



The Go-Back Club

Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: #25, November 2015

These are OUR stories: www.gobackclub.org

Our members live in 20 states, Washington D.C., two Canadian provinces, Korea and Nigeria.



Photos by Carol Walker, www.LivingImagesCJW.com;

Wild Horse Freedom Federation is not a rescue, sanctuary or lobbying group but instead we are a lean, mean handful of private citizens who have banded together to make one last stand for our rapidly diminishing herds of wild horses and burros; that final battle is being fought in the court rooms of the United States of America. Contact Carol Walker, Director of Field Documentation; 303-823-6642; cwlivingimages@gmail.com; www.WildHorseFreedomFederation.org

GBC Member Devotes Years to Protecting Wild Horses and Burros, Gets Favorable Ruling

By Valerie Stanley, Esq.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office in the White River Resource Area in western Colorado has long decided that it was not going to allow any wild horses to occupy an area called the West Douglas Herd Area. Over the years, BLM has justified its decision on various grounds, one of which, although not often publicly stated, is that it wants to give more grazing to several livestock ranchers who lease public lands in West Douglas.

“Zeroing out” areas that wild horses have occupied historically is nothing new for the BLM. Toward its purpose of removing all wild horses from this area, BLM planned a helicopter roundup of the wild horses living in West Douglas for September 14 through 25, 2015.

During helicopter roundups, a pilot chases wild horses by helicopter toward a fenced in small area called a trap. The sound of a helicopter and the relentless pursuit it engages in while circling above wild horses causes them to panic and run. As they near

the trap, the contractor releases a “Judas” horse who runs in front of the group of wild horses being chased. Being herd animals, the wild horses begin to follow the “Judas” horse, who leads them to the entrance of the trap, cutting away sharply from the entrance to the trap as the running horses head into the trap. After being trapped, BLM then herds the wild horses into stock trailers, packing 30-40 wild horses into one load and then hauling them to holding off the public lands, where they will never know freedom

Horses *continued on page 3*

Is Food Industrialization a Pathway to Agribusiness Transformation?

By Ekwe Chiwundu Charles
Owerri, Nigeria

"We are the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe. And reclaiming the democratic control over our food and water and our ecological survival is the necessary project for our freedom."

-Vandana Shiva, physicist and activist-

The objective of much of our industrial food system is to provide a profit to shareholders and CEOs. Many policymakers and supporters, historically as today, have been driven by the conviction that industrial agriculture is the best way to produce massive amounts of affordable food. And in some ways it has accomplished this.

People in the U.S. spend relatively little on food, about 7 percent of their total spending, as compared to 13 percent in France, 23 percent in Mexico, and 38 percent in Vietnam. Most individuals in the U.S. devote less time, energy, and money to feeding than they ever have historically.

On the buying end, it seems an irresistibly good deal but in the real sense these prices represent just a fraction of the true costs of getting that food. We pay



Photos supplied by author

Chiwundu is attending the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology's conference, "Food Industrialization: A Pathway to Agribusiness Transformation" at the University of Calabar. He is participating in various lectures and activities to prepare him for his dream of improving the quality and safety of food in Africa and help starving children through the Milk Basket, an NGO he started earlier this year.

for the hidden costs of the corporate food supply chain in multiple ways, not all of them financially.

We subsidize food corporations through our taxes, which pay for public works like transportation infrastructure for long-distance shipping (highways, airports, and railroads), communication infrastructure (satellites, television, radio and internet), energy infrastructure (coal plants and nuclear power stations), and research and development (like government-funded crop research). Tax dollars also fund the government subsidies that keep certain crop prices low, allowing corporations to create their processed foods so cheaply.

The thousands of chemical additives the world consumes every day is yet one more reason we have a critical food safety problem. Thanks to industry influence over the approval process, the long-term safety risks for most of these substances are unknown. For example, science has pointed to chemical food dyes as a significant contributor to child behavioral problems for years. And yet the federal government still fails to recognize this connection. In addition, we've seen a huge increase in food allergies in children in recent years, but without much explanation of the causes.

Clearly, more research is needed into how the industrialized food supply may be impacting our health in ways that are

Food continued on page 8

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club? A Simple-Living Brigade.

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.



Fair Use Logo

Founder/Editor: Iona Conner

Contributors: Ekwe Chiwundu Charles, Sandy Chilcote, Doug Davis, Len Frenkel, Allen Hengst, Marjorie Hudson, Valerie Stanley, Carol Walker, Judy Wanchism, Brendan Wissinger

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What is The Go-Back Club about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and

smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), to John and Iona Conner about climate tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center
"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

Please send us your stories and photos. We rely on our members' contributions.



Photo by Carol Walker

For more than six years now, Carol Walker has lovingly photographed the proud spirits of the wild horses who have claimed the rugged ranges of Wyoming as their home. Her careful, caring, creative eye has captured the precious moments as newborns take their first steps, mares nurture their foals and stallions protect their fiercely-won families. In the process, she fell in love with these untamed equine denizens of the west and her photographs made us fall in love with them, too. Mindful that these horses were becoming increasingly endangered by the BLM's single-minded determination to sweep them forever off public lands, Carol made it her mission to follow and document several vulnerable herds in the 1.7-million-acre Adobe Town and Salt Wells Herd Management Areas in southwest Wyoming. Her iconic images of the horses giddily galloping through the grasses, brush and craggy hills in a display of raw wildness are a tribute to them and to the American character.

Horses continued from page 1

or grazing on the public lands again.

Needless to say, helicopters and stock trailers are completely foreign to these wild animals, further adding to the stress they experience during these events.

Although a preliminary injunction against this planned roundup was sought in federal court in Washington, D.C., the Court allowed the roundup to proceed. Because Plaintiffs had presented evidence of deaths of wild horses in roundups in a nearby area due to rough handling by the BLM contractor, the Court ordered BLM to provide it with a daily report of wild horses killed or injured during the roundup (see chart, page 8). During its roundup and removal of wild horses in September, there were two wild horse deaths.

On one such status report, BLM relayed that "during loading, a horse broke its neck when it was stepped on by another horse." This tells the reader that the horse had fallen down in the trailer and was then stepped on by another panic-stricken horse.

In another report, BLM explained that a foal had fractured his right front leg and had to be "euthanized." Wild horses injured during these roundups have their lives ended by being shot.

For more information on wild horse issues, please visit www.cloudfoundation.org, and/or www.wildhorsefreedomfederation.org. Also read Valerie's letter on page 20.

Horses continued on page 8

Case 1:15-cv-01454-CRC Document 21 Filed 09/15/15 Page 1 of 1

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COLORADO WILD HORSE AND BURRO
COALITION, INC., et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Case No. 15-cv-01454 (CRC)

SALLY JEWELL, et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

For the reasons stated in the accompanying memorandum opinion, it is hereby

ORDERED that [5] Plaintiffs' Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order and/or Preliminary Injunction is DENIED. It is further

ORDERED that, beginning on September 17, 2015, Defendants shall submit a daily status report by 12:00 PM Eastern Time briefly describing the results of the prior day's gather operation, including the number of any horses gathered, the location from which the horses were gathered, and any reports of deaths or serious injuries to the horses.

SO ORDERED.

CHRISTOPHER R. COOPER
United States District Judge

Date: September 15, 2015

Go-Back Club Members in Action

GBC Members Win 'Stay' Against Hog Factory

Press Release: August 31, 2015

PA ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING BOARD GRANTS 'STAY'

MCCONNELLSBURG, PA —

The Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board has dealt a significant blow to plans to build a massive hog facility in Ayr Township, Fulton County, Pennsylvania.

On August 27, 2015, several local citizens won their fight to stay construction and operation of the proposed industrial hog operation in Ayr Township.

Marjorie Hudson, Lorne Swope, David Lippert and Delores Steiner had appealed a stormwater management permit issued to CFC Fulton Properties LLC for the proposed Bivouac hog facility.

The facility is proposed for a hilly property surrounded by headwater streams, just upstream of Buchanan State Forest. The proposed facility would house approximately 8,722 hogs in a breeding and gestation facility. The project has been the subject of considerable public debate since early 2014 and is the subject of other pending appeals at the Environmental Hearing Board.

To build the facility, the company proposes to cut approximately 30-40 feet off parts of the hillside and fill in approximately the same amount in other areas in order to flatten the property to put the facility buildings, manure pits and other related facilities on the property.

The citizens raised concerns about inadequate stormwater management and damaging impacts to groundwater and local streams, among other issues.

Earlier this summer the citizens filed an appeal of the company's stormwater management permit at the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board. Due to the imminency of construction on the property and the significant landscape destruction proposed, the citizens sought what is called a "supersedeas," which is a stay of activity under a permit pending a determination by the Board on the citizens' appeal. In their successful effort to obtain the stay, the citizens had to demonstrate their likelihood of success on the merits of their appeal and irreparable harm that would occur if the stay were not granted.



Photo: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

The U.S. raises some 100 million pigs for food each year, virtually all in factory farms. Industrial-scale pig farms are known for their intensive, inhospitable conditions. Quick Facts: Pigs can live up to 15 years but most of those raised on factory farms are slaughtered at just six months. Both male and female pigs are raised for food. Pigs are very intelligent — as smart as or smarter than most dogs! They are one of only a few species Americans consider suitable for both keeping as pets and raising for food.

Said spokesperson Marjorie Hudson, "We are pleased that the Environmental Hearing Board has agreed to put the brakes on this project."

The citizens have been represented by attorneys Jordan Yeager and Lauren Williams of the firm Curtin & Heefner, LLP.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Attorneys for Appellants

Jordan Yeager
Lauren Williams
Curtin & Heefner LLP
2005 South Easton Road
Suite 100
Doylestown, PA 18901
Telephone 215-264-1166

Spokesperson for Citizens

Marjorie Hudson
Webstersmill@aol.com

PA Environmental Hearing Board

Docket Sheet Search; Name – Hudson, Type – Appellant; Document filed in Case 2015096 on August 27, 2015: ORDER that the Appellant's petition for supersedeas is granted.

<http://ehb.courtapps.com/efile/documentviewer.php?documentID=27449>

CFC Fulton Properties LLC
2700 Clemens Drive
Hatfield, Pennsylvania

(Hatfield Quality Meats has the same address as CFC Fulton Properties LLC. Also listed on a communal web site listing are related companies, listed here but not limited to: Clemens Food Group, Country View Family Farms, Clemens Family Corporation.)

Go-Back Club Members in Action

Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection Recognizes Community Authority to Ban Frack Wastewater Injection Wells

Submitted by Judy Wanchism
East Run Hellbenders Society
with the following letter:

Hi Alanna and Iona,

A new development in Grant Township. We have been so busy with Home Rule activities that I just didn't get around to contacting you guys.

We got the letter on August 12th. The DEP has suspended the review of the permit since there is a conflict between the project and the ordinance. The DEP has an obligation to consider local ordinances related to environmental protection or public natural resources. You can read the press release below to get more details.

Sorry I'm so late in contacting you. Our Home Rule Charter is written and it should appear on the November 3rd ballot if all goes well. It was a long and difficult project.

Now we must convince the voters in Grant Township to adopt the Home Rule Charter.

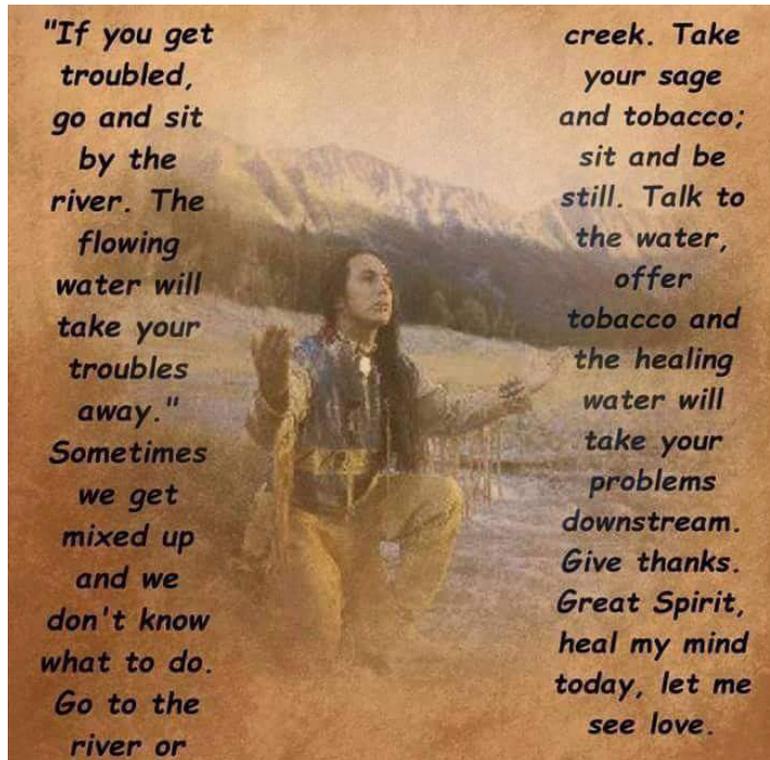
Hope all is well with all of you. Thanks for being such loyal supporters of our community.

CELDF Press Release: August 30, 2015
Graphic submitted by Doug Davis, Ohio

State Agency Suspends Review of Injection Well Permit Application Because of Local Rights-Based Ordinance

MERCERSBURG, Pennsylvania — On August 12th, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took an unprecedented step, for the first time suspending the issuance of a state frack wastewater injection well permit on the basis of a local ordinance banning injection wells.

In a letter mailed to Pennsylvania General Energy Company, LLC (PGE), the state agency notified the corporation that it was



suspending its review of the company's permit application to site an injection well in Grant Township (Indiana County). The DEP letter states that, "As part of its permit application review, the Department has an obligation to consider applicable local ordinances related to environmental protection and the Commonwealth's public natural resources."

The letter comes as PGE is suing Grant Township to overturn the Township's Community Bill of Rights Ordinance prohibiting injection wells. The Ordinance, drafted with assistance from the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), establishes the community's right to self-govern on matters such as fracking and recognizes the rights of human and natural communities to a healthy environment and pure water. Under the Ordinance, frack injection wells are prohibited as a violation of those rights.

PGE filed its lawsuit against Grant Township in July 2014, a month after the Grant Township Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to enact the Community Bill of Rights Ordinance. The suit is currently pending in the U.S. District Court for Western Pennsylvania and the federal court

has denied PGE's request for injunctive relief and discovery.

In the suit, PGE claims that the Ordinance violates its corporate constitutional "rights" and has asked the court to penalize Grant Township for the adoption of the Ordinance through payment of damages and attorneys' fees to the corporation.

CELDF is serving as lead counsel for the Township's defense of its Ordinance and the defense of the rights of the people and ecosystems recognized within the Ordinance.

In addition, CELDF attorneys have filed a motion for the Little Mahoning Watershed ecosystem and the East Run Hellbenders Society to intervene in the litigation.

This is the first instance of an ecosystem in the United States filing an intervention motion to defend its legal rights as recognized by a local law.

In addition, because PGE has yet to receive a state permit to construct the injection well, CELDF has filed a motion to dismiss the case. The motion to intervene and the motion to dismiss are currently pending before the federal court.

Through grassroots organizing and public interest law, the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund works with communities across the country to establish rights to democratic, local self-governance and sustainability. CELDF has assisted close to 200 communities to ban shale gas drilling and fracking, factory farming, water privatization and other threats, and eliminate corporate "rights" when they violate community and nature's rights. This includes assisting the first communities in the U.S. to establish the Rights of Nature in law, as well as the first communities to elevate the rights of communities above the "rights" of corporations.

CONTACT: Thomas Linzey, Esq.
CELDF Executive Director, tal@pa.net

News Briefs Submitted by Our Members

Judge Rejects SLAPP Suit Brought by Frackers Near Pittsburgh Schools

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

By Don Hopey, *excerpt* 
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: September 25, 2015

A lawsuit by oil and gas leaseholders seeking to end opposition to shale gas drilling near the campus of the Mars Area School District was dismissed by Butler County Judge Marilyn J. Horan. Judge Horan, in a two-page decision, said the complaint lacked specifics and failed to link allegations to individual defendants. The lawsuit was characterized by defendants at a hearing last week as a “SLAPP suit,” a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. The original lawsuit had sought punitive damages in excess of \$500,000 from defendants, including the Delaware Riverkeeper, Clean Air Council and several local residents who have spoken in opposition and filed an appeal against new Middlesex Township zoning rules that open up more than 90 percent of the municipality to shale gas drilling ...

“They claim our clients did something wrong but failed to allege any facts to show what they did,” said Vic Walczak, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, who represented the defendants at last week’s hearing. “That’s because what they claim — speaking out and filing appeals — are constitutionally protected actions” ...

According to the Digital Media Law Project and Public Participation Project, Pennsylvania’s anti-SLAPP suit law, passed in 2000, narrowly states that citizens speaking about the implementation and enforcement of environmental law and regulations before a government body, agency or proceeding are immune from civil liability. ...

Ecuador Victims Can Seek Compensation from Chevron, Canada Supreme Court Rules

The Canadian Supreme Court, in a unanimous 7-0 ruling, determined that victims of the contamination caused by the Chevron oil company in Ecuador can seek compensation from Chevron in Canada.

In 2011, an Ecuadorean court found

Chevron responsible for environmental contamination in the Ecuadorean Amazon and ordered the company to pay billions in compensation. A 2013 ruling by the Ecuadorean Supreme Court affirmed the lower court’s ruling and set the compensation at U.S. \$9.5 billion.

However, Chevron has refused to pay and as a result the plaintiffs were forced to try to enforce the ruling by seeking the seizure of Chevron’s assets in Canada. The decision by the Supreme Court affirms that Canada is an appropriate jurisdiction for the case.

“A finding of jurisdiction does nothing more than afford the plaintiffs the opportunity to seek recognition and enforcement of the Ecuadorean judgment,” wrote Justice Clement Gasconon on behalf of the court.

According to a press release issued by the plaintiffs, Chevron has assets worth an estimated U.S. \$15 billion in Canada and produces an estimated U.S. \$2 billion to U.S. \$3 billion annually in profits.

The case will now will proceed in a lower court.

The plaintiffs are indigenous Ecuadorean people from the Lago Agrio region. Contamination caused by the oil company in that part of the Amazon is estimated to involve over 80 times the amount of oil spilled in the infamous 2010 BP Gulf of Mexico oil disaster. ...

“This ruling shows that the most vulnerable, the poor, ordinary people also have rights, they also exist and they can now get justice,” Santiago Escobar, an Ecuadorean citizen who helped expose Chevron’s alleged attempts at defrauding the Ecuadorean justice system, told teleSUR.

“Chevron operates throughout the world,

extracting oil, making lots of money and then leaving the country without any liability. This ruling will set a precedent in the world and give hope to people and communities struggling against irresponsible corporations worldwide.”

<http://www.telesurtv.net/english/news/Canadian-Supreme-Court-Rules-Against-Chevron-in-Ecuador-Case-20150904-0009.html>

New Zealand to Create Marine Sanctuary the Size of France

By Alexandra Wimley, *excerpt* 
New Zealand Herald: September 29, 2015

Over 620,000 square kilometers (385,020 square miles) of ocean in the Kermadec region will be protected as an ocean sanctuary, Prime Minister John Key announced at the UN General Assembly this week. “The Kermadec Ocean sanctuary will be one of the world’s largest and most significant fully-protected areas, preserving important habitats for seabirds, whales and dolphins, endangered marine turtles and thousands of species of fish and other marine life,” said Key.

The area houses some of the most diverse and fragile marine ecosystems in the world ... When in place it will cover 15% of New Zealand’s exclusive economic zone and be over 50% larger than the country’s biggest national park.

Destructive practices like mining, commercial fishing and prospecting will be banned in the region to protect the fragile and diverse ecosystems in place there. ...



Photo: noticiasambientales

Chevron set fire to over 800 pools of petroleum that they had in Ecuador, causing air pollution.

News Briefs Submitted by Our Members

Underfunded Woodlands Water Bank Closed

Submitted by Bob Schmetzer
Pennsylvania

A local water bank in Butler County serving 40 families who lost their water after REX Energy began drilling for natural gas had to close their doors last week because donations dropped off. Below is a Letter to the Editor that a Butler resident wrote explaining the situation.

Please post and share widely. They are without potable water.

Thanks,
Michele

Woodlands Revisited

Imagine the following scenario: Due to an unspecified natural disaster, 40 families in the Adams/Middlesex Township area of Butler County are left without potable drinking water. How long do you think it would take local, county and state agencies to step in and remedy that situation? You can bet that action would be swift.

But let's imagine the unthinkable. Let's imagine that four years had passed and nothing had been done to return fresh, clean drinking water to these families. What would be happening then?

The public outrage from local residents would be deafening. Donations from churches and businesses from around the county and beyond would be pouring in.

No doubt millions of dollars would be raised to help these families. And the recent battle cry "Where's Our Water?" would take on a greater and deeper significance.

Such a natural disaster has indeed occurred in Butler County. Forty families in Connoquenessing Township are without potable drinking water. Duquesne University professor John Stolz has determined, through lengthy and ongoing research, that some sort of geological disruption (we needn't speculate on what caused the geological disruption) has caused toxic substances from old coal mines in the area to flow into the groundwater of the Woodlands neighborhood, contaminating the domestic water supplies of 40 families in that neighborhood. And yes, the unthinkable has happened: some of these families have been without fresh, clean drinking water for four years. Please pause in your reading and imagine that daily reality for four years if you can.

So. Where is the large-scale public outrage? Where are the millions of dollars in donations? Non-existent. A small handful of churches and businesses — businesses and faith-based organizations in Butler County — have reached out to help these people. One church in the area set up a "water bank" where these families could come and receive bottled water for their daily needs — only a small percentage of what the Red Cross estimates is necessary for optimum human survival.

And on August 24th, that water bank was forced to close its doors due to a drastic fall-off in donations.

Which leads one to ask: Why are so many churches and businesses reluctant to lend aid to these needy families? The answer seems obvious. Early on in the Woodlands saga, the drilling industry was implicated as a plausible culprit in the contamination of these water wells. Using incomplete water test data (the infamous Suite Code 942), Pennsylvania DEP exonerated the drillers from any culpability. County and local officials proffered a few totally inadequate remedies, then walked away and left residents to fend for themselves.

But the sociological damage had been done. The drillers had been implicated and we all know that nobody wants to get involved in controversies involving the drillers: the "goose that lays the golden eggs" — it's bad for business! So churches and businesses have turned away in droves from this drama of human suffering occurring in our own back yard. If it had been a flood or tornado that had caused this suffering, relief aid would have been sudden and swift. Four years later, these families would have had fresh clean water for the past three years at least, instead of having gone without it for four. But because the drillers were implicated early on, businesses and churches don't want to get involved.

Butler County communities pride themselves in being "Christian communities." I'd like to appeal to that Christian spirit now. Stop worrying about whether or not you're going to offend "the goose that lays the golden eggs!" These are HUMAN BEINGS we're talking about here! Human beings who have gone without fresh drinking water for FOUR YEARS!

THINK about that! Think about it and open your wallets, give of your time, do whatever it takes to make sure these people have clean water. It DOESN'T MATTER how it happened! It does and it doesn't; like so much else in this sad chapter of our regional history, it will no doubt all be

sorted out in the courts eventually.

But for now, these people need our help. Jesus said: "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto me." Don't tell Jesus: "Those people have always had bad water! They're just trying to get something for nothing! They deserve to suffer!" None of that is true. After four years, you should know better. Please help these people. Donations can be made at the Water for Woodlands web site or through White Oak Springs Presbyterian Church in Renfrew.

Shame on us all if this situation goes on for one more year without a viable permanent solution being in place or well underway!

Joseph P. McMurry

White Oak Springs Presbyterian Church
102 Shannon Rd., Renfrew, PA 16053
724-789-7145

14-Year-Old GBC Member Pursues Understanding of Climate Change

Dear Iona,

I'm pretty sure you know how rainfall and snowfall are created the same.

Well, if it hails and sleets in the summer there is no reason that it would be different with snowfall.

Snowfall total in the United States is decreasing but oddly enough some places in the U.S. are increasing.

I got a theory if rainfall and snowfall both have warm weather involved in making them. Then it would be just like rain evaporation would pick it up and deposit it in snow's case colder areas. The same as rain. It sounds a little weird. But we get hail and sleet in the summer

I don't think it's very good but:

The Rate of Change of Global Warming is a mystery it doesn't make sense and it doesn't have any pattern. But I have found the rate of Change.

The rate of the rate of change or TRRC is actually a equation not a number rate. Actually it is three equations. The equation that is used depends on the time period.

For before 2020 it is $[(x-330)/10]*0.1$
During 2020 it will be $[(x-330)/10]*0.1+.147$
After 2020, just keep adding .147 to the last number.

That is the rate.

Sincerely,

Brendan Wissinger (an avid global warming student/researcher/thinker. See more from Brendan on page 20.)

The Go-Back Club: November 2015, Page 8

Food *continued from page 2*

less obvious than the immediate, dramatic effects of foodborne illness.

Small- and medium-sized farmers pay extremely high hidden costs. Their farms have been steadily disappearing as land is further consolidated into the hands of fewer people. The U.S. has lost 800,000 farmers and ranchers in the last 40 years and this is nothing compared to what local farmers are experiencing in Nigeria today; black farmers and land owners suffer. Farm workers and other laborers all along the food supply chain also pay by receiving inadequate wages; they are twice as likely to live below the poverty line.

As consumers, we all pay with our health and well-being. Our country's most popular cuisine is affectionately called 'junk,' after all. Eating the highly processed food made readily available to us has led to epidemic levels of diabetes and heart disease. Individuals get chastised for their own diet-related problems while 'junk' food is much easier and cheaper to access than healthy food.

Recent outbreaks of Listeria and stomach-acid-resistant E. coli are other manifestations of the costs to our health and food-safety experts blame the industrialized production of grain-fed cattle and poultry for the emergence of these dangerous bacteria strains.

Our planet pays profound hidden costs: polluted water, air, and soil; deforestation; acid rain; species extinction; and climate change. The corporate food system wreaks

countless ecological harm.

Spraying toxic pesticides on our food has become the norm, so much so that we have come to view it as part of 'conventional' agriculture, though there's nothing conventional about it. These chemicals move throughout our ecosystem, making their way into groundwater and our drinking supply, traveling down streams and rivers, and eventually reaching the ocean.

In just one example, fertilizer running off fields and down the Mississippi River has created such an imbalance that there is a 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico the size of New Jersey where nothing can survive. Pesticides also wind up on our plates and in our bloodstreams.

In 2005, the Environmental Working Group tested the umbilical cords of 10 babies from different U.S. hospitals and found an average of 200 industrial chemicals and pollutants in their blood, including a number of pesticides.

Monocropping, a farming system where the same crop is grown on a piece of land year after year, is foundational to industrial-scale agriculture. Yet it depletes the soil, upends the ecological balance, and creates conditions highly susceptible to pests and disease, requiring more pesticides and fertilizers.

If all of these costs showed up in the prices we pay at the store, things would be very different. If prices reflected the oil that powers the jet to bring a banana thousands

of miles, together with the air pollution that results, the workers' healthcare costs after handling pesticides, and the future loss of soil health due to monocropping, this fruit would certainly be a luxury item in the North rather than part of an average American breakfast.

Has agribusiness won such control that a turnaround is impossible? No. Small farmers, grassroots groups, and advocacy organizations are demanding food sovereignty, meaning the right of every people to produce adequate, healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food for all. They are everywhere creating and supporting community-controlled, scaled-down, local food networks. Dismantling the governmental policies and global trade rules that have taken agriculture out of the hands of small farmers the world over is the prerequisite for claiming a just and healthy food system.

I know Africa needs development in agribusiness and food industrialization but my question still remains, will food industrialization do more harm than good in Africa??

Ekwe Chiwundu Charles started a Non-Governmental Organization called the Milk Basket to raise money to send tins of milk and clean drinking water to starving and malnourished children in Africa. The Go-Back Club is a co-sponsor. To learn more and make a donation, please go to <http://angel.co/milk-basket>.

Horses *continued from page 3*

Exhibit 1: Case 1:15-cv-01454-CRC Document 12-1 Filed 09/10/15

LEGALLY ESTABLISHED WILD HORSE HEARD AREAS NO LONGER MANAGED FOR WILD HORSES OR BORROS ("ZEROED OUT") JULY 2008 SUMMARY

STATE	BLM ACRES	OTHER ACRES	TOTAL ACRES
ARIZONA	253,570	80,385	333,955
CALIFORNIA	1,766,092	672,210	2,438,302
COLORADO	254,103	26,638	280,741
IDAHO	43,376	5,800	49,176
MONTANA	76,079	110,377	186,456
NEVADA	2,925,773	974,973	3,900,746
NEW MEXICO	64,148	33,767	97,915
OREGON	615,424	337,524	952,948
UTAH	429,058	113,456	542,514
WYOMING	3,177,148	1,764,494	4,941,642
TOTAL	9,604,771	4,119,624	13,724,395

Compiled from BLM state-by-state statistics



Vegetarian Society: a charity that aims to influence, inspire and support people to embrace and maintain a vegetarian lifestyle; www.vegsoc.org

Rose Elliot's Vegetarian Pine Nut & Carrot Roast with Mushroom Sauce

Preparation time: 10 minutes; Cooking time: 55 minutes; Serves 6

Ingredients

2 tbsp butter
1 onion, finely chopped
1/2 pound carrots, finely grated
2 celery sticks, finely chopped
1/2 pound pine nuts, grated
2 tbsp chopped parsley
squeeze of lemon juice
2 free range eggs
sea salt and freshly ground black pepper; freshly grated nutmeg

For the sauce

1/4 pound dried mushrooms, rinsed
2 1/2 cups water
2 tbsp butter
1 small onion, thinly sliced
2 tsp corn flour
2 tbsp vegetarian Madeira or fortified wine
2 tbsp soy sauce

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 350F
2. Grease and line a loaf tin
3. Melt the butter in a large pan and fry the onion, without browning, for 5 minutes, then add the carrot and celery and cook uncovered for 10 minutes.
4. Remove from heat; add pine nuts, parsley, lemon juice and eggs.
5. Season well with salt, pepper and nutmeg.
6. Pour into tin. Bake 40 minutes til golden brown, firm in center.

To prepare sauce:

1. Put mushrooms & water in saucepan, bring to boil, remove from heat, let soak 40 minutes, drain, reserving liquid, chop mushrooms.
2. Melt butter in saucepan, add onion, fry 10 minutes til lightly browned.
3. Add the mushrooms and gently cook for 30 minutes until tender.
4. Mix corn flour with reserved liquid, Madeira and soy, add to mushroom mixture. Bring to boil, stirring til slightly thickened. Season to taste. Turn the roast out onto a plate, slice thickly and drizzle with the mushroom sauce.

Excerpt from GBC member Len Frenkel's book, *Will We Survive Climate Change? One Last Chance.*

... Raising animals for food is detrimental to not only climate stability but also to soils and waterways. Our emphasis in this book, however, is on the detrimental effects on the atmosphere.

Let's look at the larger picture regarding the greenhouse gases released as a result of livestock production. Total annual greenhouse gas production is agreed by most to be about 46 billion tons. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has determined that livestock production contributes 14.5% to total greenhouse gas levels (7.5 billion tons). Earlier it had reported an 18% contribution, while researchers at the Worldwatch Institute have calculated that it comes to at least 51% (32.5 billion tons). It seems that different data have been used by each group of researchers to determine their percentages. All three percentages indicate that this is a very serious source of greenhouse gases. This information is generally not provided to the public.

Following is a list of some of the steps involved in producing animals for food. Researchers in this area debate which of these should be considered in determining the activities to be included in figuring out the importance of animal production to climate change.

- Gasoline is needed to power tractors to till soils to grow the main animal foods: corn, alfalfa and soybeans.
- Fuel is needed to manufacture herbicides and fertilizers.
- Gasoline is needed to plant seeds, spread fertilizer and spray herbicides.
- Gasoline is needed to harvest crops and ship them to collecting points.
- Fuel is needed to distribute grains to farmers who are raising animals.
- Electricity is used to pump water from underground for the purpose of irrigating crops.
- Electricity is needed to process and refrigerate meat.
- Fuel is used to ship meat to stores, then to homes.
- Gas or electricity is used to cook meat.
- Fuel is used to cut down forests to make space for growing feed crops and ranching cows.
- Carbon dioxide is released from wood in trees when they burn or decompose (deforestation).
- Fuel is used to transport grains and animals across oceans to other countries.
- Carbon dioxide is released when cows digest their food. [as is methane]
- Gases are produced during the decomposition of animal wastes.

Which of these steps in the process of bringing meat to our plates should be considered in calculating the importance of livestock production in climate change? It is apparent that this is a complex issue, which can readily lead to disagreement in the scientific community. The FAO did not include all of the above criteria, hence its low number for the percentage contribution to climate change from livestock production. The Worldwatch Institute figure included all of these factors in coming to their conclusion of a 51% contribution from producing animal foods. But there is no doubt that all these activities are part of animal food production and might go into the calculation. . . .



Photo Laurence Lord (2012), of Monkeyzbox; monkeyzbox.com

The Dark Mountain Project is a network of writers, artists and thinkers who have stopped believing the stories our civilization tells itself. We see that the world is entering an age of ecological collapse, material contraction and social and political unraveling and we want our cultural responses to reflect this reality rather than denying it.

Why I Stopped Believing in Environmentalism and Started the Dark Mountain Project

Former deputy editor of *The Ecologist*, Paul Kingsnorth, explains why he became disillusioned with the parables of environmentalism, decided to write his own.

By Paul Kingsnorth for *The Ecologist*
(part of the Guardian Environmental Network)

Note from the Editor: *I discovered this group as I was reading the article we published in October in which our Board member, Michael Mann, was featured and found it so interesting that I'm presenting it to you now. See pages 3 and 13-16 at www.gobackclub.org for last month's article.)*

It started last year with two men in a pub. It spiraled from there and gathered in thousands of people from across the world who shared its vision. It is still expanding; so much so that the two men now have rather less time to spend in the pub because much of their day is spent just trying to keep up with a minor global movement which they have accidentally brought into being.

This is the story of the Dark Mountain Project, a new cultural movement for an age of global disruption, of which I was one of the co-founders less than a year ago. It seems much longer; a lot has happened in a year. We seem to have touched a nerve. This is all the more interesting to me because this project began life as a response to a sense of disillusion with what environmentalism has become.

Angry Young Men

For 15 years I have been an environmental campaigner and writer. For two of these years I was deputy editor of *The Ecologist*. I campaigned against climate change, deforestation, overfishing, landscape destruction, extinction and all the rest. I wrote about how the global economic system was trashing the global ecosystem. I did all the things that environmentalists do. But after a while, I stopped believing it.

There were two reasons for this. The first was that none of the campaigns were succeeding, except on a very local level. More broadly, everything was getting worse. The second was that environmentalists, it seemed to me, were not being honest with themselves. It was increasingly obvious that climate change could not be stopped, that modern life was not consistent with the needs of the global ecosystem, that economic growth was part of the problem and that the future was not going to be bright, green, comfy and 'sustainable' for ten billion people but was more likely to offer decline, depletion, chaos and hardship for all of us. Yet we all kept pretending that if we just carried on campaigning as usual, the impossible would happen. I didn't buy it and it turned out I wasn't the only one.

When I met Dougal Hine, like myself a former journalist, I found someone equally skeptical about the rose-tinted vision of the future that permeates society and has even taken hold of those who ought to know better. It wasn't just environmentalism that we believed was peddling false hope: we saw the same refusal to face reality permeating the world of culture. Both writers, we wondered

Dark Mountain continued on next page

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where the writing, the art, the music was that tried to move beyond the self-satisfied stories we tell ourselves about our ability to manage the future.

A Manifesto for Change

Out of this huddle came a slim, self-published pamphlet that we called *Uncivilization: the Dark Mountain Manifesto*. It was a clarion call to those who, like us, did not believe that the future would be an upgraded version of the present and who wanted to help forge a new cultural response to the human predicament. It called for a clear-sighted view of humanity's true place in the world.

We had no idea if this would resonate but it did — all over the world. We sold hundreds of manifestos and attracted enthusiastic support from thousands of people. A movement began to coalesce. What was most fascinating — and telling — about it was the common thread running through it. So many of the communications we received were from people who professed a profound sense of relief. They too had been going through the motions about 'saving the planet' but had long since stopped believing it. Coming across other people who didn't believe it either and who wanted to forge a new way of looking at the future, got a lot of people very excited.

To me, this is the most exciting thing about the Dark Mountain Project. It has brought together people from all over the world, from varied backgrounds — writers, poets, illustrators, engineers, scientists, woodworkers, teachers, songwriters, farmers — all of whom are tied together by a shared vision. It is a vision that a few years back would have seemed heretical to many greens but which is now gaining wide traction as the failure of humanity to respond to the crises it has created becomes increasingly obvious. Together we are able to say it loud and clear: We are not going to 'save the planet.' The planet is not ours to save. The planet is not dying; but our civilization might be and neither green technology nor ethical shopping is going to prevent a serious crash.

A New Hope

Curiously enough, accepting this reality brings about not despair, as some have suggested, but a great sense of hope. Once we stop pretending that the impossible can happen, we are released to think seriously about the future. This is what the Dark Mountain project is doing next. We hosted a gathering of thinkers, writers, artists,

musicians and artisans, who spent a long weekend responding to the challenges laid out in the manifesto.

This was the first Dark Mountain festival: part literary festival, part musical weekend, part training camp for an uncertain future. It featured writers and thinkers ranging from the already-known — George Monbiot, Alastair McIntosh, Jay Griffiths, Tom Hodgkinson — to the new and fresh. It features nights of radical and engaging music; workshops; cinema and theater. And in the run-up to the festival itself there was a week-long 'Dark Mountain Camp,' coordinated by practical people with hands-on ideas for building the post-oil world in a century of chaos.

What is ultimately most interesting about the Dark Mountain Project is that it has only taken off because so many people all over the world already shared a vision of the future that is far outside the mainstream; all we did was give it a name. Where it goes next is anybody's guess. But with the world changing so fast, it doesn't look like it's going away.

Find out more at www.dark-mountain.net.

The Dark Mountain Project

The machine is stuttering and the engineers are in panic. They are wondering if perhaps they do not understand it as well as they imagined. They are wondering whether they are controlling it at all or whether, perhaps, it is controlling them.

From Uncivilization: The Dark Mountain Manifesto

The Dark Mountain Project is a network of writers, artists and thinkers who have stopped believing the stories our civilization tells itself. We see that the world is entering an age of ecological collapse, material contraction and social and political unraveling and we want our cultural responses to reflect this reality rather than denying it.

The Project grew out of a feeling that contemporary literature and art were failing to respond honestly or adequately to the scale of our entwined ecological, economic and social crises. We believe that writing and art have a crucial role to play in coming to terms with this reality and in questioning the foundations of the world in which we find ourselves.

The conversation that came together around the Dark Mountain manifesto has spread around the world and sparked all

kinds of activities. Since we launched the project in 2009, we've received thousands of emails from people involved in these. The online Uncivilization network has drawn in over 1700 people from at least 15 different countries and we know that this is hardly a comprehensive map of what's going on.

This was the starting point of the whole project. A little self-published pamphlet, born out of two years of conversations, crowd-funded over the Internet, launched at a small riverside gathering outside Oxford in summer 2009.

Written by Paul and Dougald, it marked our first attempt to put into words the ideas and feelings which led us to Dark Mountain. Think of it as a flag raised so that we can find one another. A point of departure, rather than a party line. An invitation to a larger conversation that continues to take us down unexpected paths.

You can read the full text of the manifesto at <http://dark-mountain.net/about/the-dark-mountain-project/> or order the paperback edition, which includes a new essay from Dougald, reflecting on the first five years of Dark Mountain.

UNCIVILIZATION

THE DARK MOUNTAIN MANIFESTO

I

WALKING ON LAVA

The end of the human race will be that it will eventually die of civilization.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson -

Those who witness extreme social collapse at first hand seldom describe any deep revelation about the truths of human existence. What they do mention, if asked, is their surprise at how easy it is to die.

The pattern of ordinary life, in which so much stays the same from one day to the next, disguises the fragility of its fabric. How many of our activities are made possible by the impression of stability that pattern gives? So long as it repeats, or varies steadily enough, we are able to plan for tomorrow as if all the things we rely on and don't think about too carefully will still be there. When the pattern is broken, by civil war or natural disaster or the smaller-scale tragedies that

Dark Mountain *continued on next page*

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tear at its fabric, many of those activities become impossible or meaningless, while simply meeting needs we once took for granted may occupy much of our lives.

What war correspondents and relief workers report is not only the fragility of the fabric but the speed with which it can unravel. As we write this, no one can say with certainty where the unraveling of the financial and commercial fabric of our economies will end. Meanwhile, beyond the cities, unchecked industrial exploitation frays the material basis of life in many parts of the world and pulls at the ecological systems which sustain it.

Precarious as this moment may be, however, an awareness of the fragility of what we call civilization is nothing new.

“Few men realize,” wrote Joseph Conrad in 1896, “that their life, the very essence of their character, their capabilities and their audacities, are only the expression of their belief in the safety of their surroundings.”

Conrad’s writings exposed the civilization exported by European imperialists to be little more than a comforting illusion, not only in the dark, unconquerable heart of Africa but in the whited sepulchres of their capital cities. The inhabitants of that civilization believed “blindly in the irresistible force of its institutions and its morals, in the power of its police and of its opinion,” but their confidence could be maintained only by the seeming solidity of the crowd of like-minded believers surrounding them. Outside the walls, the wild remained as close to the surface as blood under skin, though the city-dweller was no longer equipped to face it directly.

Bertrand Russell caught this vein in Conrad’s worldview, suggesting that the novelist “thought of civilized and morally tolerable human life as a dangerous walk on a thin crust of barely cooled lava which at any moment might break and let the unwary sink into fiery depths.” What both Russell and Conrad were getting at was a simple fact which any historian could confirm: human civilization is an intensely fragile construction. It is built on little more than belief: belief in the rightness of its values; belief in the strength of its system of law and order; belief in its currency; above all, perhaps, belief in its future.

Once that belief begins to crumble, the collapse of a civilization may become unstoppable. That civilizations fall, sooner or later, is as much a law of history as gravity is a law of physics. What remains after the fall is a wild mixture of cultural debris, confused and angry people whose certainties have betrayed them, and those forces which were always there, deeper than

the foundations of the city walls: the desire to survive and the desire for meaning.

It is, it seems, our civilization’s turn to experience the inrush of the savage and the unseen; our turn to be brought up short by contact with untamed reality. There is a fall coming. We live in an age in which familiar restraints are being kicked away and foundations snatched from under us. After a quarter century of complacency, in which we were invited to believe in bubbles that would never burst, prices that would never fall, the end of history, the crude repackaging of the triumphalism of Conrad’s Victorian twilight — Hubris has been introduced to Nemesis. Now a familiar human story is being played out. It is the story of an empire corroding from within. It is the story of a people who believed, for a long time, that their actions did not have consequences. It is the story of how that people will cope with the crumbling of their own myth. It is our story.

This time, the crumbling empire is the unassailable global economy and the brave new world of consumer democracy being forged worldwide in its name. Upon the indestructibility of this edifice we have pinned the hopes of this latest phase of our civilization. Now, its failure and fallibility exposed, the world’s elites are scrabbling frantically to buoy up an economic machine which, for decades, they told us needed little restraint, for restraint would be its undoing. Uncountable sums of money are being funneled upwards in order to prevent an uncontrolled explosion. The machine is stuttering and the engineers are in panic. They are wondering if perhaps they do not understand it as well as they imagined. They are wondering whether they are controlling it at all or whether, perhaps, it is controlling them.

Increasingly, people are restless. The engineers group themselves into competing teams but neither side seems to know what to do and neither seems much different from the other. Around the world, discontent can be heard. The extremists are grinding their knives and moving in as the machine’s coughing and stuttering exposes the inadequacies of the political oligarchies who claimed to have everything in hand. Old gods are rearing their heads and old answers: revolution, war, ethnic strife. Politics as we have known it totters, like the machine it was built to sustain. In its place could easily arise something more elemental, with a dark heart.

As the financial wizards lose their powers of levitation, as the politicians and economists struggle to conjure new explanations, it

starts to dawn on us that behind the curtain, at the heart of the Emerald City, sits not the benign and omnipotent invisible hand we had been promised but something else entirely. Something responsible for what Marx, writing not so long before Conrad, cast as the “everlasting uncertainty and anguish” of the “bourgeois epoch;” a time in which, “All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned.” Draw back the curtain, follow the tireless motion of cogs and wheels back to its source and you will find the engine driving our civilization: the myth of progress.

The myth of progress is to us what the myth of god-given warrior prowess was to the Romans or the myth of eternal salvation was to the conquistadors: without it, our efforts cannot be sustained. Onto the root stock of Western Christianity, the Enlightenment at its most optimistic grafted a vision of an Earthly paradise, towards which human effort guided by calculative reason could take us. Following this guidance, each generation will live a better life than the life of those that went before it. History becomes an escalator and the only way is up. On the top floor is human perfection. It is important that this should remain just out of reach in order to sustain the sensation of motion.

Recent history, however, has given this mechanism something of a battering. The past century too often threatened a descent into hell, rather than the promised heaven on Earth. Even within the prosperous and liberal societies of the West progress has, in many ways, failed to deliver the goods. Today’s generations are demonstrably less content and consequently less optimistic, than those that went before. They work longer hours, with less security and less chance of leaving behind the social background into which they were born. They fear crime, social breakdown, overdevelopment, environmental collapse. They do not believe that the future will be better than the past. Individually, they are less constrained by class and convention than their parents or grandparents but more constrained by law, surveillance, state proscription and personal debt. Their physical health is better, their mental health more fragile. Nobody knows what is coming. Nobody wants to look.

Most significantly of all, there is an underlying darkness at the root of everything we have built. Outside the cities, beyond the blurred edges of our civilization, at the mercy of the machine but not under its control, lies something that neither Marx nor Conrad, Caesar nor Hume, Thatcher nor Lenin ever really understood. Something that Western

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civilization — which has set the terms for global civilization — was never capable of understanding, because to understand it would be to undermine, fatally, the myth of that civilization. Something upon which that thin crust of lava is balanced; which feeds the machine and all the people who run it, and which they have all trained themselves not to see.

II

THE SEVERED HAND

Then what is the answer? Not to be deluded by dreams.

To know that great civilizations have broken down into violence, and their tyrants come, many times before.

When open violence appears, to avoid it with honor or choose

the least ugly faction; these evils are essential.

To keep one's own integrity, be merciful and uncorrupted

and not wish for evil; and not be duped By dreams of universal justice or happiness.

These dreams will not be fulfilled.

To know this, and know that however ugly the parts appear

the whole remains beautiful. A severed hand

Is an ugly thing and man dissevered from the Earth and stars

and his history ... for contemplation or in fact ...

Often appears atrociously ugly. Integrity is wholeness,

the greatest beauty is

Organic wholeness, the wholeness of life and things, the divine beauty

of the universe. Love that, not man

Apart from that, or else you will share man's pitiful confusions,

or drown in despair when his days darken.

Robinson Jeffers, "The Answer"

The myth of progress is founded on the myth of nature. The first tells us that we are destined for greatness; the second tells us that greatness is cost-free. Each is intimately bound up with the other. Both tell us that we are apart from the world; that we began grunting in the primeval swamps, as a humble part of something called 'Nature', which we have now triumphantly subdued. The very fact that we have a word for 'nature'

is evidence that we do not regard ourselves as part of it. Indeed, our separation from it is a myth integral to the triumph of our civilization. We are, we tell ourselves, the only species ever to have attacked nature and won. In this, our unique glory is contained.

Outside the citadels of self-congratulation, lone voices have cried out against this infantile version of the human story for centuries but it is only in the last few decades that its inaccuracy has become laughably apparent. We are the first generations to grow up surrounded by evidence that our attempt to separate ourselves from 'Nature' has been a grim failure, proof not of our genius but our hubris. The attempt to sever the hand from the body has endangered the 'progress' we hold so dear and it has endangered much of 'Nature' too. The resulting upheaval underlies the crisis we now face.

We imagined ourselves isolated from the source of our existence. The fallout from this imaginative error is all around us: a quarter of the world's mammals are threatened with imminent extinction; an acre and a half of rainforest is felled every second; 75% of the world's fish stocks are on the verge of collapse; humanity consumes 25% more of the world's natural 'products' than the Earth can replace — a figure predicted to rise to 80% by mid-century. Even through the deadening lens of statistics, we can glimpse the violence to which our myths have driven us.

And over it all looms runaway climate change. Climate change, which threatens to render all human projects irrelevant; which presents us with detailed evidence of our lack of understanding of the world we inhabit while, at the same time, demonstrating that we are still entirely reliant upon it. Climate change, which highlights in painful color the head-on crash between civilization and 'Nature;' which makes plain, more effectively than any carefully constructed argument or optimistically defiant protest, how the machine's need for permanent growth will require us to destroy ourselves in its name. Climate change, which brings home at last our ultimate powerlessness.

These are the facts, or some of them. Yet facts never tell the whole story. ('Facts', Conrad wrote, in Lord Jim, 'as if facts could prove anything.') The facts of environmental crisis we hear so much about often conceal as much as they expose. We hear daily about the impacts of our activities on 'the environment' (like 'nature', this is an expression which distances us from the reality of our situation). Daily we hear, too, of the many 'solutions' to these problems: solutions which usually involve the necessity of urgent political

agreement and a judicious application of human technological genius. Things may be changing, runs the narrative, but there is nothing we cannot deal with here, folks. We perhaps need to move faster, more urgently. Certainly we need to accelerate the pace of research and development. We accept that we must become more 'sustainable.'

But everything will be fine. There will still be growth, there will still be progress: these things will continue, because they have to continue, so they cannot do anything but continue. There is nothing to see here. Everything will be fine.

We do not believe that everything will be fine. We are not even sure, based on current definitions of progress and improvement, that we want it to be. Of all humanity's delusions of difference, of its separation from and superiority to the living world which surrounds it, one distinction holds up better than most: We may well be the first species capable of effectively eliminating life on Earth. This is a hypothesis we seem intent on putting to the test. We are already responsible for denuding the world of much of its richness, magnificence, beauty, colour and magic, and we show no sign of slowing down. For a very long time, we imagined that 'nature' was something that happened elsewhere. The damage we did to it might be regrettable, but needed to be weighed against the benefits here and now. And in the worst case scenario, there would always be some kind of Plan B. Perhaps we would make for the moon, where we could survive in lunar colonies under giant bubbles as we planned our expansion across the galaxy.

But there is no Plan B and the bubble, it turns out, is where we have been living all the while. The bubble is that delusion of isolation under which we have labored for so long. The bubble has cut us off from life on the only planet we have or are ever likely to have. The bubble is civilization.

Consider the structures on which that bubble has been built. Its foundations are geological: coal, oil, gas — millions upon millions of years of ancient sunlight, dragged from the depths of the planet and burned with abandon. On this base, the structure stands. Move upwards and you pass through a jumble of supporting horrors: battery chicken sheds; industrial abattoirs; burning forests; beam-trawled ocean floors; dynamited reefs; hollowed-out mountains; wasted soil. Finally, on top of all these unseen layers, you reach the well-tended surface where you and I stand: unaware, or uninterested, in what goes on

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beneath us; demanding that the authorities keep us in the manner to which we have been accustomed; occasionally feeling twinges of guilt that lead us to buy organic chickens or locally-produced lettuces; yet for the most part glutted, but not sated, on the fruits of the horrors on which our lifestyles depend. We are the first generations born into a new and unprecedented age — the age of ecocide. To name it thus is not to presume the outcome, but simply to describe a process which is underway. The ground, the sea, the air, the elemental backdrops to our existence — all these our economics has taken for granted, to be used as a bottomless tip, endlessly able to dilute and disperse the tailings of our extraction, production, consumption. The sheer scale of the sky or the weight of a swollen river makes it hard to imagine that creatures as flimsy as you and I could do that much damage. Philip Larkin gave voice to this attitude, and the creeping, worrying end of it in his poem —

Going, Going:

Things are tougher than we are, just
As Earth will always respond
However we mess it about;
Chuck filth in the sea, if you must:
The tides will be clean beyond.
– But what do I feel now? Doubt?

Nearly 40 years on from Larkin's words, doubt is what all of us seem to feel, all of the time. Too much filth has been chucked in the sea and into the soil and into the atmosphere to make any other feeling sensible. The doubt, and the facts, have paved the way for a worldwide movement of environmental politics, which aimed, at least in its early, raw form, to challenge the myths of development and progress head-on. But time has not been kind to the greens. Today's environmentalists are more likely to be found at corporate conferences hymning the virtues of 'sustainability' and 'ethical consumption' than doing anything as naive as questioning the intrinsic values of civilization.

Capitalism has absorbed the greens, as it absorbs so many challenges to its ascendancy. A radical challenge to the

human machine has been transformed into yet another opportunity for shopping.

'Denial' is a hot word, heavy with connotations. When it is used to brand the remaining rump of climate change sceptics, they object noisily to the association with those who would rewrite the history of the Holocaust. Yet the focus on this dwindling group may serve as a distraction from a far larger form of denial, in its psychoanalytic sense. Freud wrote of the inability of people to hear things which did not fit with the way they saw themselves and the world. We put ourselves through all kinds of inner contortions, rather than look plainly at those things which challenge our fundamental understanding of the world.

Today, humanity is up to its neck in denial about what it has built, what it has become — and what it is in for. Ecological and economic collapse unfold before us and, if we acknowledge them at all, we act as if this were a temporary problem, a technical glitch. Centuries of hubris block our ears like wax plugs; we cannot hear the message which reality is screaming at us. For all our doubts and discontents, we are still wired to an idea of history in which the future will be an upgraded version of the present. The assumption remains that things must continue in their current direction: the sense of crisis only smudges the meaning of that 'must'. No longer a natural inevitability, it becomes an urgent necessity: we must find a way to go on having supermarkets and superhighways. We cannot contemplate the alternative.

And so we find ourselves, all of us together, poised trembling on the edge of a change so massive that we have no way of gauging it. None of us knows where to look but all of us know not to look down. Secretly, we all think we are doomed: even the politicians think this; even the environmentalists. Some of us deal with it by going shopping. Some deal with it by hoping it is true. Some give up in despair. Some work frantically to try and fend off the coming storm.

Our question is: What would happen if we looked down? Would it be as bad as we imagine? What might we see? Could it even be good for us?

We believe it is time to look down.

A Few Comments on The Dark Mountain Project

'We were learning how to become grown-ups.' *Aeon Magazine* is faintly bemused by Dark Mountain. September 2012

'Dark Mountain ... is about facing the reality of the matter.' *Stir* magazine reviews the Project three years in. August 2012

'Sharing stories is at the heart of the Dark Mountain Project' — *The Irish Times* on Dark Mountain. January 2012

'This engagement of narratives in re-imagining and shifting the way we live drew my attention.' — Jeppe Graugaard writes about Dark Mountain and academia. January 2012

'The Dark Mountain project tells us the things we don't want to hear and it is a no-nonsense, Zen-like response to the 'age of ecocide' that our civilization is causing.' *The Huffington Post* interviews Paul Kingsnorth. October 2011

'I cannot make the leap that Dark Mountain demands.' — George Monbiot takes issue with the Project in *The Guardian*. May 2010

'All we did was give it a name. Where it goes next is anybody's guess.' — Paul Kingsnorth explains Dark Mountain in *The Guardian*. April 2010

'It may be the most honest attempt at literature we've seen — and that alone marks it as a kind of success we have been lacking.' — Sharon Astyk on Dark Mountain. February 2010



Consumer Liberation

Use it up, wear it out
Make it do or do without.

Amazon Tribe Protecting Forest with Bows, Arrows, GPS, Camera Traps

Submitted by Allen Hengst,
Washington, D.C.

With authorities ineffective, the 2,200-strong Ka'apor, in the Brazilian state of Maranhão, are taking on the illegal loggers with technology and direct action.

By Jonathan Watts, *excerpt* 
(in Alto Turiaçu Indigenous Territory)
TheGuardian.com: September 10, 2015

With bows, arrows, GPS trackers and camera traps, an indigenous community in northern Brazil is fighting to achieve what the government has long failed to do: halt illegal logging in their corner of the Amazon.

The Ka'apor — a tribe of about 2,200 people in Maranhão state — have organized a militia of “forest guardians” who follow a strategy of nature conservation through aggressive confrontation.

Logging trucks and tractors that encroach upon their territory — the 530,000-hectare (74,130-acre) Alto Turiaçu Indigenous Land — are intercepted and burned. Drivers and chainsaw operators are warned never to return. Those that fail to heed the advice are stripped and beaten.

It is dangerous work. Since the tribe decided to manage their own protection in 2011, they say the theft of timber has been reduced but four Ka'apor have been murdered and more than a dozen others have received death threats.

Now the Ka'apor are seeking support through NGOs and the media. Earlier this month, *The Guardian* was among a first group of foreign journalists and Greenpeace activists who were invited to see how they live and operate.

Reaching their land was a long haul. After flying to São Luis, the capital of Maranhão state, it took more than eight hours to drive along a potholed highway flanked by cattle farms and palm plantations before turning off on to a bumpy dirt track through tracts of deforested land, until a dense thicket of jungle marked the limit of Ka'apor territory.

The path was so close to the foliage here that branches constantly scratched and scraped the sides of our 4x4 until finally, just



Photo Lunae Parracho/Greenpeace

Ka'apor Indians set fire to illegally cut logs found near the indigenous territory.

a few minutes before midnight, we emerged into a clearing bathed in moonlight.

This was Jaxipuxirenda, one of eight former logging camps that have been taken over by the Ka'apor and settled by a handful of families so the timber thieves cannot return. It was very simple; six thatched roofs under which families slept in hammocks.

Living in such outposts is a sacrifice. Longer-established villages have electricity, health centers, football pitches and satellite dishes. Jaxipuxirenda is bereft of such creature comforts.

But it is a key part of a drive to regain territory, independence and respect — all of which have been steadily eroded by loggers for more than two decades. Alto Turiaçu, which covers an area equal to Delaware or three times that of Greater London, is a vulnerable and lucrative target. Although 8% has already been cleared, the indigenous land contains about half of the Amazon forest left in Maranhão state. This includes much sought-after trees, like ipê (Brazilian walnut), which can fetch almost £1,000 (\$1,500) per cubic meter after processing and export.

The Ka'apor asked the government to protect their borders, which were recognized in 1982. Last year, a federal court ordered the authorities to set up security posts. But nothing has been done, prompting the community to organize self-defense missions.

In the morning, one of the forest

guardians, Tidiun Ka'apor (who, like all of the leaders of the group, asked to have his name changed to avoid being targeted by loggers) explains what happens when they encounter loggers.

“Sometimes, it’s like a film. They fight us with machetes but we always drive them off,” he says. “We tell them, ‘We’re not like you. We don’t steal your cows so don’t steal our trees.’”

The main weapons used by the Ka'apor are bows and arrows and borduna — a heavy sword-shaped baton. One of the group also owns a rusty old rifle. Mostly though, they depend on greater numbers.

Tidiun Ka'apor takes us to a charred truck and tractor that the group burned in a confrontation a little over a week earlier and uses the ashes to paint his face. “This gives us strength,” one of his associates says. The Ka'apor are thought to have set fire to about a dozen loggers’ vehicles. Further along the road, they build a pyre of planks seized inside their land, douse it with gasoline and then watch it burn.

Another of the group’s leaders Miraté Ka'apor says the use of violence — which has resulted in some broken bones but no deaths among the loggers — is justified. “The loggers come here to steal from us. So, they deserve what they get. We have to make them feel our loss — the loss of our timber, the destruction of our forest.”

Compared with the past, he said the

Amazon *continued on next page*

Amazon *continued from page 15*

missions were effective. “Our struggle is having results because the loggers respect us now.”

But the loggers also appear to be responding with lethal force. On April 26th, a former chieftain, Eusébio Ka’apor was murdered by gunmen on his way back from a visit to his brother. Like most killings of indigenous people and environmental activists in Brazil, the crime has not been solved but the dead man’s son has little doubt who is responsible and what they were trying to achieve.

“He was a target because [the loggers] thought he was the main leader of the group,” said Iraun Ka’apor. “They thought the Ka’apor would stop if they killed him. But we will continue with our work of protection. I’m not afraid. This is my home, my land, my forest.”

Ten days before we arrived, Iraun received a death threat and was told that the bullet that killed his father had been meant for him.

The authorities in Maranhão — the poorest state in Brazil — warn the Ka’apor that although they are within their rights to protect their land, it is ultimately up to the state to resolve disputes over territory.

“The involvement of the Ka’apor in the defense of their territory against the loggers should be understood as legitimate defense, since the action of the loggers puts their survival at risk,” said Alexandre Silva Saraiva, regional superintendent of the federal police. “But the presence of the state is the only way to diminish the agrarian conflicts and reduce homicides.”

Inside Alto Turiaçu, people are skeptical that the police and government are willing to look after indigenous interests. Last year 70 Indians were murdered in Brazil, a 32% increase from 2013, according to the Missionary Indigenous Council. In many cases the killings were related to land disputes with loggers or ranchers. In their community gathering, many Ka’apor expressed the belief that the authorities were colluding in the sell-off of the forest.

“We are very concerned,” Miratê says. “Even the local authorities are involved. They grant licenses to the sawmills and that encourages the loggers. The way the *brancos* [white or non-indigenous people] are organized also promotes death. They make a profit from this.”

Police investigating suspected environmental scam swoop on state officials and businessmen in Amazon areas known for woods used in furniture and decking.

Government officials prefer to focus on the positives: the slowdown in Amazonian deforestation rates over the past 10 years



Photo Lunae Parracho/Greenpeace

A Ka’apor Indian sets up a trap camera in an area used by illegal loggers.

(though in Maranhão’s case this is largely because there is so little forest left) and the progress made in bringing culprits to justice.

This year, prosecutors in neighboring Pará state have broken up an illegal land-clearance ring and arrested corrupt officials in timber-laundering syndicates that supply fake certification to loggers. Elsewhere, satellite monitoring has helped to identify which landowners are tearing down or burning the most trees, though this approach is of less use when it comes to the steady degrading of the forests by invasive loggers.

Pedro Leão, superintendent for Ibama (Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources) insists his agency is already combating the criminal organizations behind illegal logging and cautions that it is “extremely risky” for the Ka’apor to do the same. He said he hoped Ibama could make greater strides in the future by focusing on sawmills and possibly using GPS trackers.

These are already areas where the Ka’apor are active. During this month’s visit, Greenpeace — which also helped *The Guardian* to reach the area — provided the community with 11 camera traps, 11 GPS trackers and two computers, worth a total of 20,000 reais (\$5,260).

Marina Lacorte, a forest campaigner with Greenpeace Brazil, said the devices — which are usually used to capture wild animals on film — were intended to enhance the Ka’apor’s success in diminishing illegal logging. “With the cameras, we hope to prove that at a certain time and date in a certain place, the trucks arrived empty

and left with timber. We hope the devices can produce more evidence to persuade the authorities to do something to stop the logging and the conflict and the murder.”

For many conservationists, the significance of the Ka’apor’s actions goes beyond their particular case and puts them on the frontline of the battle against climate change. Brazil, like other Amazonian countries, has struggled to tackle deforestation partly because environmental authorities are constantly outnumbered and outgunned by loggers, ranchers and farmers.

Ibama — the main agency dedicated to protecting the forest — has about 1,500 rangers to monitor the Brazilian Amazon, an area that is more than half the size of the U.S. Many of them have mixed feelings about land clearance. Some are even in the pay of loggers, as recent scandals have revealed.

By contrast, indigenous groups like the Ka’apor have the incentive and the manpower on the ground to resist the decimation of their forests. For them, this is not just a job but a matter of identity and survival. The benefits can be global. In a recent report, the World Resources Institute noted that when indigenous people have weak legal rights, their forests tend to become the source of carbon dioxide emissions, while those in a strong position are more likely to maintain or even improve their forests’ carbon storage.

Underlining this, a research paper published last month in *Science*, notes that forest dwellers are the best defense against logging and land clearance. . . .

GBC Member Publishes Fracking Fantasy Fable

Review by Iona

Gail Neustadt (aka Dylan Weiss) of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, spent eight years writing “an allegorical fantasy correlating the disintegration of a brain ravaged by Alzheimer’s with the disintegration of our Earth’s environment ravaged by pollution” and the result is *Sebastian’s Tale*. Her hope is that this story will inspire people to make a difference.

The book’s beautiful cover, with signposts guiding passersby to ‘Pretendment’ or ‘Enlightenment,’ reveal the general theme of the story and/or coming of age — as we grow from children who play and pretend, we gradually become enlightened — if we’re successful in life’s lessons. And thus we grow in knowledge and courage in fighting for the things we hold dear.

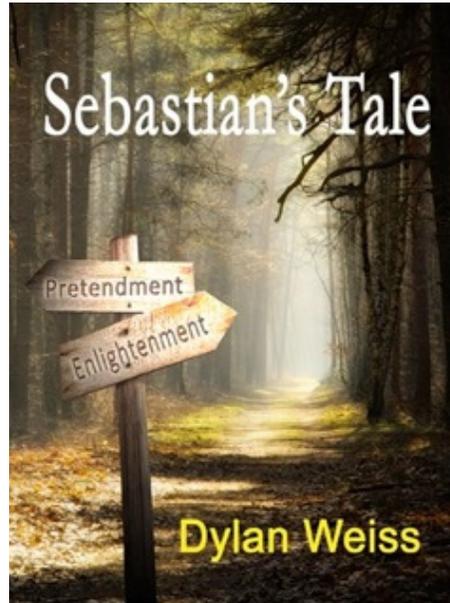
Gail was a speech-language pathologist (SLP) for more than 35 years. The brief biography at the end of the book says this:

“Gail worked with geriatric patients who had communication disorders resulting from progressive neurologic disease. Early in her career she realized that assisting such individuals to attain and maintain functional communication should be the long-term goal of all SLPs working with this population. When her mother, diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in the early 1980’s, was refused treatment due to misunderstood Medicare regulations, Gail was inspired to make a difference by WRITING! “Reimbursable Geriatric Service Delivery, A Functional Maintenance Therapy System,” became a best seller in her profession.

When her husband was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, life abruptly changed. She retired from a successful career to begin a new role as caregiver. Again inspired, Gail continued writing but this time about the creative communication programs she had developed throughout her husband’s 15-year decline. “Sharing the Load,” an award-winning article published by the American Speech/Language Hearing Association their newsletter, set the stage for “Dave’s Tale,” written some years later for her, then, three-year-old grandson in an attempt to connect his growing child’s mind with the declining adult mind of his grandfather.

Here’s how Gail entered the world of anti-fracking activism in her own way:

When Dave died, as did her care-giving role. What next? A neighbor telephoned saying, “I heard Marcellus Shale may move



into the township.” Gail asked, “Should I bake muffins and pay a visit?”

Learning that Mr. Shale was a potential environmental predator established a new path for the author. Again, turning to the power of the pen, Gail was intent on using her writing abilities to advocate for green energy and speak out against the continued use of fossil fuels.”

And, thus, *Sebastian’s Tale* was born.

There were parts of the book I loved and parts which I skimmed. I am not accustomed to reading fantasies or fables and tend to focus on non-fiction; however, I do enjoy some children’s books and Gail wrote this with young people in mind as well as adults. Some parts really grabbed me and I was engrossed.

The two main characters are a skunk (Sebastian) and a weasel (Willie), whose friendship starts when they are kits and evolve into a lifelong companionship. As the animals grow from Pretendment to Enlightenment, they experience calamities along their way and must learn life behaviors encompassed in the “Three Rs” — Respect, Responsibility and Resolution.

A few of my favorite lessons Gail teaches them and us as she writes are:

1. “Now, Sebastian, listen to me carefully. Part of your growing up ... may have to do with making the right choice.”

“Abbey, how will I know when there’s something important enough that my choice will make a real difference? ...”

“You’ll know by instinct, Sebastian. The harder part may be in the choice itself.” ...

2. “So exactly what is di-lem-ma?” asks

Sebastian.

“It’s something that happens when both choices you can make are right and wrong at the same time.”

3. “And off they scampered — but of course they chose the wrong path in the wrong direction; nevertheless, it still led to enlightenment.”

4. Willie: “Listen Sebastian, I’m not keen on learning in a school. I’m learning all I need to know right here out in the open. Like I said before, it’s a different kind of learning.”

5. “Although the Earth’s tremble was slight to Willie and Sebastian and to all the other forest animals, insects and plants, the movement felt enormous, putting the whole forest on alert.” ...

6. “Remember when I laid in the road? I wasn’t sick then, I was afraid. Maybe the land is afraid.”

This last one went straight to my heart because, to this day, I have a small rock from Lake Erie dating to 1996, when I saw an article in *The New Yorker* about hormone-disrupting synthetic chemicals and started writing an article describing the grassroots activists’ approach to dealing with these deadly chemicals. Part of my research took me to the Great Lakes where horrible things were happening to wildlife, especially birds — like deformities, thin egg shells, crooked beaks, death.

While I was there, someone told me, “Lake Erie has gone insane.”

Don’t we go insane when we are abused and mistreated for a long time? Isn’t that a natural reaction to prolonged abuse?

Well, I got off track here but I thought my reflections would remind you why our work is so important and spur us onward. It’s so easy to forget how the animals and plants suffer, too, because there is such a strong focus on human illness and humans’ animals getting sick and dying from fracking and other forms of environmental abuse. But how many of us consider the other creatures and life forms — those we don’t see? They are also being abused as are their home environments.

To me, that was the most important thing I got out of Gail’s book — the reminder that all creatures and flora are being hurt, not only by fracking but myriads of other human activities.

It has to stop.

To order your copy of *Sebastian’s Tale*, see Amazon for the paperback at \$14.35 plus shipping or download it for your Kindle, \$6.99.



Iona's Memoir Ready

How on Earth Did I Become a Pacifist Activist?

Heart Leads, I Follow

By Iona
(aka Susan Wynne Norris Hnatt Topf
Conner)

First Review

“Your book has many touching stories inside. It’s not only a book, it’s an inspirational body. You are absolutely unique and you have made a lot of sacrifices and I still wonder why you did them.”

Spiral-bound, 205 pages, 56 color images. \$25 includes shipping or I will email you the PDF for \$10. Please make check or money order payable to: The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks!

A Dream Comes True After a Year of Work



GBC Publisher Iona's dream was to write her memoir by her 70th birthday and give it to her sister and two sons for their families. The family edition has an extra 200 pages of the work Iona's father, grandfather, great grandfather, great great grandfather, 11 greats grandfather and great Aunt Emily all did. And now Iona is retired from grassroots environmental activism. You can read her book or subscribe to this newsbooklet and those two things will be her voice from now on.

Poetry by Sandy Chilcote, Pennsylvania

my body is hidden in trees
journeying with birds in the wind and
to the very tops of aspen and black spruce
where there is no victory against the Northwind
by branch or wing — only the journey

Table of Contents for Iona's Memoir

Introduction: May Day! May Day! 2014

Part 1: Young Years

An Outdoor Girl — 5
Making My Dancing Dreams Come True — 6
Four Parents — 8
Life with Dad and Cece — 10
Cece and Me — 11
Our High School Years — 13
Growing Up, Getting Out — 16
Young Adult — 18
Our Early 20s — 18
Joanie Stays in Germany— 20
Why On Earth Did I Go to Germany?— 21
Life on the River — 22
Writing My First Book — 23
And Now I Must Leave — 25

Part 2: On My Own

Silence — 31
Sowing Seeds — 32
Why On Earth Do I Bother to Journal? — 33
Why On Earth Did I Take a Solo Bike Hike? — 35
From the Pine Barrens to Secaucus — 38
Personal Pine Barrens Preservation Plan — 39
Keep Fighting the Pipeline — 40
Why On Earth Did I Go to Wales? — 41
Excerpts from Travelogue — 42
Caerwys — 46

Part 3: Deepening Environmentalism

Why On Earth Did I Go Back to School? — 49
What on Earth Was Going on with My Sons' Lives? — 51
Wedding and Work — 51
A Student Again — 52
A Novice with Police Power — 53
Moving Again — 55
Why On Earth Did I Try to Start an Eco-Commune? — 57
Getting a State Job — 58
Happiness Is — 60
Why On Earth Did I Work on a Kibbutz? — 61

Part 4: Stronger and Stronger

Why On Earth Did I Marry John? — 75
Short Story About a Name Change — 77
New Mate, New Home, New Name, New "Job" — 80
Wedding — 82
Why On Earth Did We Start a Non-Profit? — 87
How on Earth Did We Get Publicity? — 88
Choosing My Own Route — 90
Why On Earth Did I Study Revolutionaries? — 92
Wonderful Times With My Family — 93
50-Years-Into-the-Future Dream — 95

Part 5: The Order of the Earth

The Order of the Earth Book — 103
How Can Such a Bright Girl Be So Stupid? — 110
How On Earth Did The Go-Back Club Begin? — 111
How On Earth Did We Survive Financially? — 113

Part 6: Work Intensifies

What On Earth Was John Doing? — 121
Books, Books, Books — 123
Co-op Produces Clothing to Bring About Change — 124
How On Earth Did We Manage to Go Bankrupt? — 127
Why On Earth Did I Write Another Book? — 131
What On Earth Was the Catocin-Monocacy Climate Change Alliance? — 132
Moving Again — 126
How On Earth Did I Become a Radical Environmentalist Grandmother? — 135

Part 7: Newspaper Woman

Dream Board — 141
What On Earth Were Kyoto Protocol Working Groups? — 142
How and Why I Started My Own Newspaper — 144
How On Earth Do I Manage to Keep Going? — 147
Keeping My Paper Going — 148
Focus On Fracking — 150
Massive Educational Project — 153
How On Earth Did I Meet Most High God? — 155
Feeling Dead — 157
How On Earth Did I Get a Third Son at Age 66? — 158
Time Out — 160
Letters Written, Not Sent — 161
What On Earth Am I Doing These Days? — 164
Happy Holidays 2013 — 166
How On Earth Is John Doing? — 167
How On Earth Did I Prepare to Write This Memoir? — 168

Part 8: Got It!

Happiness Is Being With Others Who Share My Values — 169
Friends— 171
The International Nature Loving Association — 172
What On Earth Is Next? — 175

Epilogue — 177

Acknowledgements — 179

The Awakening — 183

See cover, review and ordering information on page 7. Spiral-bound, 205-page book is \$25 or, if you'd like to receive it in pdf format, \$10. Please make check or money order to The Go-Back Club and send it to Iona, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Thanks very much.



Letters and Emails from our Members

Hi Iona,

I don't know if you remember me from Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition (GASP). This seems like a real, concrete step for individuals to take to improve the future of this planet.

Mary Rodriguez, Pennsylvania

Hello,

Luv the newsbooklet! Great photo of u in your cabin!

Mark Petersen, Virginia

Hi Iona.

Thanks for starting such a wonderful club.

Gary Gill, Pennsylvania

Posted on facebook September 12, 2015

Thank you to all who have been praying for me and the wild horse herds I have been working to protect since 1998 as I spent the last 10 days in the pressure cooker of working on a Temporary Restraining Order, getting up early, staying up late and having a hearing yesterday with witnesses and legal argument that lasted almost four hours and ended with an order to file docs by 5 pm today.

I still have more work to do before I can truly take a break today but I am so grateful.

EVERYONE: Wild horses are such tender souls and so abused. Please consider donating to a group to protect them .. The Cloud Foundation or Wild Horse Freedom Federation.

Valerie Stanley, Maryland

(See cover story.)

More on September 16, 2015

We lost the preliminary injunction but we did get the attached order (page 3) from the court which is unprecedented. I am hopeful we will eventually win the case once it gets to the merits. The Order is what I am focusing on.

Valerie

Iona —

(after reading Michael Mann's long article in our October edition, Bill posted the following on facebook)

The only way I take comfort is through engagement in the issue — and motivating others to take action.

Bill Boteler, Washington, D.C.

Dear Iona,

I have a Hypothesis on snow amounts.

Well the Warming causes more wind so if there is more wind the higher the clouds will go. Then Ice crystals fall down as snow. So my hypothesis is that global warming does the same to snow patterns as rain just less snow and more rain.

I was reading a report about snow amounts in the U.S. Mostly the U.S. has less snow amounts but in some areas it has more.

I found where they messed up. They said that the "IPCC said that the Earth is not warming because the sun isn't close enough to the Earth."

Micheal Mann told me this :

Great to see your interest in this topic continuing.

Well, the factors that influence snow amounts are complicated. It has to do with the nature of the storm track, temperature, humidity and other factors.

Wind is definitely important.

In certain places where we have seen some very heavy snowfalls, for example Boston last winter, the main factor is actually that ocean temperatures were quite warm and so there was a very large contrast between the cold continent and warm ocean and those large temperature contrasts help to create very powerful extratropical storms known as nor'easters.

Because the ocean temperatures were warm, there was more humidity in the air and the nor'easters were able to feed off that moisture and produce larger amounts of snowfall.

(back to Brendan)

I found a Organization polluting the Political Poll for Pollution, giving the wrong information as a fact. That is illegal so I'm going to send the Minnesota Majority to jail.

Anti-Climate Change Web site: www.globalclimatescam.com.

Laws Against the web site above: U.S. Code Title 18 > Part I > Chapter 47 > § 1038

Sincerely,

Brendan Wissinger, Pennsylvania

Note from Editor: I love how Brendan (14) keeps researching, questioning, learning and reporting on climate change issues.

U.S. NAVY TO GIVE MARINE MAMMALS A BREAK FROM SONAR NOISE

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

By Brian Palmer, *excerpt*
ONEARTH.ORG: SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

....Since the mid-1990s, NRDC and partner conservation groups have pushed the U.S. Navy to deploy its sonar systems and conduct training exercises in ways that will reduce their impact on whales and dolphins, winning a series of court battles stretching back to 2003 (and to the Supreme Court).

Over the weekend, NRDC and the U.S. Navy finally reached a federal court agreement regarding one of those long-running fights — in the whales' favor. ...

The navy will silence its sonar in areas around Southern California and Hawaii during certain periods of the year when marine mammal populations are most vulnerable. The agreement, signed off on by the judge today, runs until the end of 2018, when the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service is scheduled to issue new

environmental impact statements and authorizations regarding military exercises in sensitive waters.

Advocates hope the win represents a turning point in the military's view that marine mammals are acceptable collateral damage in its training exercises.

Mass strandings are the most visible effect of active sonar on wildlife, and they often coincide with nearby naval deployments. In 2000, for example, 17 whales swam themselves aground in the Bahamas. ...