxes of produce) are excellent ways to go as you can often meet the farmer or visit the farm yourself.

Even if you can't make the trip to the farm personally, typically a farmers' market sets rules around what is and is not permitted at the market (for example, only allowing produce grown within the state) and a market manager visits each farm to guarantee adherence to the policy.

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## EARTH MEANDERS

### Farewell My Gaia-Loving Friends

By Dr. Glen Barry, Denmark WI  
glenbarry@earthmeanders.com  
July 10, 2008

This will be the last Earth Meanders I write. And so with deep regret, I must say thank you and goodbye. It has been such an incredible honor to share with this 75,000-person list my biocentric meanders on the true state of the Earth and what is required to save her and ourselves. My self-revelatory, frequently brutally honest, sharing — in the grand tradition of Montaigne's personal essays — has brought me out of deep, dark and deadly despair. I am well again because of writing for you. If only we could say the same for the Earth!

This I know for sure. The Earth is alive. Humanity, and you and yours, have made choices that have made us all a disease upon Gaia. The response thus far has largely been self-serving efforts to maintain elite rule through technological attempts to maintain democratic over-consumption for the few at the expense of the many. This can only fail. Truly sufficient Gaia-loving measures would include population and consumption reductions, and perhaps revolution.

For four years — coinciding with the completion of my Ph.D. — I have bared my soul and shared over 70 biocentric meanders with you. I have been able to synthesize 20 years of studying ecology with personal anguish at the end of being. Now, after much soul-searching and near bankruptcy, I have decided to move on to other endeavors.

Over the past month a poor fundraiser with Ecological Internet, the NGO I head, and an unexpected cash flow problem, brought my family and me near bankruptcy and homelessness.

This has been a tense, difficult time. Despite being often raw and written quickly, creating these essays has been time-consuming. The free effort can no longer be maintained.

While I have long been reconciled that my life as a political ecologist would require sacrifice and frugality, I am not prepared to jeopardize my family's well-being and basic needs.

Future plans? Work like hell to make

Ecological Internet's Web portals the preeminent facilitator of sufficient green knowledge and action. We already have invented blogging and environmental search engines and there is much more innovation to come.

I will scratch my writing itch by channeling my energy into a book on biocentric thought and a novel envisioning a fictional revolutionary response to prevent the Earth's death. Eventually I intend to launch a new e-zine through Ecological Internet where my (and submitted) writings will emphasize a full understanding of the global emergency and truthful, adequate solutions.

Please, let me ask you a favor if you are able. I am looking for consulting or environmental IT work, as often in the past I have maintained the Web activism while working, and must now. My IT and ecological policy skills are exemplary. And to survive, Ecological Internet needs grant leads and donations to support radical and ambitious Web activism on behalf of being at <http://www.ecoearth.info/donate/>. Sorry to leave you asking for money, but otherwise this voice for Gaia will be lost altogether.

The Earth is a beautiful fucked up place, full of hope and promise, even in death. I urge you to use your life to do everything in your power to protect ecosystems from destruction, and restore what has been lost.

Defending Gaia is the meaning of life for all of remaining human history.

## Getting Back to Nature for Survival

By Al Fry, Garden Valley ID

As we increasingly see our civilization going to pieces, it should be apparent we don't have a lot of time left to change. All of the former civilizations self-destructed and only the lucky got to the 200-year point we are now at. Looking at the past, we seem to be making the same mistakes all over again and at least 90% of what we are doing today is simply insane or self-destructive.

Examples are everywhere and a typical example in my area is all the dams blocking Salmon from their annual spring and fall migrations or spawning cycles. The Bears and local Raccoons can hardly survive any more. Down at the lower levels, the former flood plains are getting covered with big \$300,000,000 mansions that are replacing the farmlands. Now and then a little mini-flood will come along and the government will fund mop-up programs so the damaged homes can be built right in the same spot. Like why would we want to re-build a city in the same spot? Like why would we want to re-build a city that actually sits at a lower level than the huge river beside it? (New Orleans) Egypt was one of the breadbaskets of the world before they dammed the Nile. Now the soil is getting unproductive and burned out ... and the polluted water is so bad and

full of flukes, a good part of the population is ill.

What's the answer? I suspect that a lot of the savvy old farmers would suggest a long tunnel running parallel to the river could run those turbines just as well as the dams. We don't consult people with common sense any more. We get experts who are trained in technology and anti-nature theories ... .

The forests of the world are one of the major survival lifelines of course. All we humans really need to do to fix the deforestation problem is to observe nature and act accordingly. When trees or plants don't get enough nutrients to remain healthy, they send out signals to the bugs and are soon aided to break down to nutrients again.

All we need to do is restrict ourselves to the trees that are slated by nature to get removed ... before the bugs show up en masse. What could be simpler?

In my area, the greedy land owners are cutting down timber to the point where the smaller, unprotected trees left are getting knocked over by the winter snow loads. The larger "father" trees that need to be left here and there to aid the younger juveniles are first on the list to go ... . It's crazy and getting worse.



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# Just Say NO Incinerator ... Say YES to a More Responsible Alternative Plan

*(Continued from page 1)*  
has a capability of 600 MW with similar infrastructure expenses.

Numerous other communities also find themselves in a similar predicament today but are unwilling to accept the financial and environmental risks associated with mass burn incineration in today's world. Notwithstanding emissions and ash generated by WTE, the county would still be unable to gain flow control to guarantee adequate inflow. A regional facility would be mandatory to be economically viable requiring a large volume of trash to be imported from other counties.

To avoid incineration, adequate diversion can be achieved through a dramatically less expensive solution that emphasizes manufacturer take-

back programs, waste reduction, reuse, composting and recycling. An essential component of this plan is a Resource Recovery Business Park (RRBP) in which materials are recovered and sold. A regional RRBP is cost-effective, creates hundreds of green jobs and gives citizens local control.

## Help Stop The Incinerator

Americans are winning the fight against incinerators, but we must act now! Please fill out this fold-out mailer (keep cutting to the top of the page) and send it to the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners and go to [www.no-incinerator.org](http://www.no-incinerator.org) to get more information.



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resources.

### Australia Activists to Block World's Biggest Coal Port

CANBERRA, July 8 (Reuters, excerpt) - Environmentalists plan to block one of two rail lines into Australia and the world's biggest coal export port at the weekend, they said on Tuesday, amid international wrangling over efforts to combat climate shift.

Any disruption to coal shipments from the Newcastle port could give another boost to benchmark coal prices that are already near record highs at nearly \$195 a ton, having more than trebled in a year. Up to 1,000 protesters are planning on Sunday to block the rail line into Newcastle port, north of Sydney. The export terminal plans to ship 95 million tons of coal over the next year.

"You could say it's drastic action but it's simply because these are drastic times. We need to actually start taking serious action," Friends of the Earth spokesman Cam Walker said.

Activists from a coalition of green groups would start a "camp for climate action" and planned to sit on one rail line into the port to halt coal trains travelling from the nearby Hunter Valley coal mining region, Walker said. Smaller protests would also happen on Monday and could include more rail line sit-ins, as well as actions aimed at other port installations ...

### The Stakes Could Not Be Higher: Everything Hinges on Stopping Coal

By George Monbiot, excerpt  
As soon as I have finished this column I will jump on the train to Kent. Last year Al Gore remarked: "I can't understand why there aren't rings of young people blocking bulldozers and preventing them from constructing coal-fired power plants." Like hundreds of honorary young people, I am casting my Zimmer frame aside to answer the call.

Everything now hinges on stopping coal. Whether we prevent runaway climate change largely depends on whether we keep using the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel. Unless we either leave it — or the carbon dioxide it produces — in the ground, human development will start spiralling backwards. The more coal is burnt, the smaller are our chances of future comfort and prosperity. The industrial revolution has gone into reverse.

It is not because of polar bears that I will be joining the climate camp outside the coal plant at Kingsnorth. It is not because of butterflies or frogs or penguins or rainforests, much as I love them all. It is because everything I have fought for and that all campaigners for social justice have ever fought for — food, clean water, shelter, security— is jeopardized by climate change. Those who claim to identify a conflict between environmentalism and humanitarianism have either failed to read the science or have refused to understand it.

### Judge's Ruling Throws California Power Plant Plans into Disarray

By Margot Roosevelt, excerpt  
*Los Angeles Times* July 31, 2008 — Does Southern California need a dozen or so new gas-fired power plants — and if it does, can it build them? No one seems to know for sure. The region's long-term plans to generate electricity to serve a growing population and to replace decades-old dirty plants were thrown into disarray this week when a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge ruled that local authorities had failed to do the necessary environmental and health analyses.

Officials from the South Coast Air Quality Management District, which encompasses Orange County and large swaths of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, warned of likely "blackouts and brownouts" if the plants are not built. Many of the plants, such as a 914-megawatt generator sponsored by the small industrial city of Vernon, would be in low-income, crowded areas that have high rates of asthma and other pollution-related diseases.

Though they would be outfitted with the latest in pollution-control technology, the gas-fired generators would emit thousands of tons of fine soot particles, which are linked to cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

### Double Dutch Gets Status in the Schools

By Winnie Hu, excerpt  
NEW YORK CITY (*The New York Times* July 31, 2008) — The rhythmic clicking of double-dutch ropes smacking the tennis court the other day at the Grand Street Campus High School in Bushwick drew 13-year-old Stephanie Moronta like a siren's call. She edged closer to the ropes, rocking back and forth on her heels before lunging into the whirling center.

Click, click, click, then nothing.

"I stopped doing this for a while, so I'm kind of rough," Stephanie explained as she untangled her feet from the doubled-over orange rope. "If you hear the rhythm, you just flow right into it."

Stephanie was practicing double dutch, an urban street staple that dates back centuries, and come next spring, will become the newest of 35 varsity sports played in New York City schools.

As part of an effort to increase the number of students — particularly girls — participating in competitive athletics, the city will create coed double-dutch teams at 10 high schools, many in predominantly black neighborhoods like Bushwick, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Harlem where the ropes have long swung on asphalt playgrounds.

[*Ed.: Despite the seriousness of the other articles on this page, kids still need to play and this is a great way!*]

## September Events at Genesis Farm, Blairstown, NJ



**September 1-5: Re-Inventing Work, Design and Technology for an Ecozoic Era (Earth Literacy Program Seminar 2)\***

**September 8-12: Fostering the Web of Life: Biodiversity and Human Population (Earth Literacy Program Seminar 3)\***

**September 10: Film Series: Wag the Dog:** 7:00 p.m. A New Cosmology Introduction; 7:30 Show Time — A biting political satire about the powerful role of "spin-masters" in setting national policies, this comedy about truth and justice stars Robert DeNiro and Dustin Hoffman. Free but donations are welcomed.

**September 15-19: Promoting a Healthy Bounty for All Life: Revisioning Human Agriculture (Earth Literacy Seminar 4)\***

**September 20:**

- **The Story of the Universe in the Classroom: A Teacher Professional Development Workshop for Middle School Teachers** Two sessions, morning (\$45) and afternoon (\$25), bring bag lunch; 6 professional development hours total.
- **Fall Equinox Celebration — Circling the Sun with Gratitude, 2-4 p.m.** Free but donations are welcomed.
- **Wild Mushroom Walk, 9:30-1:30** Led by Lara Greenspan, who has been gathering mushrooms over 40 years; \$30; bring bag lunch.

**September 22-26: Small, Local, Renewable: Creating Economies of Scale (Earth Literacy Program Seminar 5)\***

**September 24: Cooking with Locally-Grown Foods, 6-9 p.m.** Join Delia Quigley (nutrition counselor and natural foods chef) for an adventure in cooking creative and nutritious meals the whole family will love using fresh, organic ingredients. \$50 includes dinner!

**September 29-October 3: Securing the Commons, Securing Our Regions: Envisioning New Forms of Governance (Seminar 6)\***

\*These week-long sessions begin Monday at 9 a.m. and end Friday at 3:30 p.m. Cost of \$550 includes lodging and all meals.

**Call 908-362-7221 or see [www.genesisfarm.org](http://www.genesisfarm.org).**

## Stop the Towers

(Continued from page 1) plants by way of a spray plane, and left to sit until the next heavy rain moves them through the tiny crevices of earth to nearby ponds, streams and wells) whose labels clearly state clear and explicit warnings: Avoid breathing vapors; Keep away from children; Users wash hands before eating or drinking; If inhaled, remove victim to fresh air; Harmful if inhaled or absorbed through skin; etc.

And to think I read that an Allegheny Power employee said that those of us who oppose the project, oppose it because we don't want it in our backyards (the line is not anywhere near my backyard!). Could it be that those who oppose it simply know the real dangers of the enormous-sized project? Perhaps this person fails to realize that the long term effects are going to impact everyone.

I urge the public to come away from their windows, off their porches and into a worthy fight to stop these towers. Visit [www.stopthetowers.org](http://www.stopthetowers.org) for answers, the truth and ways to help.

*Heather Fister is a nature enthusiast and a mother of two daughters whose future environment greatly concerns her.*

*Other civilizations have left behind treasures, we leave behind trash.*  
--Iona

## Hand Sanitizers

(Continued from Page 9) antibacterial soaps, triclosan and triclocarbon, have been found in waste water, fish and breast milk. The chemicals kill beneficial organisms in the soil and waterways that break down debris and are the foundations of the food web. There is very little known about long-term effects on the ecosystem. As well, there is the known detriment created by millions of little plastic bottles filling landfills for a product that is worse than unnecessary.

Just say no. Stick with hand-washing. Hand sanitizers endanger our health, our environment and our interpretation of the world around us. Good ol' soap (and I'm beginning to wonder if bar soap creates more helpful friction and therefore cleansing) and water (nothing cleaner than plain water!) is the better choice.

A panel of experts and industry representatives convened in 2005 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said "plain soap and water, when properly used, are the preferred tools to rid germs from human hands.

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510-540-0751

## Poem by Sandy Chilcote

Newfoundland, Canada

The mysterious gift of giving and giving up

## Movie Night: Black Diamonds Sept. 19, 7:15 p.m. Howard County, MD

Black Diamonds charts the escalating drama in Appalachia over the alarming increase in large mountaintop-removal coal mines. These mammoth operations have covered 1,200 miles of headwater streams with mining waste; demolished thousands of acres of hardwood forest; and flattened hundreds of Appalachian mountain peaks. Citizen testimony and visual documentation interwoven with the perspectives of government officials, activists, and scientists create a riveting portrait of an American region fighting for its life — caught between the grinding wheels of the national appetite for cheap energy and an enduring sense of Appalachian culture, pride and natural beauty. Catherine Pancake, producer/director of the movie, will host the film in person!

This searing 90-minute documentary details the destruction wrought by mountaintop removal coal mines in West Virginia. Sponsored by Howard County Chapter of the Sierra Club.

**Directions to Howard County Recreation and Parks Headquarters, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia**  
From Washington: I-95 north, exit to Rt. 32 west, exit to Broken Land Parkway north, take first right onto Snowden River Parkway, at third light turn right onto Oakland Mills Road. Just before RR crossing turn right into parking lot.

## New Low Cost Solar Panels Ready for Mass Production

Compiled By Adrienne Selko  
Submitted by Scott Mahon, Erie CO

*IndustryWeek.com* September 10, 2007 — Colorado State University's method for manufacturing low-cost, high-efficiency solar panels is nearing mass production. AVA Solar Inc. will start production by the end of next year on the technology developed by mechanical engineering Professor W. S. Sampath at Colorado State. The new 200-megawatt factory is expected to employ up to 500 people. Based on average household usage, 200 megawatts will power 40,000 U.S. homes. Produced at less than \$1 per watt, the panels will dramatically reduce the cost of generating solar electricity and could power homes and businesses around the globe with clean energy for roughly the same cost as traditionally generated electricity.

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