

The Order of the Earth

News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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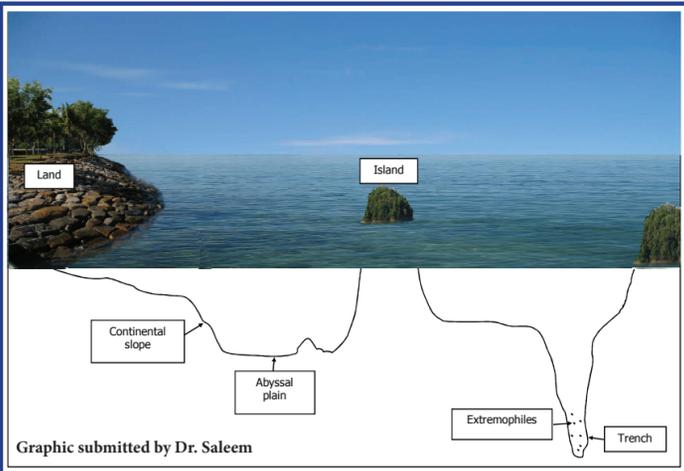
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From the Depths of the Ocean: Birth of a New Theory Extremophile Expansion

By Prof. Dr. Saleem Mustafa

Director, Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah
Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia



Graphic submitted by Dr. Saleem

It is as sensational as it sounds! This newly postulated theory of potential extremophile expansion in the ocean is attracting a great deal of interest ever since its publication in the European Journal *Environmental Biotechnology*, Volume 5, number 1 (2009). With the originality and creativity of ideas contained in the theory, such a surge of interest is not without reason.

The extremophile (organism which lives in extreme environments where other life forms cannot survive) expansion theory sheds light on the condition of the ocean, potential scenarios resulting from the impact of climate change and far-reaching consequences for species survival, marine biodiversity and fisheries. The theory also opens new horizons for intensive research and points to the need for a serious review of priorities and perspectives in marine conservation.

Over the past two centuries, human activities have caused dramatic increases in the emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide level remained relatively steady averaging 260 parts per million by volume (ppmv)

for the last 10,000 years but increased by 30% to reach the current level of about 385 ppmv.

Most of the world's carbon dioxide eventually settles in the ocean where it changes the water chemistry. Using ocean-only models forced with atmospheric carbon dioxide projections, scientists have predicted a continued decline in pH by the years 2100 and 2300. There is a scientific consensus that these excess gases are changing the climate and acidifying the ocean. This is supported by a growing number of real-world observations, numerical models and convincing theories.

Analysis of the trend suggests that climate change and acidification are likely to continue and even increase over the next several decades. There is overwhelming scientific support to the idea that if carbon dioxide concentrations increase from the current level to 450 to 600 ppmv over the next century, the changes in the climate will multiply the problem of irreversible effects on the planet, with attendant long legacies for choices made by contemporary society, as many authors have pointed out.

Continued on page 12



This breathtaking photo of waves in Hawai'i by Clark Little is called *Flashlight*. Clarke's view is a unique view of the ocean that most will only be able to experience safely on land, while studying Clarke's photos. Now with a camera upgrade and an itch to get that better shot, Clark has taken this on full time and has moved his office from land to the inside of these ocean wave barrels.

Inside Waves With a Camera

These incredible images of waves in the Hawaiian Islands were taken by Clark Little, the number one photographer of surf. He is dedicated to photographing the waves and has published a selection of his best images.

Clark captures magical moments 'inside the tube' as surfers say. Waimea Bay shorebreak surfing pioneer, husband and father of two, Clark Little has gained nationwide recognition for his photography with appearances on Good Morning America, Inside Edition and many local news stations across the U.S.

It all started in 2007 when Clarke's wife wanted a nice piece of art to decorate a wall. Clark grabbed a camera, jumped in the water and started snapping away — capturing the beauty and power of monstrous Hawaiian waves from the inside out.

Since the recent stir of Clarke's work, his images have been run on the Today Show, ABC World News and *Paris Match* (France), *Hana Hou* — Hawaiian Airlines magazine, *Surfer* magazine as well as multiple publishers and newspapers in the U.S. and overseas (and now *The Order of the Earth*).



Photo by Clark Little

Two waves cresting, forming an intricate fan shape. This shot is Clark's favorite. With a high-shutter speed he caught the brilliant fanned effect of two waves intersecting each other and throwing out this beautiful spray of water with a kind of glassy look. This photograph is called *Marlin*.

An 8" by 10" glossy photo (\$50) of the above wave is available (as are all his other works of art) at www.clarklittle-photography.com. Submitted by Douglas Joshua Davis, Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Homeland Security, Personal Health and Environmental Health

What Do We Want
and How Are We
Going to Get It?

Part I

By Matthew Lindberg-Work
Knoxville, Maryland

Why do we use cellphones and how do we decide that cellphones are the best solution for what we need? (This first essay is my way to bring up basic questions and I will go into more detail about answers with future articles).

When I was a kid, growing up in the nineteen-eighties, I got to see my first car phones, mostly owned by businessmen and business ladies who were friends of my family. For that period of my life, I was used to watching Saturday morning cartoons with my friends. It was really neat for me to see a car phone in real life — these mobile communication devices were almost identical to fantastic gadgets featured in the cartoons that I enjoyed.

A year or so later, after I saw my first car phone, the mother of one of my friends showed me the first pocket-sized cellphone. My friend's mother and father worked with the regional phone company and both of them had early models of the Motorola "Micro Tac" cellular telephone (so small for the time that it was a real gem). I was

really proud and honored to get to play with my young friend. His parents were on the cutting edge of technology and this really meant something to me.

Despite the nice things in my life — Saturday morning cartoons, cool friends to play with, a really neat school with exciting after-school programs — my parents decided to move into the country and have me do my learning at home most of the time. My mom was starting to get tired of living in the city — too much of the time, she caught herself saying to me, "Hurry up, we're going to be late."

My mom made a wise choice: From where I sit, as an adult in 2009, the innocent pleasures of city life also have a downside — all the stress and confusion which comes from trying to live in ways that are not healthy.

For many people, especially people who are connected with city life (whether they actually live in the city or in the country), cellphones have become an essential tool for managing the ways that our busy activities knit together. No one wants to waste a second — and for good reason. Being lonely is not just a temporary, personal sorrow; somehow loneliness has become a social failing as well. We are all part of "the group" and we each feel a strong urge to fulfill our part of the collective responsibility to stay in touch with each other. When we are not able to do this, we are frustrated.

Continued on page 8

My Personal "Take" on White Nose Bat Syndrome

By John "Stony" Stoneman
Bradford, Pennsylvania

Most of my friends, know me as "the cave guy" since I have been an avid caver for over 20 years. I have personally located and explored over 156 caves in Northwestern Pennsylvania, an area that supposedly "has no caves." I have also authored a "guide map" to caves and large rock areas in the Allegheny National Forest area and, over the years, written many articles on caving in Northwestern Pennsylvania.

As you can probably guess, somebody who "loves caves" as much as I do has had a "close relationship" with bats. Bats, cave spiders and mud! Not always by choice.

During my many years of cave explorations, I have accumulated lots of "incidental" information on bats. I've also participated in and organized "bat surveys" in several caves. You might say "bat study" is an "inadvertent or unintentional hobby" of mine. I don't consider myself a "bat expert" by any means but I have a pretty good understanding of bats, their habits, their habitat and their winter hibernacula. I have enough "bat experience" to get my foot in the door with some of the top bat experts or research biologists who are working on White Nose Syndrome (WNS), the new mystery illness killing alarming numbers of bats in the Northeastern United States.

By now, most of us have read many



Photo by John Stoneman

Cold, wet bat covered in white fuzz on a cave wall in Pennsylvania. Could this be White Nose Syndrome?

stories or news articles about White Nose Syndrome affecting and killing bats. If you haven't read any, here is a short "WNS Primer."

White Nose Syndrome (first discovered in 2006) is a name used to describe a fungal infection (genus *Geomyces*) that wakes bats during hibernation, causing the bats to freeze or starve to death. It has caused the most shocking

decline of North American wildlife in recorded history. WNS has infected six species of insect-eating bats in the Northeastern U.S. and is spreading south, causing declines approaching 100% in some populations; estimated losses have exceeded one million bats. Such losses alone are expected to have unprecedented consequences on eco-

Continued on page 12

Endgame by Derrick Jensen

Hailed as the "Philosopher Poet" of the ecological movement, Derrick Jensen passionately explains how our industrial civilization and the persistent and widespread violence it requires, cannot last. He weaves history, philosophy, psychology, environmentalism, economics and literature into an intricate pattern of truth and resistance. The 2006 Press Action Award called Jensen's two-volume *Endgame* "the best work of nonfiction in 2006. *Endgame* is the most important book of the decade and could stand as the must-read book of our lifetimes."

Endgame originally was going to be an examination of the circumstances in which violence is an appropriate response to the ubiquitous violence upon which this culture is based. More specifically, it was going to be an examination of when counterviolence, as termed by Franz Fanon, is an appropriate response to state or corporate violence. I wanted to write that book because whenever I give talks in which I mention violence — suggesting that there are some things, including a living planet (or more basically clean water and clean air, by which I mean our very lives), that are worth fighting for, dying for and killing for when other means of stopping the abuses have been exhausted and that there exist those people (often buttressed or seemingly constrained by organizations) who will not listen to reason and who can be stopped no way other than through meeting their violence with your own — the response is always the same.

Mainstream environmentalists and peace and justice activists put up what I've taken to calling a "Gandhi shield." Their voices get thin and I can see them psychically shut down. Their faces turn to stone. Their bodies do not move but the ghosts of their bodies form fingers into the shapes of crosses as they try to keep vampires and evil thoughts at bay and they begin to chant "Gandhi, Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King, Jr., Gandhi, Dalai Lama, Martin Luther King, Jr." in an effort to keep themselves pure.

Grassroots environmentalists

generally do the same, except after the talk some will sidle up to me, make sure no one is watching, and whisper in my ear, "Thank you for raising this issue."

Often, young anarchists get excited because someone is articulating something they know in their bones but have not yet put words to and because they've not yet bought into — and been consumed by — the culture.

The most interesting response comes from some of the other people with whom I've spoken: survivors of domestic violence; radical environmentalists; Indians; many of the poor, especially people of color; family farmers and prisoners (I used to teach creative writing at Pelican Bay State Prison, a supermaximum security facility here in Crescent City). Their response is generally to nod slowly, look me hard in the eye, then say, "Tell me something I don't already know." Some will say, "What are you waiting for, bro? Let's go."

A major reason for the difference in response, I realized a long time ago, was that for these latter groups violence is not a theoretical question to be explored abstractly, philosophically or spiritually, as it can often be for more mainstream activists, for those who may not have experienced violence in their own bodies and who can then be more distant, even — and I've seen this a lot — acting as if these were political or philosophical games instead of matters of life and death.

The direct experience of violence, on the other hand, often brings these questions closer to



the people involved so the people are not facing the questions as "activists" or "feminists" or "farmers" or "prisoners," but rather as human beings — animals — struggling to survive.

Having felt your father's weight upon you in your bed; having stood in clearcut-and-herbicide moonscapes after moonscapes, tears streaming down your face; having had your children taken from you, land stolen that belonged to your ancestors since the land was formed and your way of life destroyed; having sat at a kitchen table, foreclosure notice in front of you for land your parents, grandparents and great-grandparents worked, shotgun across your knees as you try to decide whether or not to put the barrel in your mouth; feeling the sting of a guard's baton or the jolt of a stun gun ("I was tired," one of my students wrote of being tasered, "I was 50,000 volts of tired")

— to suffer this sort of violence directly in your body — is often to undergo some sort of deeply physical transformation. It is often to perceive and be in the world differently.

Not always. We can all list political prisoners who have been tortured, nuns who have been raped, who have emerged from these horrors uttering forgiveness for their tormentors.

But this is not, for the most part, the experience of the people I have met — (funny, isn't it, how the ones who forgive are the ones whose stories we're most likely to hear: could there possibly be political reasons for this? Remember, all writers are propagandists) — and I'm not convinced that this forgiving response is necessarily and generically better, by which I mean more conducive to the survivor's future health and happiness and by which I mean especially more conducive to the

halting of future atrocities. Sometimes it may be and, sometimes, as we shall eventually see, it may not.

A Story: Seattle, late November, 1999. Massive protests against the World Trade Organization (and more broadly against the consumption of the world by the rich) turn violent, as police shoot tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets against nonviolent, non-resisting protesters.

Among the tens of thousands of protesters are several hundred members of what is called the Black Bloc, an anarchist group that doesn't play by the rules of civil disobedience. Civil disobedience is normally a fairly straightforward dance between police and protesters. There are certain rules, such as trespassing, that protesters and police generally agree protesters will break, after which it is just-as-generally agreed that protesters will be arrested, often roughed up a little bit and then usually given nominal fines.

Sometimes, as in the case of Plowshares activists, whose courage can never be questioned, the dance becomes surreal. The activists show up at military installations, beat on pieces of military technology with hammers (thus the name; beating weapons into plowshares) and pour their own blood onto the devices in symbolic protest of the blood these weapons shed. They then wait for the military police to show up — or call the police themselves to make sure they show up — get arrested, and sentenced to years and years in prison.

Other times the dance

becomes comical, as when protest organizers provide police with estimates of the numbers of people who have volunteered to be arrested (so police can schedule the right number of paddy wagons) and also provide police with potential arrestee's IDs so the process of arrest will be smooth and easy on everyone involved.

It's a great system, guaranteed to make all parties feel good. The police get to feel good because they've kept the barbarians from the gates, the activists feel good because they've made a stand — *I got arrested for what I believe in* — and those in power feel good because nothing much has changed.

The Black Bloc doesn't play by these rules (not, as we'll eventually see, that their rules necessarily work better). In Seattle, they broke windows of targeted corporations in order to protest the primacy of private property rights, which they distinguish from personal property rights:

"The latter," a subgroup of the Black Bloc stated, "is based upon use while the former is based upon trade. The premise of personal property is that each of us has what s/he needs. The premise of private property is that each of us has something that someone else needs or wants. In a society based on private property rights, those who are able to accrue more of what others need or want have greater power. By extension, they wield greater control over what others perceive as needs and desires, usually in the interest of increasing profit to themselves."

INSIDE The Order . . .

- U.S. Accused of Slowing Bonn Climate Talks . . . 3
- Green Party Joins Ballot Access Lawsuit . . . 3
- Shell Pays \$15.5 Million Over Nigerian Deaths . . . 4
- Dam Home Depot by Gary Hughes . . . 4
- Doctors Want to Ban Genetically Modified Foods by William Engdahl . . . 5
- World's Oceans Need Rescue from Humans . . . 6
- Surprise in a Bag by Cynthia S. Waugh . . . 6
- Chemtrails: Coast to Coast . . . 7
- Cell Phones Banned from Elementary Schools . . . 8
- Tribute to Thomas Berry . . . 9
- Immortality by Terry Darling . . . 9
- I Never Expected by Barbara Knox . . . 9
- Grinding Your Own Grain by Al Fry . . . 10
- The Examined Life: On Independence by Marion Stuenkel . . . 10
- PA Woods and Streams Saved from Coal Mining by Heather Sage . . . 11
- In Between by Sally Klein . . . 11
- Message from Mother Earth: Resonation by Douglas Joshua Davis . . . 11
- "OE" Artist and Cat Need Help by David Dees . . . 13
- Case Study in Development in Belize by Rod Rylander . . . 13
- Val's Column: Spare Our Friends from the Cookout by Valerie Stanley . . . 14
- Masquerading Dietitian by Mark Lauman . . . 14
- News Submitted by Our Readers . . . 15
- Letters to the Editor . . . 15
- Hymn To Green by Elizabeth Ayers . . . 16
- 6,000 Rare Dolphins Discovered . . . 16
- Face-Off Over "Fracking" in Gas Drilling . . . 16

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[Ed.: I hold my breath hoping I haven't missed anybody.]

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The Order of the Earth News, Views and Musings About Our Planet

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

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

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

Masthead: We say "Volume 9" because Iona started producing a newsletter with the same name nine years ago. In 1995 Iona wrote a tiny booklet called "The Order of the Earth" and, with friends' help, made and gave away 11,000 of them. This newspaper is an expansion. The photo is of the surf at Bay Head, New Jersey on Mothers' Day.

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**I no longer believe we can use
the system to change the system.
Let it all fall apart.**

**I no longer want to live in their world
so I must create/find my own.**

--- Kim Stenley, Toneytown MD

UPDATES Cell Tower to Go Up

Judge Dismisses Citizen's Case Opposing Scott Park Plan

By John Guerriero
Times-News Pennsylvania, May 27, 2009 (excerpt)

A judge has sent a clear signal to an Erie environmentalist who appealed Millcreek's plan to build a cell tower in Scott Park: Case dismissed.

Erie resident Cathy Pedler opposes the maximum 100-foot, single-pole cell tower that's planned for the township-owned Scott Park near Presque Isle State Park. It's a case in which the interests of technology and ecology clashed. But Erie County Judge Ernest J. DiSantis Jr. tossed out the appeal in a one-page order. Pedler, 43, who represented herself, said in an email response that the judge decided based on information available to him at the time. "This does not change the fact that building a cell tower in Scott Park is a bad decision," she wrote.

In a prior interview, Pedler said the natural area "should not have private business development of any kind, especially a large metal tower that interferes with the visual beauty of the space." Pedler had filed her appeal against the Millcreek Zoning Hearing Board, the township and Cellco Partnership, the developer for Verizon Wireless.

The wireless carrier plans to build the tower on cleared land in the west end of a parking lot on the park's south side. The zoning board on January 28th granted a variance, which was needed because the tower would be built near homes. Richard Perhacs, the zoning board solicitor, argued that Pedler didn't have the right to appeal because she didn't object before the zoning board and doesn't live near the property.

Pedler wrote in her email that an action found to be technically legal "does not necessarily make it ethical." Pedler has said she lives less than two and a half miles from the park and uses it often for hiking, bird-watching and other activities.

Michele Wild, the attorney for Cellco Partnership, argued in court papers that Pedler's recreational use of the park is the same as others. Pedler is also an active member of local environmental groups that advocate for the protection of public places.

Candy Horm, a Millcreek woman who had objected before the Zoning Hearing Board, tried to intervene in the case. But DiSantis ruled that she didn't have standing to get involved in the case, and there was no case to intervene in anyway since he had dismissed Pedler's appeal . . .

U.S. Accused of Slowing Progress at Bonn Climate Talks

BONN, Germany, June 16, 2009 (ENS, excerpt) — The June UN climate change talks in Bonn concluded Friday with UN officials declaring progress on draft negotiating texts that reflect governments' proposals on how to step up international climate change action.

But environmentalists were disappointed in what they saw as slow progress and some blamed the Obama administration for obstructing the negotiations.

Friends of the Earth Europe said that throughout the climate talks, "The United States administration has blocked progress to move negotiations forward. While the EU (European Union) is not playing such a negative role, it is failing to make progress towards finding just solutions to the climate crisis."

"The election of President Obama created tremendous hope worldwide that the U.S. would finally play a leadership role in solving the climate crisis that — more than any other nation on Earth — it is responsible for causing. Unfortunately, the Obama administration's position sounds frighteningly similar to that of George Bush and the EU seems unwilling or unable to show leadership or hold the U.S. to account," said Sonja Meister of Friends of the Earth Europe.

Delegates from 183 countries meeting in Bonn discussed the key texts that will form the basis for an international climate change deal, to be finalized in Copenhagen in December. The Copenhagen agreement is to follow the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which expires at the end of 2012.

"A big achievement of this meeting is that governments have made it clearer what they want to see in the Copenhagen agreed outcome," said Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the United Framework Convention on Climate Change. "In my view, an ambitious and effective agreed outcome in Copenhagen is in sight — an outcome that provides a strong and definitive answer to the alarm raised by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change."

But de Boer warned that delegates are still far from agreement on the emission reduction range that has been set by scientists to avoid the worst ravages of climate change — a minus 25 percent to minus 40 percent reduction of greenhouse gases below 1990 levels by 2020.

"Between now and Copenhagen, the level of ambition needs to be increased. This is still possible if the opportunities for international cooperative action are fully seized," de Boer said.

Delegates divided into two working groups designed to negotiate the Copenhagen agreed outcome.

Michael Zammit Cutajar, chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), pointed to the accelerated pace of negotiations at the Bonn meeting. He said many



Greenpeace used a siren to awaken delegates to the urgency of global warming.

important elements were added to the Convention text in Bonn.

The AWG-LCA includes all 192 governments that are Parties to the Convention. They negotiated issues of a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, enhanced action on adaptation, mitigation and finance, technology and capacity-building.

"The next step will be for Parties to refine and streamline the Convention text and to begin drafting at the next session in August, whilst engaging on the specifics of the text," said Cutajar.

The second negotiating group focused on further commitments for industrialized countries governed by the Kyoto Protocol. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) honed in on future emission reduction commitments of 37 industrialized countries for the second phase of the protocol, after 2012.

Progress was made on options for the treatment of land-use, land-use change and forestry to reduce emissions.

But John Ashe, the Chair of the AWG-KP pointed out that this group still needs to decide on the aggregate emission reduction target (for) industrialized countries, along with individual targets. "We need to get the list of commitments of developed countries finalized so that we can fully gauge where we are in terms of emission reductions," he said.

Kim Carstensen, leader of WWF's (World Wildlife Fund) Global Climate Initiative said, "It is a bit like a classroom with bad students. They hope somehow they can get through by hiding behind their classmates, a little bit of tricks, hoping the teacher will not notice. Only that the consequences here are different. Not only you stay behind but you drag the whole world down with you."

While scientists agree that the pace of devastating climate change is accelerating and bring new evidence



Photo courtesy ENB

Non-governmental organizations called for climate justice with a march outside the conference hall on June 6, 2009.

showing that natural disasters caused by rising temperatures will hit the poorest and most vulnerable, rich nations failed to make any sacrifices and concessions, said Carstensen.

"We see no political breakthrough. Instead, delegates are just preparing themselves for battles to be fought at later meetings. They set out their positions more clearly, which is helpful, but they don't resolve any of the difficult issues. We're losing time," Carstensen said.

Juergen Lefevere representing the European Commission stressed that the new EU climate and energy package is legally binding on the 27 EU member states and will enter into force on June 25. He said it is comprehensive and includes renewable energy, effort sharing and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Lefevere drew attention to the Renewable Energy Directive, which stipulates that energy from renewable sources should be increased from 8.5 percent to 20 percent by 2020.

Several developing countries called for industrialized countries to take on a target of at least 40 percent emission reductions by 2020. Bolivia demanded repayment of the developed world's climate debt. El Salvador and Paraguay stood for protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

But the EU and industrialized

countries failed in Bonn to agree to the substantial transfers of money and technology cooperation needed to enable developing countries to tackle climate change.

David Turnbull of Climate Action Network, a worldwide network of over 450 non-governmental organizations (NGOs), told the delegates, "What is clear in the negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol is that there remains a large gap between the scale of reductions needed to avert dangerous levels of climate change and what industrialized countries have proposed so far.

"Not one developed country has yet committed to emission reductions that acknowledge the urgency of the issue. Several countries have failed to come forward with any commitments at all," he said.

NGOs were disappointed in the announcement by Akihiko Furuya of Japan that his country has set a mid-term emission reduction target of 15 percent from 2005 levels by 2020.

"Aggregate reductions of more than 40 percent below 1990 are required from industrialized countries by 2020," Turnbull said. "Anything lower unfairly shifts the mitigation burden to developing countries OR places an enormous burden on the entire world . . ."

Environmentalists Fear Violence from Oil and Gas Companies

By Dean Wells
Times-Observer, May 5, 2009, excerpt

An environmentalist group involved in a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Forest Service regarding oil and gas drilling in the Allegheny National Forest is warning of the possibility of violence due to recent rhetoric launched by oil and gas companies, lobbyists and elected officials.

On Monday, Allegheny Defense Project (ADP) Forest Watch Coordinator Ryan Talbott said that his organization sent a letter to U.S. Congressman Collin Peterson, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, notifying Peterson and his committee of what the ADP calls "a real threat of violence developing on the Allegheny National Forest" toward conservationists as a result of recent public statements from elected officials and representatives of the oil and gas industry. Congressman Glenn Thompson (R-5th) is a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

"We think his committee colleagues need to know what's really going on in the Allegheny National Forest," Talbott said.

ADP sent copies of the letter to U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Robert Casey, Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. In the letter, the ADP noted that on April 9, the ADP, the Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics and the Sierra Club signed a settlement agreement with the Forest Service that requires the Forest Service to conduct "appropriate NEPA analysis" on future oil and gas development projects in the Allegheny National Forest. That agreement is still awaiting judicial confirmation in Federal District Court.

"Since then," the ADP wrote, "elected officials and the oil and gas industry have launched an aggressive campaign to criticize the settlement.

"Our local, state and federal elected officials have an obligation to represent all their constituents in a mature, respectable manner," said ADP board member Kathy Pedler. "Talking about conspiracy theories and secret police forces is not how we should be discussing important issues on the Allegheny National Forest." Pedler was referring to a hearing on oil and gas drilling in the ANF held by the state House Republican Policy Committee on Friday in Warren.

During the meeting, Thompson insinuated that there was a conspiracy among the Forest Service, the U.S. Justice Department and "radical environmentalist" groups to halt drilling in the Allegheny National Forest.

Craig Mayer, a director for the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Association, compared the Forest Service to a "Third World military group," accusing the agency of sending out its armed law enforcement officers to intimidate oil and gas workers and their families.

"These reactionary statements and views are clearly unfounded when you consider that all the Forest Service has agreed to do is to obey the law and conduct the appropriate NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) analysis for proposed oil and gas development projects and allow the public to comment on those projects," wrote the ADP in its letter to Peterson . . .

Green Party Joins Ballot Access Lawsuit

Green Party of Pennsylvania
Press Release, May 26, 2009

Green Party, Libertarians and Constitution Party File Federal Lawsuit Challenging Discriminatory Provisions and Enforcement of Ballot Access Laws

The Green Party of Pennsylvania is party to a lawsuit that was filed recently by the Center for Competitive Democracy (CCD), a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) legal advocacy group. The suit, filed in federal District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania on behalf of the Constitution, Green and Libertarian Parties of Pennsylvania, challenges the constitutionality of the Pennsylvania Election Code provisions that authorize courts to order candidates to pay litigation costs and fees to private parties who challenge their nomi-

nation petitions. In recent years, these fees have amounted to more than \$80,000 for the crime of doing no more than trying to run for public office.

In 2006, Carl Romanelli, the Green Party senatorial candidate, submitted over 100,000 signatures to get on the ballot (just over 67,000 signature were required). The Democratic Party challenged the signatures and after a seven-week battle, chipped away at the Green Party signatures with technicality after technicality. The result: Romanelli is off the ballot and is fined \$80,000 in court costs for the privilege of trying to win the fight.

"You shouldn't have to risk house and home to run for office in Pennsylvania," said Hillary Kane, Chair of the Green Party of Pennsylvania.

A similar scenario left Independent candidate Ralph Nader and running mate Peter Miguel Camejo with more than \$80,000 in fees from their 2004 Presidential run.

"Taxing costs and fees against minor party candidates who defend themselves in ballot access challenges is similar to charging voters a poll tax because both practices deter participation in the political process," said CCD legal counsel Oliver Hall. "Furthermore, because Pennsylvania elections officials don't bother to count write-in votes, minor parties are being completely frozen out of the electoral system."

The lawsuit also seeks to require elections officials to count and certify write-in votes as required by the election code.

"This case is fundamental to pave the way for all Pennsylvanians' right to run for elected office without political harassment," remarked Steve Baker of the York County Green Party.

The lawsuit was filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the federal civil rights statute, and seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to guarantee the rights of minor party candidates and voters to participate in Pennsylvania's elections.

The lawsuit asks the court to hold Sections 2872.2 and 2937 of the Pennsylvania Election Code unconstitutional. Section 2872.2 requires minor party candidates to submit nomination petitions to gain ballot access no matter how many votes the minor party won in the previous election. Section 2937 authorizes private parties to challenge those nomination petitions and authorizes courts to order the candidates to pay their challengers'

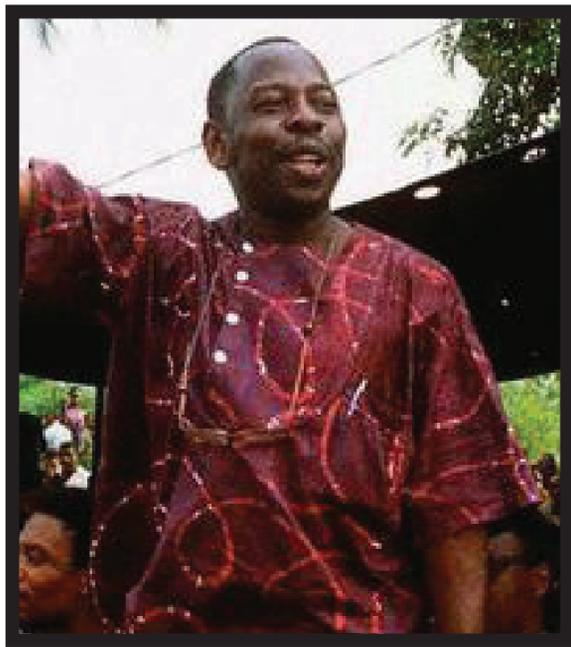
litigation costs and fees. The lawsuit also seeks enforcement of Section 3155, which requires elections officials to compute and certify valid write-in votes.

In 1972, the Supreme Court declared in *Bullock v. Carter* that states may not require candidates "to shoulder the costs" of conducting elections by charging filing fees without providing a non-monetary means of gaining ballot access. Minor party candidates cannot gain ballot access in Pennsylvania, however, unless they submit nomination petitions.

"Independents and minor party candidates currently have two options to run for public office in Pennsylvania," said Mr. Hall. "Either they submit nomination petitions and risk incurring tens of thousands of dollars in litigation costs or they run as write-in candidates and risk disenfranchising their voter-supporters."

Constitution Party of Pennsylvania, et al. v. Cortes, et al. has been assigned to the Honorable Judge Lawrence F. Stengel.

Contact: Green Party member Steve Baker, 717-845-8697 or 717-755-1463. Also see Green Party of Pennsylvania at <http://www.gpofpa.org>.



Ken Saro-Wiwa

Photo Wazobaa-Wazobia-Yoruba-Hausa-Igbo-Nigeria-News

Shell Pays \$15.5 Million Over Nigerian Executions

NEW YORK, New York, June 8, 2009 (ENS) — After legal battles lasting nearly 14 years, oil giant Royal Dutch Shell today paid a \$15.5 million out-of-court settlement to plaintiffs from the Ogoni region of Nigeria. They claimed the company was complicit in human rights atrocities committed against the Ogoni people in the 1990s, including the government's 1995 execution of author and activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight others.

While issuing a conciliatory statement today, a Shell spokesman repeated the company's position that it admits no wrongdoing.

Malcolm Brinded, Shell's executive director of exploration and production, said in a statement, "This gesture also acknowledges that, even though Shell had no part in the violence that took place, the plaintiffs and others have suffered."

The legal action in U.S. District Court in New York is one of the few cases brought under the U.S. Alien Tort Statute that have been resolved in favor of the plaintiffs. The settlement includes establishment of a \$5 million trust to benefit local communities in the Ogoni region of Nigeria.

Plaintiff Ken Saro-Wiwa, Jr., the son of Ken Saro-Wiwa, said today, "In reaching this settlement, we were very much aware that we are not the only Ogonis who have suffered in our struggle with Shell, which is why we insisted on creating the Kiisi Trust."

Kiisi means "progress" in the plaintiffs' Ogoni language. The Kiisi Trust will allow for initiatives in Ogoni for educational endowments, skills development, agricultural development, women's programs, small enterprise support and adult literacy.

"We congratulate the plaintiffs on their victory. Let there be no doubt that Shell has emerged guilty. With this settlement, Shell is seeking to keep the overwhelming evidence of its crimes away from the scrutiny of a jury trial," said Ben Amunwa from the UK-based Remember Saro-Wiwa project.

"Shell could not stand the damage of bad publicity around this human rights case. Global campaigners have helped to highlight Shell's abuses and we share in this historic victory," Amunwa said.

Shell companies have been involved in oil and gas exploration and production in Nigeria since 1938. Today, Shell Petroleum Development Company is Nigeria's largest oil and gas company with eight gas plants and more than 1,000 producing wells.

Ken Saro-Wiwa was a writer, television producer, environ-

mental activist and winner of the Goldman Environmental Prize.

An early member of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, he organized and led nonviolent protests of up to 300,000 people against Shell's practices in Ogoniland, where crude oil extraction has taken place since the 1950s. The land and communities have suffered extreme and unremediated damage from decades of oil waste dumping and gas flaring, which continues today.

The plaintiffs claim that Shell grew increasingly concerned with the international prominence of the Ogoni movement and made payments to security forces that they knew to be engaging in human rights violations against the local communities.

The military government of General Sani Abacha violently repressed the demonstrations, arrested Ogoni activists and falsely accused nine Ogoni activists of murder and bribed witnesses to give fake testimony. The nine were denied a fair trial and then hanged on November 10, 1995.

Today, the parties in *Wiwa v. Shell* agreed to settle human rights claims charging the Royal Dutch Shell company, its Nigerian subsidiary, Shell Petroleum Development Company and the former head of its Nigerian operation, Brian Anderson, with complicity in the torture, killing and other abuses of Ogoni plaintiffs.

Han Shan, a human rights and environmental campaigner with Oil Change International, supported the Ogoni campaign against Shell in the 1990s. At a celebration with the plaintiffs tonight, Shan told ENS the plaintiffs are pleased with the settlement, adding, "It really is a landmark"

Physician Dr. Owens Wiwa, Ken Saro-Wiwa's brother, and Michael Tema Vizor brought claims for the torture and detention that resulted in their exile from Nigeria.

The company faces a legal action there for repeated oil spills, brought by residents of the Niger Delta, with support from Friends of the Earth Netherlands and Friends of the Earth Nigeria.

"Shell will be dragged from the boardroom to the courtroom, time and again, until the company addresses the injustices at the root of the Niger Delta crisis and puts an end to its environmental devastation," said Elizabeth Bast, International Program director for Friends of the Earth U.S. "Communities, human rights lawyers and activists will continue to demand justice with the same determination and hope shown by Ken Saro-Wiwa and the Ogoni people."



Home Depot Throws Green Image Out the Window With Proposed Environmentally Destructive Project

By Gary Hughes
Alternet.org, May 27, 2009

Shareholders attending The Home Depot's Annual Meeting were confronted with protesters declaring "Dam The Home Depot, Save Patagonia's Rivers." The action was the latest in a series of events that aim to highlight the connection between The Home Depot and proposals to build a series of dams on the wild rivers of Chile's Patagonia.

Hidden away at the southern tail of South America, Chile's Patagonia is a place where the mountains meet the sea, where forests give way to wind-swept steppe and where the local people still remember the stories of their pioneering grandparents.

Patagonia is one of the world's few regions where big rivers can still rumble freely down rainforest-draped canyons, spilling glacier-fed waters over spectacular waterfalls that few humans have ever seen.

It is in this spectacular wilderness that Chilean and European multinational corporations are planning a series of five big dams on two rivers and more than 1,500 miles worth of transmission lines to connect the dams to Chile's industrial centers in the north. The transmission lines would require the world's longest clearcut through globally rare forests and roadless wilderness. The dams would wreak havoc on the region's ecosystems and destroy a delicate web of life. The project faces fierce opposition from local communities and from national and international environmental organizations.

Patagonia may be a long way from Atlanta, the corporate headquarters of The Home Depot, but the two are intimately connected through The Home Depot's supply chain. Every year, the Matte Group, considered the "de facto" owner of the Chilean energy company involved in the dam scheme, sells 50 million dollars of wood products to The Home Depot.

This economic relationship ties customers of The Home Depot to the proposal to destroy rivers and forests in Chile's Patagonia and is clearly contrary to The Home Depot's stated



Photo supplied by International Rivers

The endangered wilderness of the Pascua

Why The Home Depot? Every year The Home Depot purchases \$50 million worth of timber products from the Matte and Angelini groups — owners of wood products companies CMPC and Arauco — which together control the main Chilean owner of the dam consortium called Hidro Aysén. The Home Depot claims that it works to protect Chilean native forests but the dams and their transmission lines would require clear-cutting and flooding untouched temperate rainforests of a type found nowhere else on the planet.

We're calling on The Home Depot to protect Patagonia and stop buying timber products from the Matte and Angelini groups.

**Get Involved!
Organize an Action at Your local Home Depot!
Dam Home Depot! Save Patagonia's Rivers!**

Get more information at InternationalRivers.org

commitment to help their customers be environmentally conscious shoppers.

A fundamental element to being an environmentally conscious shopper is to know where the consumer dollar is going — and in this case the money that Home Depot customers are spending on wood products from their Chilean suppliers is going to corporate coffers that are working to destroy rivers and flood forests found nowhere else on the planet.

The conflict first came home for The Home Depot in spring of 2008 when environmental groups began a letter writing campaign asking The Home Depot to take a stand on the issue. In the past year thousands of consumers have written to The Home Depot telling them

that they will not shop there until The Home Depot takes steps to distance itself from the controversy.

Several major U.S. environmental organizations have communicated to The Home Depot the need for the company to take action. In addition, leading Socially Responsible Investment firms have insisted that The Home Depot respond, citing the risk that the controversy presents to the company's "green" reputation.

The demand for action is clear — The Home Depot should either sever its relationship with suppliers who are promoting the dam projects or use their influence to get these interests to stop promoting dirty development.

It is not as though alternatives do not exist. For instance,

Chile, due to its diverse geography, has massive solar, geothermal and wind energy potential. A significant portion of the dirty energy from building dams on Patagonia's rivers could be replaced by energy efficiency efforts alone, demonstrating that damming wild rivers in Patagonia is clearly not necessary.

The Home Depot has alternatives as well, as the wood products provided by the Chilean suppliers in question are available from other manufacturers.

The U.S. consumer knows that it isn't always easy being green but we also know that we don't want to spend hard-earned dollars on river and forest destruction.

The Patagonia Dam controversy presents an opportunity for The Home Depot to demonstrate that its environmental commitments are more than just PR rhetoric and to seal their reputation as an environmentally responsible company.

Yet, unless The Home Depot takes a responsible stand on this issue, a growing number of their customers will shop elsewhere for their building and home improvement materials. If The Home Depot is not pro-active, the Patagonia Dam controversy will turn their river of green promises into a flood of lost sales and lost reputation.

To find out more, visit InternationalRivers.org.

Gary Hughes is Patagonia Campaign Coordinator with International Rivers, an international environmental and human rights organization headquartered in Berkeley, California.

LAWSUIT ENDS GENETICALLY ENGINEERED CROPS ON WILDLIFE REFUGE

Ruling on Delaware's Prime Hook May Affect Farming on Scores of Other Refuges

Washington, D.C. March 24, 2009 (Press Release from groups listed at end) — A federal court has ordered the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to stop planting genetically engineered (GE) crops on its Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Delaware. While the ruling is limited to Prime Hook, the lawsuit may serve as a model for similar litigation at more than 80 other national wildlife refuges now growing GE crops across the country.

Filed in April 2006 by the Widener Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic on behalf of Delaware Audubon Society, Public Employees for Environmental

Responsibility (PEER) and the Center for Food Safety, the federal suit charged that the Fish & Wildlife Service had illegally entered into Cooperative Farming Agreements with private parties, allowing hundreds of acres to be plowed over without required environmental review and contrary to the Service's own policy prohibiting GE crops.

"It is unfortunate that we had to file suit against the Service to get it to comply with its own policies," commented Nicholas DiPasquale, Conservation Chair for Delaware Audubon. "It is clear that this Refuge Manager had abdicated control over farming operations at Prime Hook just as it is also clear that farming practices have been extremely destructive to the forested uplands at the refuge."

The groups filed suit after discovering that a top Bush administration political appointee overruled the wildlife refuge manager

in allowing the gene altered crops. Three months after the groups filed suit in the U.S. District Court for Delaware, the Fish & Wildlife Service loosened its policies to facilitate greater use of GE crops on all refuges.

"These farming programs chew up the habitat that is supposed to provide refuge for wildlife," stated Grady Hocutt, a former long-time refuge manager who directs the PEER refuge program. "Genetically modified crops serve no legitimate refuge purpose and have no business being grown there."

Farming within wildlife refuges often interferes with the protection of the wildlife and the native grasses that the national refuge system is designed to protect. Scientists also warn the use of genetically engineered crops can lead to increased pesticide use on refuges and can have additional negative effects on birds, aquatic animals and other

wildlife. In this case, Federal District Court Chief Judge Gregory Sleet concluded that, "It is undisputed that farming with genetically modified crops at Prime Hook poses significant environmental risks."

"The U.S. Fish and Wildlife should not be planting genetically engineered crops on National Wildlife Refuges," said Kevin Golden, Staff Attorney for the Center for Food Safety. "Prime Hook is the tip of the iceberg of a nation-wide problem which needs to be addressed at refuges around the country."

Contact: Kenneth Kristl (Widener Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic 302-477-2053); Nicholas DiPasquale (Delaware Audubon, 302-423-4140); Kevin Golden (Center for Food Safety, 415-826-2770 ext. 303); Luke Eshleman (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, 202-265-7337).

Doctors Want to Ban Genetically Manipulated Food

By F. William Engdahl
Global Research, May 22, 2009

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) has just issued a call for an immediate moratorium on Genetically Manipulated (GMO) Foods.

In a just-released position paper on GMO foods, the AAEM states that "GM foods pose a serious health risk" and calls for a moratorium on GMO foods.

Citing several animal studies, the AAEM concludes "there is more than a casual association between GMO foods and adverse health effects" and that "GM foods pose a serious health risk in the areas of toxicology, allergy and immune function, reproductive health and metabolic, physiologic and genetic health."

The report is a devastating blow to the multibillion dollar international agribusiness industry, most especially to Monsanto Corporation, the world's leading purveyor of GMO seeds and related herbicides.

In a press release dated May 19, the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, which describes itself as "an international association of physicians and other professionals dedicated to addressing the clinical aspects of environmental health," called immediately for the following emergency measures to be taken regarding human consumption of GMO foods:

* A moratorium on GMO food; implementation of immediate long term safety testing and labeling of GMO food.

* Physicians to educate their patients, the medical community and the public to avoid GMO foods.

* Physicians to consider the role of GMO foods in their patients' disease processes.

* More independent, long-term scientific studies to begin gathering data to investigate the role of GMO foods on human health.

The AAEM chairperson, Dr. Amy Dean notes that, "Multiple animal studies have shown that GM foods cause damage to various organ systems in the body. With this mounting evidence, it is imperative to have a moratorium on GM foods for the safety of our patients' and the public's health."

The President of the AAEM, Dr. Jennifer Armstrong stressed that "Physicians are probably seeing the effects in their patients but need to know how to ask the right questions. The most common foods in North America which are consumed that are GMO are corn, soy, canola and cottonseed oil."



Artwork by David Dees
American farmers, especially small family and organic farms, are being threatened in multiple ways by multinational giants like Monsanto. NOTE: David Dees' wonderful cat Ocey was hit by a car and needed multiple surgeries totalling nearly \$3,000. See page 13 to learn how you can help.

The AAEM's position paper on Genetically Modified foods can be found at <http://aaemonline.org>.

The paper further states that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) technology "abrogates natural reproductive processes, selection occurs at the single cell level, the procedure is highly mutagenic and routinely breaches general barriers and the technique has only been used commercially for 10 years."

The AAEM paper further states, "Several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food consumption including infertility, immune dysregulation, accelerated aging, dysregulation of genes associated with cholesterol synthesis, insulin regulation, cell signalling and protein formation, and changes in the liver, kidney, spleen and gastrointestinal system."

They add, "There is more than a casual association between GM foods and adverse health effects. There is causation as defined by Hill's Criteria in the areas of strength of association, consistency, specificity, biological gradient and biological plausibility. The strength of association and consistency between GM foods and disease is confirmed in several animal studies."

GMO is Toxic

The AAEM paper should give grounds for official rethinking of the current quasi laissez faire regulatory stance to GMO in which the solemn word of the GMO seed companies such as Monsanto is regarded as scientifically valid proof of safety. The AAEM study is worth citing in detail in this regard:

"Specificity of the association of GM foods and specific disease processes is also supported. Multiple animal studies show significant immune dysregulation, including upregulation of cytokines associated with asthma, allergy and inflammation. Animal studies also show altered structure and function of the liver, including altered lipid and carbohydrate metabolism as well as cellular changes that could lead to accelerated aging and possibly lead to the accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS). Changes in the kidney, pancreas and spleen have also been documented."

A recent 2008 study links GM corn with infertility, showing a significant decrease in offspring over time and significantly lower litter weight in mice fed GM corn. This study also found that over 400 genes were found to

be expressed differently in the mice fed GM corn. These are genes known to control protein synthesis and modification, cell signalling, cholesterol synthesis and insulin regulation. Studies also show intestinal damage in animals fed GM foods, including proliferative cell growth and disruption of the intestinal immune system."

The AAEM study also reviewed the biotechnology industry claims that GMO foods can feed the world through production of higher crop yields. It cited contrary evidence that the opposite appeared to be true, namely that over time GMO harvest yields were lower than conventional yields and required over time more, not less, highly toxic herbicidal chemicals such as glyphosate. The report noted, "The several thousand field trials over the last 20 years for genes aimed at increasing operational or intrinsic yield (of crops) indicate a significant undertaking. Yet none of these field trials have resulted in increased yield in commercialized major food/feed crops, with the exception of Bt corn." However, the slight yield gain for Bt corn they report was "largely due to traditional breeding improvements," and not to GMO.

They conclude that because GMO foods "pose a serious health risk in the areas of toxicology, allergy and immune function, reproductive health and metabolic, physiologic and genetic health, and are without benefit, the AAEM believes that it is imperative to adopt the Precautionary Principle, which is one of the main regulatory tools of the European Union environmental and health policy and serves as a foundation for several international agreements. The most commonly used definition is from the 1992 Rio Declaration that states: "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Under intense public pressure, the German Minister of Agriculture recently issued a prohibition of planting for Monsanto MON810 GMO corn. Unfortunately, two weeks later she permitted planting of GMO potato seeds.

Amflora, a genetically modified potato manufactured by chemicals giant BASF (a joint venture GMO partner of Monsanto), was declared by the German Ministry as posing "no danger for human health or the environment." The Ministry cited "in-depth examination" and talks with scientific and economic experts as basis for the reckless decision.

The publication of the sensational critique of GMO by the American Academy of Environmental Medicine has been greeted with stone silence by most major US media and international press.

GMO Politics

As I describe in great detail in my book, *Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation*, GMO was released on the general public in the early 1990's in the USA under an executive decision by then President George Herbert Walker Bush, reportedly following closed door meetings with leading Monsanto executives. President Bush mandated that there should be no special health and safety tests done by any U.S. Government agency before releasing GMO for food consumption. It came to be known as the Doctrine of Substantial Equivalence.

The U.S. Government, on urging of Monsanto and the GMO

lobby, further decided that labeling of a food product as 'GMO free' should be prohibited, using the vaguely formulated and entirely unscientific 'doctrine' proclaimed by President Bush in 1992, namely that GMO plants and non-GMO or ordinary plants were 'substantially equivalent' and hence needed no special testing before being released to the public.

That Substantial Equivalence Doctrine, despite the fact that it directly contradicts the demand of the GMO companies for exclusive patent rights to their GMO seeds as being 'unique' and different from ordinary seeds, enabled Monsanto, Dow Chemicals, DuPont and other GMO patent holders to proliferate their products with no control.

Most Americans naively believe that the government Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Department of Agriculture are there to make certain industrial food products are confirmed fully safe for human and for animal consumption before licensing.

That de facto prohibition on labelling GMO foods has meant that most Americans have no idea how much of their daily diet from store-bought Corn Flakes to soybeans to corn and additives in every food on the supermarket shelf contain GMO contamination.

Coincident with the mass introduction of GMO into the human and animal diet in the United States beginning at the end of the 1990's, there have been reported epidemic levels of allergic outbreaks in humans, strange diseases and numerous other health issues. The fact that it is forbidden by federal law to label GMO products means most health professionals are not even aware there might be any connection to a GMO diet for millions of Americans. The US population, since the 1992 ruling of President Bush — a ruling reaffirmed by presidents Clinton, George W. Bush and now by Barack Obama and his pro-GMO Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack — has been in effect treated as human guinea pigs in mass experimentation for substances never independently proven in long-term (ten years or longer) studies to be safe.

It remains to be seen if the scientific critique of the AAEM is given the attention it warrants.

F. William Engdahl is author of *Seeds of Destruction: The Hidden Agenda of Genetic Manipulation* (www.globalresearch.ca).

Karl Paulnack, Pianist and Director of the music division at Boston Conservatory, gave a welcome address to the freshmen musician class and talked about the value of music, how music infiltrates our lives in many more ways than we may think. He ended his speech this way:

"I am not an Entertainer; I am closer to a Paramedic, a Firefighter, a Rescue Worker. You are here to become a sort of Therapist for the human soul, a spiritual version of a Chiropractor, a Physical Therapist, someone who works with our insides to see if they get things to line up, to see if we can come into harmony with ourselves and be happy, healthy and well.

"Frankly, ladies and gentlemen, I expect you not only to master music; I expect you to save the planet. If there is a future of wellness, of peace, of end to war, of mutual understanding, of equality, of fairness, I don't expect it to come from government, a military force or a corporation. I no longer expect it to come from the religions of the world, which together seem to have brought us as much war as they have peace. If there is a future of peace for mankind it is to come from musicians."



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World's Oceans Need Rescue from Human Carelessness

NEW YORK, New York, June 8, 2009 (ENS) — Human activities are taking a “terrible toll” on the world’s oceans and seas, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today in a message marking the first United Nations World Oceans Day.

“Vulnerable marine ecosystems, such as corals and important fisheries are being damaged by over-exploitation, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, destructive fishing practices, invasive alien species and marine pollution, especially from land-based sources,” said Ban.

Increased ocean temperatures, sea-level rise and ocean acidification caused by climate change pose further threats to marine life, coastal and island communities and national economies, he said.

Although World Oceans Day has been celebrated by many countries since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro where it was proposed by the government of Canada, the UN General Assembly decided last year to make it an officially recognized UN annual observance on June 8th.

Oceans provide 97.5 percent of the Earth’s water and cover 70 percent of the planet’s surface. Oceans generate most of the oxygen humans and animals breathe, regulate the climate and offer an array of foods and medicines.

But a rising tide of marine litter is harming oceans and beaches worldwide, says a new report released today by the UN Environment Programme and Ocean Conservancy.

The first attempt to take stock of the marine litter situation in the 12 major regional seas around the world finds that cigarettes and plastic — especially plastic bags and PET bottles — are the most pervasive types of marine litter around the world.

“This report is a reminder that carelessness and indifference are proving deadly for our oceans and its inhabitants,” says Philippe Cousteau, CEO of EarthEcho International and Ocean Conservancy board member.

“Offered here are more than mere facts and figures. The time for action is now and true change will require taking a bold and courageous stand,” Cousteau said. “There are solutions that everyone, everywhere in the world, can adopt to make a positive difference for our water planet.”

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner said, “Marine litter is symptomatic of a wider malaise — namely the wasteful use and persistent poor management of natural resources. The plastic bags, bottles and other debris piling



Photo by Cesar Harada
Marine trash circling in the Great Pacific gyre in a garbage patch estimated to be twice the size of Texas.

up in the oceans and seas could be dramatically reduced by improved waste reduction, waste management and recycling initiatives.”

“Some of the litter, like thin-film single-use plastic bags which choke marine life, should be banned or phased out rapidly everywhere — there is simply zero justification for manufacturing them anymore, anywhere,” said Steiner.

“Other waste can be cut by boosting public awareness and proposing an array of economic incentives and smart market mechanisms that tip the balance in favor of recycling, reducing or re-use rather than dumping into the sea,” he said.

The report’s findings indicate that despite several international, regional and national efforts to reverse marine pollution, rubbish thrown out to sea continues to endanger people’s safety and health, entrap wildlife, damage nautical equipment and deface coastal areas around the world.

“The ocean is our life support system — it provides much of the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat and climate we need to survive — yet trash continues to threaten its health,” said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of Ocean Conservancy. “The impact of marine debris is clear and dramatic — dead and injured wildlife, littered beaches that discourage tourism and choked ocean ecosystems. Marine debris is one of the most widespread pollution threats facing our ocean and it is completely preventable.”

Plastics can be mistaken for food by

marine mammals, birds, fish and turtles. Sea turtles, in particular, may confuse floating plastic bags with jellyfish, one of their favorite foods.

A five-year survey of fulmars in the North Sea region found that 95 percent of these seabirds had plastic in their stomachs.

Plastic debris is breaking down into tinier and tinier pieces that can be consumed by the smallest marine life at the base of the food web. Plastics collect toxic compounds that then can get into the bodies of organisms that eat the plastic.

Studies of Northeast Atlantic plankton have found plastic in samples dating back to the 1960s.

Smoking-related activities contribute to marine litter. Cigarette filters, tobacco packets and cigar tips make up 40 percent of all marine litter in the Mediterranean, while in Ecuador smoking-related rubbish accounted for over half of the total coastal litter in 2005.

“World Ocean Day was established by the United Nations to help create awareness about our seas, their importance to people and the growing threats they face,” said Lynne Hale, director of The Nature Conservancy’s Global Marine Program.

“Recent studies about the threatened state of our oceans serve as an important reminder there are small and tangible steps that each of us can take to help reduce our impacts,” she added.



Photo by Ana Belén Rodríguez Álvarez
Pilot whale in oil spilled by the Prestige off the Galician coast of Spain in 2002. Photo courtesy Global Marine Pollution Information Gateway.

10 Suggestions from The Nature Conservancy

1. Reduce plastic consumption with reusable shopping bags, water bottles and utensils. (*See story at bottom left.*)
2. Make informed seafood choices. Keep a copy of the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s seafood guide in your wallet or text Blue Ocean’s FishPhone to help you choose sustainable seafood at the grocery store or restaurant.
3. Dispose of chemicals properly. Never pour chemicals, pharmaceuticals, oil or paint into the drain or toilets. Check with your county’s household hazardous waste program to properly dispose of or recycle chemicals and keep them out of rivers and oceans.
4. Choose “green,” non-toxic detergents and household cleaners.
5. Get the dirt on your beachside retreat. Before you stay in a hotel on the coast, ask staff what happens to their sewage and swimming pool water and if they source their restaurant fish from sustainable sources.
6. Find out the source of your food. Buying local, organic food reduces your carbon footprint, supports the local economy and reduces the amount of pesticides and fertilizers that can run off into rivers and oceans.
7. Fill your yard with native species. Reducing the amount of grass in your lawn by planting native shrubs and flower beds will provide a better habitat for birds and other wildlife and require less water and fertilizer, which can run off into rivers and oceans.
8. Keep your beach visit clean. Stay off fragile sand dunes, take your trash with you and leave plants, birds and wildlife for everyone to enjoy.
9. Choose alternatives to coral when shopping for jewelry, household decor or accessories for fish tanks.
10. Celebrate our oceans and teach young people how precious clean water is for all life. [*Last phrase added by the Editor.*]

Surprise in a Bag: New Uses for No-Frills-Fancy Bags

By Cynthia S. Waugh
Sykesville, Maryland

About a year ago, I met Jeanette Bartelt from “No Frills Fancy” online through the sales of her organic drawstring bags, via *The Order of The Earth* newspaper. At the time I thought that her concept of recycling scraps of organic cotton into produce bags would only involve the sale of a couple bags to me for my personal produce shopping use. As it turns out, I have bought quite a few bags from her but for various uses!

Foremost, Jeanette would want you to know about the various ways and types of fruits and veggies to store inside the slightly dampened bags in order to keep them fresher for a longer period of time (see her beautiful eye-catching ads from previous months), but I am writing to tell you of many other uses I have found that some folks may not have considered.

First, I have used the bags as unique gift wrap! I attach notes to the bags explaining other uses beyond the wrappings and why I chose to enclose their gift in the eco-friendly bag.

When I ‘long distance’ travel I have used the small bags for bulky jewelry items: large watches, pearls, crystals, etc. which eliminates scratching one another if separated. I have also used the small bag for my travel toothbrush and toothpaste or my eye make-up. Recently my airline carry-on bag sported three or four of the bags for items that I wanted separated such as my Haviannaas (flip-flops from Brazil, NOT China), an extra set of shorts, top and under-



garments, hat and my personal airline travel pillow.

Additionally my daily trek to the gym and pool utilizes the bags again! I can use the small size for my sunglasses, a medium-size one to hold my Cliff Bar, banana and/or apple or other post work-out snack (without plastic contamination to fret about). I also use one to store my eco-Sigg Bottle, which helps to keep it clean and prevents denting. If I were a new mother traveling to the gym, I could picture myself using medium- and small-sized bags to hold an infant’s bottle or a toddler’s sippy-cup.

For home use, Jeanette was kind enough to take my special order for extra large bags (recycled industry scrap fabric) to store my riding boots. These bags had to be long enough to cover them and to keep dust off of them while I store them through the seasons. The soft knit cotton

keeps them scuff-free!

Sometimes I have taken a packet of photos to friends to share. Rather than plunking them into an acidic paper envelope, which would damage the photo, I have used her medium-sized organic bag instead.

Another every-day use idea is to keep some in your canvas grocery-shopping bags specifically for produce. Select your items and then weigh your produce on the scales before putting it into the bags. In some stores (especially health-food stores) you can weigh the empty bag first to get a “tare” and, at check-out, the tare weight is deducted from the total weight. This way, no plastic sleeves are ever used while cutting down on plastic consumption. Your treasured organic produce stays pesticide- and polyethylene-free!

I need to mention that the bags are easy to wash. Since I use petro-

free laundry detergents, I don’t need to be concerned that my produce or food is being cross-contaminated. In other words, since I chose the environmentally friendly Ecover or 7th Generation laundry products, I am less likely to damage the ‘organic factor’ by adding phthalates or petroleum to the fabric (like other mainstream cleaners would).

Part of my quest to become more eco-conscious is to purge a lot of extra ‘stuff’ that I have. A difficult task for me has been to begin to pare down some of my beloved books. As I pare down I like to recycle as well.

A Challenge to OE Readers:

The first person that orders five or more bags (of any style or kind, organic or recycled scrap bags) from Jeanette in July will receive free-of-charge one of my hard-backed, purged books: *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown. No mailing fees will apply. This article will be a surprise to Jeanette. She does not know that I have written this so receiving orders may come as a surprise!

Please continue to patronize vendors like Jeanette who are trying to create a better world for all of us. The growth of organic cotton and the recycling of industry scrap fabric will promote an eco-friendly society and is a loving way to send the message that we are tired of the overuse of pesticides and plastics in our environment and wastefulness of our resources.

Please visit Jeanette’s website: nofrillsfancy.com and/or email: lalainya@nofrillsfancy.com.

“The Order” is available in PA at:

- **Burnt Cabins Campground**
Burnt Cabins
- **Four Quarters**
Artemis
- **Gap Mini-Mart**
Shade Gap
- **Harvest Moon**
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- **Health by Choice**
New Enterprise
- **Miller’s Diner**
Mill Creek
- **Neelyton Post Office**
- **Pennsylvania Visitors Center I-70 Northbound**
Fulton County
- **Sandy Ridge Market**
Orbisonia
- **Sunny Ridge Restaurant,**
Shade Gap
- **Weavers Natural Foods**
Manheim
- **Wholesome Living Marketplace**
Bedford

And in New York at:

- **Magnolia’s Cafe**
Patterson

And in West Virginia at:

- **Community Garden Market**
Berkeley Springs

Chemtrails: Coast to Coast

Continuing the Discussion

Activism in California

LOS ANGELES SKYWATCH



Los Angeles Chemtrails Meetup is about raising awareness, demanding transparency and stopping the Aerosol Spray Operations taking place on a near-daily basis, over the populations of Los Angeles, the United States and the world. We demand an immediate halt to these operations. We demand to know exactly what we have been sprayed with and what the health effects are. We demand publicly-open investigations and publicly-open hearings. We demand Justice!

Idea for Chemtrails

Education: Tabling at Events

Notice Posted
Before the Event:

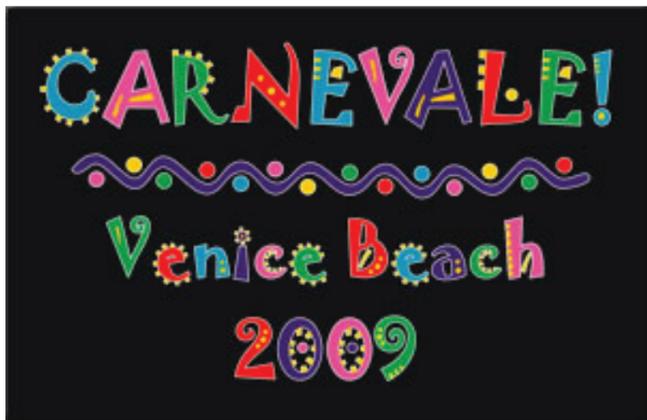
ACTION ALERT
Help Is Needed
At the Booth
June 6, 2009
Chemtrail
Activism

Los Angeles Sky
Watch Action Alert

Right to Breathe
Healthy Air, along with
the Los Angeles
Chemtrails Meetup
Group, will be hosting
a booth dedicated to
the issue of Aerial
Aerosol Operations
taking place in the sky
above us all.

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smiles to your faces
and much laughter
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vale, this incredible,
flamboyant festival
has been celebrated
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years and has be-
come a true Venice
Beach tradition.

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for such an artistic
community. It brings
together the colors
of Venice Beach
and is now attract-
ing Californians
from all over who
want to come join
the party.

Carnevale! is being
presented in asso-
ciation with The
Venice Chamber
of Commerce and
will take

place on Saturday
June 6th starting
at noon, at Venice
Beach. Check out
www.carnevale.us
for exact location
updates and special
announcements.
Carnevale! is
funded in part by
grants from the
City of Los Angeles
Department of
Cultural Affairs
and the Venice
Neighborhood
Council.

For general event
information visit
www.carnevale.us.
Send e-mail to
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vale.US or call
310-396-2803.

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of the spraying.
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at the very
least, is a huge
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issue.

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that leaders
lie. Work to
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minds to the
possibility of
a cover up
and conspir-
acy regard-
ing the Aero-
sol Opera-
tions.

The level of
pollutants
filling the
sky from
the aircraft
is not ac-
ceptable.

Chemtrails in Pennsylvania



Photos by Iona

Chemtrails at a Harrisburg rest stop along the Pennsylvania Turnpike on Wednesday, June 3, 2009. Not a single airplane was in sight and the sky was silent.

Chemtrails Petition

We the people request an immediate, thorough and honest investigation into what the substances labeled "Chemtrails" actually consists of and to discover the true purpose of "Chemtrail" operations in this country and across the globe. Such investigations must include independent, impartial experts as well as individuals and groups. Chemtrail-aware individuals and groups are getting tired of seeing whited-out, man-made skies. Without a credible explanation, many of us have come to the conclusion that a cover-up is underway at some level. The purpose of this petition is to assist in raising public confidence to ultimately demand a serious and open public debate on Chemtrails. Sign on at link below.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/7/investigate-persistent-contrails-aka-chemtrails>

Thank you and we await your detailed response. signature goal: 2,000

Please see: <http://www.carlneedham.com/clouds.html>

Chemtrails & Bats?

Email to Iona, June 13:

This fungus is not a natural fungus . . . it is a self replicating monster that is also responsible for many of a demise of natural life forms . . . bats, bees, butterflies, amphibians and turtles being high on the list of sensitivities and lethalties.

All this comes from spraying of Chemtrails and the evil habingers thereof. Chemtrails barium carbonate in weather-manipulating chemicals of Chemtrails is responsible. Other have studied this; the works are refused publication and are foreign in origin.

I once called this a "Methodic Demise of Natural Earth" in 2003 and wrote a White Paper on it that's been around the world four times.

Marine and fish and most aquatic lifeforms have died or

ceased reproduction due to the extreme toxicity. This is the ugly world these #@*%\$% have put us in.

I'd be certain Al Gore and some of those readers get copies of all this; ask them straight forward, "What did you have to do with this implementation?" Demand answers.

My focus is the Chemtrails and STOPPING THEM. Seems nothing else matters as much because it is the most important and vital interface that all living things share — The Breathable Air Column. If we don't have that, we do not and will not have Life on this Planet Earth.

Remember, we do not believe in a coincidence. All this Life is under attack, both chemical and biological . . . and there's no outrage?

Michael Castle
Columbus, Ohio

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Cell Phones Banned From French Elementary Schools



Antennas Removed From Roof of Town Council Offices in French Town

NBC, Cleveland/Akron Ohio

France is shutting down cell phone use in its elementary schools due to health concerns. The government ban comes after

a study on mobile phone use and wi-fi radiation.

Currently cell phone use is permitted on elementary school grounds but not in classrooms.

The new mandate will shut down their usage completely. Under the measure, companies will also be required to supply phones that only work with a headset in order to reduce exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

Some groups accuse the French government of not going far enough to protect children's health and are pushing for new laws prohibiting all children 14

and under from using mobile phones.

They also want greater regulation on where cell phone towers can be placed.

*From Powerwatch
www.powerwatch.org.uk.*

French Government Imposes Phone Ban on All Primary Schools

In an unprecedented move, the French Government today

announced their decision to take some strongly precautionary measures with regard to mobile telecommunications technology.

From an outright ban of mobile phones in primary schools to a requirement on operators to provide "stripped" down handsets only capable of texting or without a loudspeaker.

This is a clear indication that in the absence of certainty, France is willing to act on the steadily increasing level of public concern.

Mayor Disconnects Base Station Citing Precautionary Principle

Also in France, the Clamart Town Council has disconnected an Orange relay antenna on the roof of their council offices in the name of the Precautionary Principle.

The present mayor, Philippe Kaltenbach, has overruled the contract of the previous mayor that had agreed to the installation of an antenna for the Orange

mobile network on the roof of the Town Hall and on other buildings.

Philippe Kaltenbach has decided not to let the mobile phone companies keep the antennas on the roofs of these two buildings, and to allow antennas only on private buildings that are at least 100 meters away from two nearby schools and a creche [day care facility].

This is another in a long line of local French rulings demonstrating a precautionary approach, not only to the usage of the phones, but to a precautionary placement of the base stations.

Homeland Security, Personal Health and Environmental Health

Continued from page 1

This strong urge — to be connected with one another — is real and unavoidable. This fact of human nature explains the incredible rise in the use of cellphones (and wireless devices in general) over the last couple of decades.

No matter how cleverly hidden or miniaturized the wireless infrastructure may be, I want to point out that we have a significant, new layer of technology in our environmental and social landscape. Communication freedom — and the technology that goes with it — is a response to a basic human desire and we need to be sure this new technology is not causing new problems.

I think most of you have heard about how wireless technology and cellphones have been proven to have damaging effects on personal health. The ultimate significance of any scientific evidence for health risks has been hotly debated by the CTIA — The Wireless Association. The CTIA, as well as some of the scientists at the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration, have good points to make about why we should feel okay about cellphone safety.

I will go into those valid, scientifically-based points in some of the future articles I write in this series. I also want to note that there is cause for caution significant enough for every one of us to wonder whether we need to take basic preventative measures, whether at the individual or social level. Also in this series, I will go into what those preventative measures are and how we can make use of them in a simple and effective way.

Matthew Lindberg-Work lives in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Maryland and is part of the team at a cooperatively-owned natural foods grocery store in Frederick, Maryland. He has been a teacher's aide, curriculum assistant, tenth-grade Chemistry lab instructor, General Sciences substitute teacher, community organizer and hiking-trail builder.

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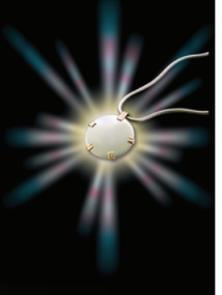
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*We Will Miss Tom Berry
But We Will Remember
His Wisdom*

A Few Words of Hope

By Thomas Berry

The basic mood of the future might well be
one of confidence in the continuing revelation
that takes place in and through the Earth.

If the dynamics of the universe from the beginning
shaped the course of the heavens,
lighted the sun and formed the Earth,

if this same dynamism
brought forth the continents and seas and atmosphere,

if it awakened life in the primordial cell
and then brought into being
the unnumbered variety of living beings,

and finally brought us into being

and guided us safely
through the turbulent centuries,

there is reason to believe

that this same guiding process

is precisely what has awakened in us

our present understanding of ourselves

and our relation to this stupendous process.

Sensitized to such guidance from the very structure

and functioning of the universe,

we can have confidence in the future

that awaits the human venture.

The Dream of the Earth

[Ed.: Miriam MacGillis of Genesis Farm in Blairstown, New Jersey, taught me a lot about Earth and the Universe 20 years ago while a small group of us studied Tom Berry's wonderful book, *The Dream of the Earth* at The Grail in Cornwall-on-Hudson in New York during several weekend retreats. At the age of 20, Thomas Berry (November 9, 1914 to June 1, 2009) removed himself from a world he considered "crassly commercial" and entered a Catholic Passionist monastery. His new book, *The Sacred Universe*, will be released in August. Tom is still with us.]



Photo by Terry Darling

This pure white iris is called an Immortality because it is a re-bloomer in the fall.

Immortality

White iris blossoms.
Two full moons with star flowers
brighten my black sky.

By Terry Darling, Warren PA

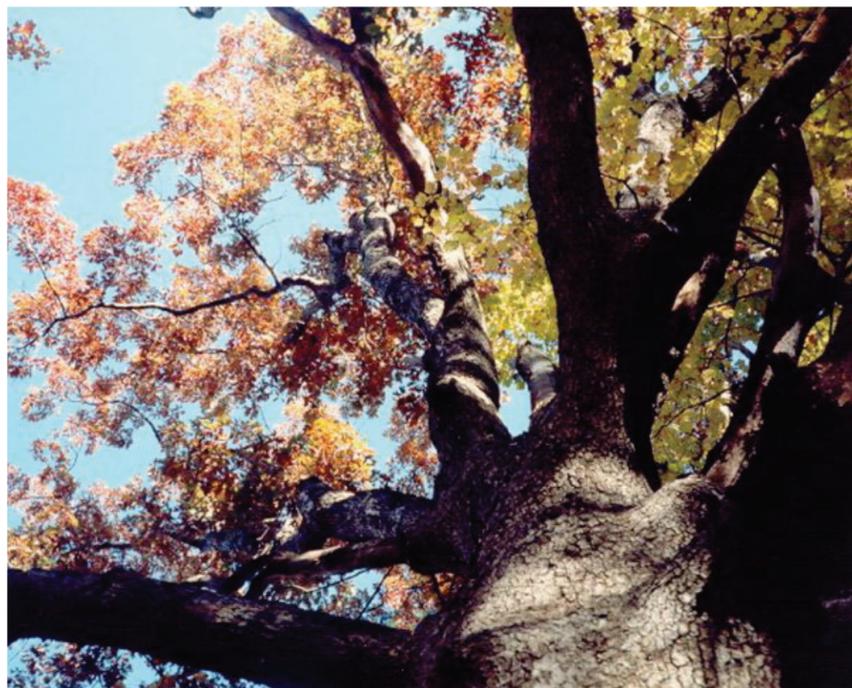


Photo by Robert G. Knox

Guardian Oak growing on Barbara Knox's farm in Blairs Mills, Pennsylvania.

I Never Expected

By Barbara Knox, Sandy Spring MD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Barbara Knox, now almost 85 years old, has taken a break from writing poetry while she works on a memoir. Now living in a Quaker retirement community in Maryland, she has more time for writing, misses living at her farm in Pennsylvania, but is enjoying putting her adventures at Full Circle Farm into a book.

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- Consider how life might be enriched through the practice of simplicity



Grinding Your Own Grains for Your Own Health

By Al Fry
Garden Valley, Idaho

Part I

Because I have friends who view my grain and salt grinding as some sort of quaint and eccentric habit, I suppose it's time to defend myself.

The major reason I grind my own flour is to get as many nutrients as I can for my money. The majority of farmland is now sadly lacking in nutrients and the many hybrid grains used in flour only look good on the outside.

Inside, they just don't have the minerals their old heirloom ancestors have. To add insult to injury, the usual flour is processed and bleached to the point it is almost worthless as a source of nutrients . . . and may even contain mild poisons.

Since the World War II concentration camp directors under Hitler found fluoride useful in numbing down inmates, the 'elite' of present times have resurrected it now and not only put it in most city water systems, but fluorinate our flour as well.

When I go to the bulk-food sections of many grocery stores I can now choose to get the old non-hybrid grains like spelt, kamute, barley, etc. . . and get the brown rice, rye, millet, buckwheat, and other less exotic or spendy grains etc. to enhance my bread and waffle mixes. Each seed or grain has its own high or low points and rye is a good example.

The old Roman soldiers were issued rye to keep down their sexually-transmitted diseases and aid their immunity levels. The unbaked or 'unleavened' bread of the field worked great for such assistance. Buckwheat has a higher rutin content and tastes great in waffles, etc.

Whole wheat however is popular because it has a high gluten content and holds bread together but the downside is that it's very acid forming and once the body is overly acid, the body starts pulling the alkaline calcium out of things like bones and teeth to neutralize the blood pH. I usually put some tortilla corn flour (lime rich) and millet (alkaline) in the various grain mixes I make up to keep the neutrality .

Since B vitamins tend to oxidize and degrade quickly once exposed to oxygen, I also only make up enough flour batches to last a couple of weeks or so. One of the fairly reliable tests as to the merit of foods is the "Will the animals and bugs eat it?" test. Most non-domestic animals won't even touch the usual packaged foods that most persons are living on.

Hydrogenation, for example, makes bad oils even worse and persons adding margarine and constant fast food oils to their diet constantly often get their plumbing clogged up by mid-life. I get a local butcher to make up suet or ground up beef fat if I can't find it on shelves. Like coconut oil, it will take higher heat without degrading. Olive oils are also on my shelves but most are diluted down with cheaper oils regardless of the brand name.

As to the salt I use, it goes without saying that the usual brand names are all contaminated with alum (aluminum) and additives

to make the crystals uniform and easily poured. I get more expensive salt that is made by hand-raking the chunks from seaside ponds. Then I add some potassium chloride salt to keep up my potassium levels.

Most grocery stores have 20 pounds or so of potassium chloride salt for \$10 or less . . . for use in water softeners. I hammer the chunks down to grinder-throat size and grind stock up as needed.

Many baking sodas have aluminum in them so this is another health hazard to watch out for. Millet and corn don't have enough gluten to stick together well so aside from the eggs in the batter, it may be necessary to add some gluten-rich grain flour to the mix.

Because the oceans still contain all the minerals and nutrients washed out of the soil, I consider seaweeds a vital part of my diet. Grinding up the pellets sold as soil enrichment products can save a lot of money and be great for the old nutrient-deficient bod.

Other potentials could turn these comments into a whole book but we'll just continue with Part II next month.



Photo by Iona

Al Fry demonstrating how he grinds whole grains to make his bread and waffles.



Photo by Antrim Casky

Seventeen mountaintop removal activists had no choice but to enforce the laws since all administrative remedies had been exhausted, said some of the activists and supporters at a press conference on May 16. The four still-jailed activists were released on their own recognizance shortly after the press conference on the Raleigh County Courthouse steps. "It was extremely unjust that the magistrate illegally posted such high bail when our maximum fine was only \$100," said Laura Steepleton, who was released this afternoon. "He justified his statement by telling us that we had no ties to the area. As a human being and a citizen of this country I not only have a tie to this area but a responsibility to ensure security for these mountains and the safety for the people of this beautiful community."

Obama Betrays People, Mountains

Controversial Coal Mining Method Gets Obama's OK

By Tom Hamburger and Peter Wallsten
The Chicago Tribune, June 2, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. (excerpt) — With the election of Barack Obama, environmentalists expected to see the end of the "Appalachian Apocalypse" — their name for exposing coal deposits by blowing the tops off of whole mountains . . .

But in recent weeks, the Obama administration has quietly decided to open the way for at least two dozen more "mountaintop removal" projects.

The decision to clear a path for the controversial projects was never officially announced but instead conveyed in a letter this month to a West Virginia congressman and coal ally, Democratic

Rep. Nick Rahall. The letter said that the Environmental Protection Agency would not block 42 of 48 mine projects that it had reviewed so far, including some of the most controversial mountaintop mines.

In mountaintop removal, explosives blast away a peak and expose coal seams. Coal companies say the practice is safer and more efficient than traditional shaft mining. Critics say the process scars the landscape and dumps tons of waste, some of it toxic, into streams and valleys.

The administration's decisions are not the final word on the projects — or on the future of mountaintop removal — but it removes a major obstacle.

And the decision, coupled with the light it sheds on relations between the mining industry and the Obama White House, has disappointed environmentalists. Some say they feel betrayed by a president they thought would end or sharply limit the practice.

The Examined Life On Independence

By Marion Stuenkel
Madison, Wisconsin

I remember the first time nobody knew where I was going. Privileged me was enjoying my last hours in Spain at the end of my college summer language program. I felt independent.

Of what was this feeling comprised? There was the fact that all choices were mine alone. I was in charge of my own destiny. I could even disappear. It was heady to think no one around me knew who I was. The week before I'd been mistaken for a German, even my country of origin wasn't obvious.

There was a slight frisson of anxiety about being on my own. Letting people know where you're at provides a sense of security (though mostly a false sense). There is, at least, a point last seen.

Nobody knowing what you're doing means it's all up to you. You are responsible for exercising common sense, for meeting your basic needs, for acting in such a way you don't become somebody's problem. You create your day's work. Your experience, knowledge and beliefs are your only guide to ethical behavior. Independence is major control of the circumstances of your day. I choose to eat only local food purchased directly from a farmer I know. I fast from electricity at will, turn off whole categories of energy use at the breaker box. I take public transportation unless pursuing the agenda of family or friends while strictly limiting recreational travel. I support the library.

Considering TV and radio to be, including "public" stations, naught but the propaganda and distractions of our Earth-destroying consumer culture, I seek news from independent media and my neighbors. I keep my possessions few and people-oriented (not thing-oriented) during a simple round of daily activities. I seek consistency and relevance by applying traditional ethics using customs from my own and other cultures about how best to fit in



Image from Office Publisher

with the rest of nature including my fellow (wo)man.

It's interesting that it took those hours of being out of country, out of touch, out of reach, out of the sight of those to whom I was bound, out of almost all of it, for me to realize my independence.

I hope my grandchildren are quicker than I. Hopefully they won't have to be Kyoto-miles from home to attain independence. May they take control of what they as humans can, and thus be powerful, responsible and accountable.

Socrates wrote "... The unexamined life is not worth living." Thinking along as I exercise power in everyday choices, doing for myself daily, I don't know why I'd celebrate a governmental Independence Day. The Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 was from one set of elites to another. The process was more like mitosis-beal division than revolution. Not to celt a supposedly dead horse but the people in "We the People"

were white male property owners.

Vandana Shiva says, "[Governmental Laws] are providing "freedom for global corporations but dictatorship for normal people." My government, for example, pushes herbicides, pesticides and genetically modified crops. Agricultural policies which promote, appropriations which subsidize and laws which protect international corporations drive family farmers off the land.

But I as an individual with independence have the power of choice.

When I choose to purchase only locally grown food I'm responsible. My power to choose makes me accountable.

As a city dweller I choose to buy from a local farmer. My government does not control whether I buy eggs I can eat raw because they didn't come from a CAFO (concentrated animal feedlot operation). My government can't keep me from drinking milk and eating grass fed beef from antibiotic- and bovine-growth-hormone-free cattle.

As oceanographer/author Sylvia Earle observed, "Most decisions that matter, in fact, seem too trivial to be noticed but each and every choice made by all the world's individuals, taken together at the end of a day, week, year or millennium, shape the direction of society, cause the actions that collectively build or destroy civilizations."

Yes, I can vote — and do. Seldom, very seldom, do my elected representatives represent my values. In fact governments seem decidedly displeased and obstructive when people do things for themselves like going organic and putting agriculture over consumer culture.

So I'll celebrate my Independence Day everyday, especially now that everybody knows where it is I'm going. I'm going local.

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

PA Woods and Streams Saved from Coal Mining

By Heather Sage
PennFuture.org, May 21, 2009

Just a few minutes ago, I received word that we, along with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, had won our court case to protect Hays Woods in Pittsburgh.

This is a wonderful result. Hays Woods is one of Pittsburgh's largest and best intact green spaces. A developer had proposed to strip mine the woods and to dump debris removed in the mining process into the valleys, burying and destroying 8,000 feet of streams in the process.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board just emphatically denied their proposal, saying no mining activity may harm Pennsylvania's rivers and streams. And in making the decision, the Board quoted another case PennFuture had won — the UMCO Energy, Inc. mining case, where we prevented a longwall mining operation from damaging the streams. (UMCO owned the mine in Utah which collapsed last year killing several miners.)

"Today's decision is crystal clear," said Heather Sage, vice president of PennFuture. "No mining operation can legally harm streams in Pennsylvania. Period. And the Hays Woods strip mining project cannot go forward . . ."

The best part of this decision is that it firmly states that mining cannot harm streams — anywhere. So this decision can help protect any rivers or streams in Pennsylvania that are at risk from mining.

Victory sure is sweet but it is also hard work. We worked with hundreds of local citizens and organizations, helping arrange town meetings, legislative visits, letters to the editor and many other activities to build support for protecting Hays Woods.

And our legal team, which provides over \$2 million each year in free legal assistance, spent hundreds of hours researching, writing briefs and arguing for local citizens in hearing after hearing.

That's why PennFuture exists. To help local citizens take action to create a just future, where nature, communities and the economy thrive.

www.pennfuture.org

In Between

By Sally Klein, Bedford PA

In between, life thrives.
In between survival tasks...
In between other's demands,
Creativity lives in between.

In between time is fleeting.
In between space is small.
In between I find peace,
Beauty, balance and delight.

In between I hear a calling.
In between I see a light.
In between I touch Source
Finding joy amidst the suffering.

In between the light and darkness,
In between faith, hope and love,
In between belief and tradition
Truth remains undiscovered.

Divinity dwells in between.

Creativity, peace, beauty and balance,
Delight, joy and truth...
Hidden treasures guide life's purpose
In between death and birth.

Thoughts from the Editor

Every once in a while I get these feelings of euphoria when I truly believe that somehow or other things are going to turn out all right in the end. During one of these moments, when our little band of environmentalists was beginning to show some real progress, I sent off the following email to a group of solidly dedicated activists in Northwest Pennsylvania whom I had met in person.

Their enthusiasm, intelligence and perseverance greatly impressed me.

Now I realize that the battles being fought are longer and harder than we can imagine and those who would destroy our Earth have far more resources than we ordinary citizens have. Nevertheless, I thought this email and these feelings from my heart were worth sharing with all of our readers.

We win some, we lose some, but we carry on for the good of all.

Every new one makes us stronger. Please join us!

Dear Cathy, John and Terry,

Thanks to you three serious activists/writers/photographers, I really feel in my belly that we are finally winning here.

I have believed for about two years that we have enough people worldwide to make a difference — disenfranchised, polluted, sick, furious, ill-treated people with devastated homes and ecosystems — to turn the world around.

But this morning, sitting here getting all these great emails about victories and battles from you three, I am really, really excited about the future of this planet we all love so much.

Thank you three (and we must include Reg and Bill and Karen and Ed and all the others I don't even know who work alongside you) for this marvelous insight and feeling of great hope and joy.

Love,
Iona

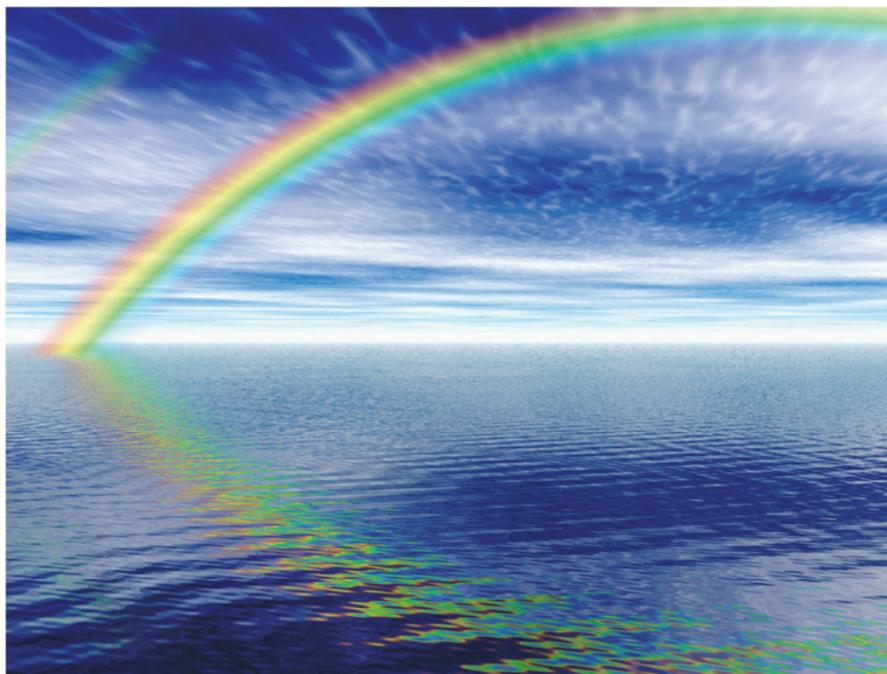


Image from Office Publisher

A Message From Mother Earth RESONATION

By Douglas Joshua Davis
Chagrin Falls, Ohio

"See the rainbow of light as you connect with me. You have to use your inner vision. As you stand on the ground and focus your awareness, a rainbow will appear in your outstretched arms. It is saying, 'Have joy upon this Earth. Listen to her and listen closely with your heart. Treat her well. Treat yourself and others well. Remember who she is and remember who you are. Then go to work upon this planet and bless her every day.'

"Time is advancing. Soon, you will ask yourself, 'What can I do to help you, Mother Earth? What can I do to help others who reside here? What can I do to satisfy the longing in my heart to have joy each day? How much longer can I reside upon you and not be true to myself?'

"This is the hour. You are hearing a call to be in resonance with your inner being.

"It is now time for me, Gaia, to be in resonance with my inner being! Therefore, I may throw a tantrum from time to time. I may cry. I may seem out of sorts. But that is okay because all is in perfect order. I am happy. I am joyous. I am ready to do what I need to do. I am hopeful you will as well. I am moving into another state of being and onto another plane of existence. It is a state in which only love, joy and respect exist. Nothing else will sustain itself, nothing that does not resonate and flow with my new self.

"Therefore, I invite you to come along with me as I twist and turn and change. If you are connected to me through the heart energy, you will enjoy the ride. Bless you brothers and sisters of the New Earth!"

Douglas Joshua Davis is a clairvoyant and spiritual medium and has been receiving messages for many years. He also communicates with and grows beautiful plants of all kinds. His "home-grown" business is called Sacred Earth Plants. Contact Douglas at greenearthdd@aol.com.

Email to Doug Which He Shared With "OE"

Doug — Just wanted to let you know how much we enjoy reading your column. It's really great hearing the messages our Mother Earth has for us. Makes one stop and thing. Keep up the good work and thank you for your service to the Planet.

With Light, Love and Oneness,
Zentura & Charlie, Casper, WY

Anastasia Editor's Notes

by Dr. Leonid Sharashkin

How many times have I heard personal examples of this instant recognition: people who have been searching for years or decades for meaningful answers to questions on the purpose of life, on Man's place in Nature, have finally found them in this book! . . .

But should it be surprising that the image of a way of life founded on the ideals of love, beauty and non-violence, as presented by Anastasia, would resonate so strongly with our inner self? After all, does not every one of us want to live in a free society of kind and happy people, in a world without wars, crime or oppression? In a world where not a single tear need run down a child's cheek and where families live in love and prosperity?

Do we not want to live without monstrous industries destroying and polluting both Nature and Man? Do we not want to enjoy creative labor for the benefit of both our families and our communities, instead of suffering through boring jobs merely to enrich faceless corporations? Do we not want a society based on mutual help and cooperation rather than competition? . . .



NOTE: Dear Reader — I love this book so much that I decided it would be the only book I would sell through our newspaper: \$14.95 plus \$3.05 book-rate shipping. Send a check for \$18 payable to The Order of the Earth to HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255. Write "Anastasia" on the memo line. If you love the first one as much as I did, you may order the rest of them directly from RingingCedars.com or 800-365-6367. For the Earth, *Jena*

Follow the Leader . . .
or Follow the Follower?

Following the example of successful people is a good idea -- it avoids the trial-and-error of blazing your own trail. But most people, Nightingale observed, are so hungry for acceptance, they try to be like everyone else. Instead of marching forward they march in circles, following each other in mindless lockstep . . . and going nowhere.

That concept is easy enough to understand. But it's very hard to do something about it. You can't overcome a lifetime of knee-jerk responses after only one hearing. But, after repeated hearings, you start to make headway.

Another simple concept is that people reflect what you show them. If they see you as being indifferent, they will treat you indifferently. If they see you as expecting the worst, they will behave at their worst. But if they see you as kind

THE PERSON
AT THE HEAD
OF THE LINE
MUST KNOW
WHERE WE'RE
GOING.

Cartoon submitted by Al Fry, Garden Valley, Idaho

White Nose Syndrome in Bats

Continued from page 1
systems throughout North America with unknown economic consequences.

The most recent consensus of many biologists is that "something" is compromising the immune systems of bats, allowing the fungus to infect them. One point of contention is whether the fungus is in the caves already or if indeed the fungus was, or is, brought into the environment from another source.

Biologists recommended closing caves to spelunkers and cavers in many states and the federal government is regulating or banning "caving" on their lands.

When I first learned about this "mystery illness," there was not even an agreed-upon name for it. At the time, all that was known was that bats were "mysteriously" waking from their winter hibernation, flying around and leaving the caves or dying in the cave from lack of food by using up all their stored calories shivering or freezing to death just outside the cave from cold, sub-freezing temperatures.

Whenever "something new" pops up like this, the very first logical questions are: "What changed?" or "What is new in the environment?"

Weather

My first guess as to the cause of WNS was the weather!

I'm not the only one to suggest this. There is a researcher, Dr. Stone, who also believes warmer weather is the cause

The winters of 2004, 2005 and 2006 were warmer than normal. We actually had freakishly warm or HOT spells in December, January and February of those three winters.

As a matter of fact, on December 17th 2006 I got some great shots of a bat flying around in a gazebo along a hiking trail. (See page 13.) It was the second or third day of a very warm spell. And there were bugs out! Little black gnats or maybe newly-hatched mosquitoes. The bat was feeding on the bugs.

One thing that might draw bats out of caves is the sound of bugs. When there are bugs to eat, there are bats to eat them!

I agree with Dr. Stone that the unusually warm winters might be responsible for bats waking early and not being able to force their bodies into hibernation. Also, the freakishly warm weather can, or does, change the air flow in some of the caves and perhaps the bats put themselves into a traditionally cold area of the cave that is too warm to force hibernation. Bats need cold air to force their bodies into hibernation. That is why bats put themselves in the colder parts of caves and mines, not warmer areas.

One more thing we can blame on global warming. Just a relatively small increase in temperatures to us can have devastating effects on ecosystems.

Windmills

My second guess as to the cause of WNS was a little more "out there." Bear with me!

In the past few years there has been an explosion of windmills, especially with "mother earther types" in New England (WNS started in northeastern New York state and then progressed to Vermont). Not only is there an increase in large "commercial" windmills but there are now affordable, smaller, family windmills showing up everywhere.

I wonder if perhaps the windmills (big or small) might emit a



Photo by John Stoneman

Healthy bat in Indian Caverns, June 6, 2009.

sound in the same frequency range of the bugs the bats feed on that might confuse the bats, making them think there is food out there! Maybe sounds from the motors are waking bats and luring them out of the caves looking for food.

Or maybe windmills emit a high-frequency pitch that carries and bothers the bats preventing them from hibernating.

This may sound far-fetched but it might be a real possibility — windmill presence near bats' winter hibernacula. There is evidence that windmills disproportionately kill bats over other species of birds, especially in the Eastern United States. Some guess that windmills emit a sound that mimics insects or that the frequency disrupts their guidance systems.

Drilling

My third idea is more of a political "hot potato" than the

first two.

One thing that has changed drastically in the past few years is drilling new oil and gas wells. My guess would be that drilling or "fracking" oil and gas wells in the bedrock in close proximity to caves disturbs hibernating bats.

Drilling action through bedrock must cause a lot of noise that can travel through the rock or through the tectonic cracks in the rock.

How many miles can this sound travel in rocks? Will the drilling near caves affect hibernating bats? Can it be that bats are disturbed or woken up by the sounds of drilling in nearby rocks or even in rocks miles or hundreds of miles away?

Has anybody looked into this? How could drilling and fracking oil and gas wells near hibernating bats *not* disturb them?

Genetic Engineering

There is another group suggesting that GM (genetically manipulated) crops grown in the area caused mutations of the insects that eat them. Then the ingested, mutated insects compromise the bats' immune systems making them susceptible to WNS. This theory was "debunked" by most of the scientific community but can still be a possibility or at least something that should be looked into.

I was a bit put off by the reaction of a few bat biologists to whom I spoke and by whom I ran my "disturbance by oil and gas drilling" theory.

I was told, "We don't want to open that can of worms," or "We don't know how that might disturb hibernating bats but that won't be looked into any time soon." This was of course during the last few years of the Bush Administration and understandable for sure. Who wants to be the first scientist to ponder if drilling oil and gas wells in bedrock in close proximity to hibernating bats (including the Indiana bat) bothers the bats in any way? Or "fracking wells" in tectonic rock near caves that have large populations of hibernating bats?

I'll bet this "can of worms" is never opened!

The organization that most serious cavers belong to in this country is called the "National Speleological Society" (NSS). NSS hosts a message board that a lot of the first "bat experts" referenced when WNS was first discovered. The NSS message board can be found at Cavechat.org (www.forums.caves.org) and has an extensive section devoted to WNS. It has comments from nearly all the top bat biologists and cavers involved in WNS

research from all around the world (there is a similar fungal infection in Europe). Everything discussed on the topic from the very beginning can be found there. If you research just one source for WNS information THIS should be that source.

Pesticides

A while back I read a post about a particular pesticide that somebody thought might be the cause of WNS. It talked about the use of Abamectin. Abamectin, along with Phenothrin, Permethrin, Resmethrin, Temephos, Fenthion, Malathion, Methoprene and Naled were being used in the Northeast to spray mosquitoes in an attempt to eliminate West Nile Virus (WNV). The increased spraying for WNV coincides with the discovery of WNS in bats. The increased spraying for WNV in the Northeastern U.S. is the same area that WNS is found in.

A coincidence? Or cause and effect?

Bats are the number one predator of mosquitoes and ingesting significant numbers of mosquitoes might cause them to develop an elevated amount of pesticide in their systems.

Abamectin is a pesticide that keeps insects from digesting their food source. It can also cause devastating death to bees and is highly dangerous to aquatic animals. In high concentrations it is dangerous to mammals as well. This substance is difficult to detect and dissipates rapidly from soil and water as well as animals in as little as two days. It is absorbed into plants which are then eaten by insects. Then insects may be eaten by other animals, including bats. Although considered a relatively safe and

Continued on next page

Birth of a New Theory: Extremophile Expansion

Continued from page 1

Acidification and other effects of climate change will have strong impacts on ocean ecosystems and living marine resources that sustain coral reefs and fisheries on which we depend for food. These impacts will exacerbate other adverse effects of human activities such as overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, eutrophication and loss of biodiversity.

Acidification alters carbonate chemistry and interferes with shell formation in many plankton, corals, mollusks and crustaceans, and also harms fish. Together with rising seawater, the decline in pH drives out zooxanthellae from corals and clams, depriving them of a critical nutritional support.

Increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentration by fossil fuel emissions and its uptake by the ocean decrease the pH of seawater, leading to acidification. The acidification of water may disturb the acid-base balance in cells of marine organisms and the delicate homeostasis that is so vital for their survival. Marine organisms are known to regulate intracellular pH by the metabolic interconversions of acids and bases, passive chemical buffering of intra- and extra-cellular fluids and active transport of ions. Researchers agree that dislocation of acid-base balance in these creatures' bodies can result in dissolution of exoskeleton components such as calcareous shells, inhibition of metabolic activity, reduction in protein biosynthesis and decline in activity.

Marine organisms undergo evolutionary changes in response to their environment. This is the way they find solutions to problems presented by the environment to improve survivorship and to recruit to their population. The fitness of marine life is reflected in the harmony between form and function of each species. In an ecologically stable system the species evolve and perpetuate at a pace that defines a normal, gradual, natural change.

Climate change driven by human activity is too fast for a species to evolve adaptations and stay fit in the worsening conditions of the ecosystem. This mis-

match between the rate of environmental change and adaptive modification is challenging species survival in the ocean. Under this situation, a physiological malfunctioning may not be mediated by genotype but it could be a direct action of the environment on metabolic functions, leading to decline in fitness, resilience and survival. A rapid change is denying the ocean life the space it needs for adaptive response.

A logical synthesis of the trends and projected scenarios of the ocean ecosystem has recently generated a wealth of information pertaining to the impact of climate change but scientists have not ventured into a more serious outcome in the form of a potentially serious threat from the ocean floor with a progressive change in the world climate.

This threat could be in the form of possible expansion of extremophiles. These organisms, from human perspective, live in extreme environments where other life forms cannot survive. Other organisms (the non-extremophiles) live in an environment where variability in physical and chemical conditions is constrained within well-defined limits. Deep sea trenches and vents where extremophiles live are unsuitable for moderate organisms.

Before venturing into this scenario, I would like to explain a bit more about such extreme environments. The part of the ocean below 200 meters depth is deep sea which descends about 3,700 meters to the deep sea basin. The ocean floor is uneven with vast plains, mountains and trenches. The trenches are 6,000 to 11,000 meters deep, the deepest being the Mariana Trench that looks like a massive depression in the floor of the western Pacific Ocean. There are numerous volcanoes and hydrothermal vents (or deep volcanic hot springs) opening at the ocean floor. This environment is considered extremely harsh with no sunlight and extremes of temperature, pressure and chemical conditions.

Generally, life is driven by energy from the sun but deep-sea organisms and the ones living in trenches at the sea floor

have no access to sunlight. They depend on nutrients in the chemical deposits and those originating from upper levels of the ocean. The most massive source, however, is chemosynthesis where bacteria living in the trenches use sulfur compounds (hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic substance to most known organisms) to synthesize organic matter. These chemosynthetic bacteria become the basis of a food chain as they multiply to make dense aggregations which attract other organisms, including amphipods and copepods that graze upon the bacteria directly. Larger organisms maintaining some kind of relationships with these autotrophs are the annelids, mollusks and crustaceans that make up the bulk of non-microbial organisms around a hydrothermal vent albeit in much smaller population densities compared to microbes.

The physiological and biochemical pathways in ocean-vent extremophiles are largely unknown. However, it is believed that to live in extreme environments, these organisms must have unique proteins, enzymes, cellular mechanisms and genomes. Stability of enzymes under extreme conditions and the role of special genes that control cellular activities appear to be amazing and worth deciphering.

Generally, marine animals have to deal with the problem of osmosis; due to a saline environment the water tends to move out of their body and they have to make special structural and physiological adaptations to stay alive even in the average 3.5% salinity.

How the halophiles which are known to live in extremely salty environments (35%) manage the osmotic forces is an interesting matter. The anaerobic extremophiles that happen to be facultative can live in an environment with or without oxygen and venture out of deep sea vents if other conditions do not limit their spread. Others too might, at certain stages, find the conditions favorable enough to emerge out of vents and extend their territory beyond the native habitat. Their intrusion into non-extremophile habitat will be a formidable threat

to the latter and may even hasten the extermination of the vulnerable forms that we generally see in the sea.

It is unlikely that the moderate species will be able to live alongside the extremophiles or to have any kind of positive interactions. The extremophiles coming from a background of extreme conditions will be better placed to deal with a worsening ocean environment and will put at risk the populations of the so-called moderate species that have been providing us the resources for fisheries and seafood.

Extremophile expansion, should that occur, would initially involve mostly the microbial life since they are generally more apt to change forms and functions to develop adaptations compared to macrofauna. It will be possible for some species used to living in the Twilight Zone (where transition to habitat change will not be too drastic) to cross over and explore new grounds with some shared characteristics. Obviously, this will exclude those barophiles (organisms that can survive under great pressure) in the vents that thrive at 700 atmospheres of pressure to shift to 1 atmosphere of pressure at the sea surface. We therefore need to grade the extremophiles according to the range of extreme conditions of their abode to be able to identify those living not deep inside the vents but around these extreme habitats, that will be more likely candidates for transition and, therefore, more problematical.

Other important issues that will arise from such an eventual concern our approach towards species survival and biodiversity.

At the face of it, the presence of extremophiles will increase the diversity of marine life but in actuality it will mask the real decline that will be brought about by this kind of unprecedented succession, with grave implications for the functioning of the ocean ecosystem and its services.

With gaps in our current scientific understanding of marine biodiversity and a vacuum in our knowledge of species inventory of extremophiles, it will be difficult, rather impossible, to know of this potential succes-

sion for a long time.

I hope this theory of extremophile expansion will ignite discussion on a potential threat to marine biodiversity from the seafloor and introduce a new paradigm in marine conservation and species survival under changing global climate.

I can visualize the potential of applying modern knowledge vis-à-vis marine genotypes in dealing with this problem. If such knowledge is applied to protect wild genotypes or to help them adapt to climate change in order to sustain their populations and deal with extremophile expansion, it is worth embracing. When there is a choice between losing species and sustaining them, the latter is a wiser option.

An important issue here is that while we must conserve marine natural resources and explore all possible means of building their resilience, if that is not adequate to protect them from climate change, we must think of new options. Seeking synergy between conservation and tools made available by developments in genomics could be an option worth putting on trial.

Furthermore, an intensive scientific interest in extremophile microbes that this paper intends to seek will generate information that might shed some light on the formation of the first organic molecules that became precursors of primitive life and to know if this is still a possibility at the seafloor.

Conditions where extremophiles live may resemble those that prevailed in early Earth. Existence of life where the seafloor is characterized by extremes of temperature, absence of oxygen and where vents spew mud, oil, brine and toxic gases that support food chains independently of solar energy, compels an enquiring mind to think over the possibility of life beyond our planet (where extreme conditions are known to prevail) and seeding other celestial bodies in the solar system with some forms of life on Earth to start an ecosystem.

With advancements in technology, especially robotics and remote sensing, it has become possible to investigate the extre-

mophile environment and to sample the organisms living there to develop an inventory and to perform trials. Trials involving the sampled organisms will require observation of their response to artificially simulated and gradually moderating culture conditions. Results of such experiments will provide verification of this extremophile expansion theory.

NOTE: Professor Saleem has published extensively. The thrust of his work is on conservation and ecologically-sustainable development of marine resources. His book on *Genetics in Sustainable Fisheries Management* (Blackwell Science, Oxford, UK 1999); a chapter in *Ecological and Genetic Implications of Aquaculture Activities*, (Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands 2007); a special issue of the journal *Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries on Sea Ranching and Stock Enhancement* (Kluwer Academic Press, Dordrecht, The Netherlands 2003) and articles such as *'Low carbon aquaculture options' and 'Lightening the carbon footprint by organic seafood solutions'* (among more than 60 research papers) reflect his serious efforts to introduce sustainable environmental perspectives in activities as important as fisheries and aquaculture.

During email correspondence while working together on this article, Professor Saleem said, "Climate change has changed my lifestyle and I cannot live without worrying about its global implications." He expressed disappointment with those still going ahead with the 'business as usual' approach towards the environment despite extensive media coverage on the global warming scenario. He believes that fighting climate change to make this world a better place for living should be our utmost priority and moral obligation.

This article commemorated the World Ocean Day on June 8. "The Order of the Earth" is honored to present Professor Saleem's new theory. The editor is not in favor of biotechnology if there are any implications that the theory supports it.



Photo by David Dees

Ocey and David Dees at the park. People are surprised whenever he walks his cats.

"OE" Artist and Cat Need Help

By David Dees
Jonkoping, Sweden

And now the latest update and a video of the CAT of the hour. Ocey came home from the hospital yesterday and I am overjoyed to have my buddy back with me. He is slowly recovering from all the trauma his body and soul endured and, I guess, so am I.

Saving him came with a price tag though, I was going to sell my car to pay for the operation but friends and fans have amazingly stepped up to the plate to help me in this situation.

I have lived in Sweden now for six years and you might have guessed the American dollar is not holding up well against strong economies like Sweden's.

The dollar is worth 73 cents here. Not good for me since my money is coming mostly from American clients.

I got the final bill for Ocey's extensive surgery and hospital stay: 21,600 Kronas or \$2930. That seems like a whole lot and it would have been even more but they are going to do the dislocated leg operation for free. That would have been \$750 more.

He goes back in on Monday for that. [Ed.: Ocey did fine!]

With all the wonderful donations Ocey has received it comes to almost \$2,000, which is stunning and amazing and I am so very grateful for the love and support of all of you. The \$25 donations added up and if you have not donated yet please do so now. It is for a great little guy and we need to get \$1,000 more to reach our goal.

He thanks you, and I thank you.

And to the guy who wrote and said I should have had Ocey put to sleep because the economy is bad. Maybe you are right — but then, maybe you are wrong.

When I went to the hospital to get Ocey yesterday, I was in the examining room where he was to be released to me and when the nurse walked in with Ocey he began meowing a lot, and loud. For several minutes he limped around the room and meowed. I said, "Wow, he is sure talking a lot!" And the nurse said that he has been very quiet all day and only started when he saw me.

And once we settled in at home again I made him comfortable on the couch to sleep and I went in the bedroom to watch a bit of TV.

After about 30 minutes I was startled when he jumped up on the bed and slowly walked up to me and fell over against me, purring. It was a pretty emotional moment, especially after thinking I had lost him for five days when he was missing and then when he returned to find he might die from the car injuries. And now here he was next to me.

But as I was thinking about last week and how hard it was

to experience when Ocey disappeared, I stepped back and looked at the big picture. The mystery of what happened to him ate me alive, my space just crashed in, my mind was tormented, and this is over a cat.

I cannot even imagine how does a parent begin to cope with losing their child; their experience in this life is just torn and damaged to the breaking point.

With the wars created by the globalists, children are tortured, raped, murdered, families displaced, separated, wandering in horror and a raging anguish that destroys the last sense of well being or joy.

But then, I make it my job to try and illustrate these things. I read their stories and force myself to watch the videos capturing nightmarish events and untold pain. I want to see what others refuse to look at, the truth of our planet, our so-called civilization, and the product of being enslaved by sadistic monarchs and bankers. And I do spend much of my day furiously illustrating pieces that I think will help fight this undeserved aggression.

But also, the surreal and science fiction aspect of all this is how the Zionist-controlled media glosses over it with smiling news anchors and entertainment shows that sooth the masses into not even considering the pain that is being inflicted on so many innocent people.

It is easy to see why people do not want to wake up — they can't. They are mesmerized by the media while drinking fluoridated water, microwaving meals and eating genetically modified food.

What a mess.

And with all of this in the world going on I am asking people to help me save my cat. Well, yea.

I feel a little wrong for doing that but then I am asking out of an emotional plea. And honestly, that is where all the political art I do comes from too — it is emotionally driven. I do my best to make sense out of the info streaming through alternative sources. I don't get paid to do it and if I did I would be controlled by the person paying me to do it to illustrate what they want and for their purposes.

In closing, if you have not already, and only if you can easily afford it, please consider a donation to help me reach the goal to pay this huge hospital bill for Ocey.

I only want you to help if it is easy for you to do, ok? <http://www.r-sw.com/DavidDeesDonation/makepmt.asp>.

Checks may be sent to:
David Dees
c/o Louise Williams
603 Logsdon Court
Louisville, Kentucky 40243

Thanks so much.
David Dees

Case Study in Development in Belize

By Rod Rylander
Orange Walk District, Belize

A current discussion is: Are governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and churches helping or hindering the improvement of living standards in the developing world?

Of course the answer is neither 'yes' nor 'no' but in general, what is happening and why hasn't 50 years of foreign aid solved some problems?

Having lived in nine countries for over nine years and having been a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer three times, I have seen my share of people trying to "help" other people. Seldom do these entities address the root problem of "What factors created the environment to cause these people to need help?"

I will first address this question using my observations.

People who are affluent often demand services and natural resources beyond their own borders. Examples are tropical fruits and lumber; grazing areas for cows, oil and minerals; slave labor; fish and vegetables. To acquire the funds to plunder other countries, industrialized countries use several tactics. One is encouraging developing countries to borrow more than they can repay so the International Monetary Fund can demand that the countries create higher taxes, more exports and cheaper labor.

The U.S. used the same tactic on the poor in that country and now the poor will have to pay the consequences through higher taxes and unemployment and lower income.

The other major tactic is to brainwash people into consumerism so they will purchase imports that will create a larger debt for the country.

Some countries like Costa Rica are being taken over by the affluent buying up the land at high prices and leaving the local residents without resources to build houses. The global climate changes and over-population are emerging giants to deal with. Therefore the problem is very complex with no simple answer, especially without more money.

It appears that when projects are created at the board level and sent down to the people, they are unsustainable. When a Peace Corps volunteer creates a project and implements it, it usually is abandoned when the volunteer leaves. If the volunteer finds a project that the people are really sincere about, then it has a much better chance of success.

I have created projects that



Photo by Rod Rylander

The Ark of Albion Education Center's boat has become the catalyst for the creation of an eco-tourism industry for San Antonio Rio Hondo, Belize

lapsed after I went home and I have facilitated people's projects that have lasted 10 years and some are still going after 20 years. I have seen abandoned bio-gas, hog farms, fish hatcheries, grain processing plants and other expensive projects grown up in weeds.

So I am now in Belize on my own and trying to find the best way of helping people who think that they need help.

Some people in Belize state that they are poor but I argue with them when they have a roof over their heads, plenty of good food and family and friends around them. They think they are poor because they have been brainwashed into thinking that you need many consumer items to come out of poverty. Sure, some of them don't have automobiles but I haven't found one without a television and sound system. So I have come to the conclusion that giving away money or goods creates a society of low-esteem people who wait for handouts.

Here is my system of helping villagers of San Antonio Rio Hondo, Orange Walk District, Belize. First I will present a background of the village.

San Antonio is in the upper part of Belize near the border with Mexico. It is on Albion Island, an island formed by the Rio Hondo where Cross Creek connects the rivers at the upper part and the two rivers connect downstream. The main river is the boundary with Mexico and where the village of Santa Cruz is situated. San Antonio is a few miles from Santa Cruz and is situated on the other river. It has a

long river park and cenotas. The economy is based on money derived from relatives in the States, sugar cane, rock quarries, contraband products from Mexico, commuters, teachers and a variety of other sources. Most of the people have ancestors of Mayan and Spanish peoples who came from Mexico during the unrest.

Eight years ago I did a genealogy study of the village and found that more than 80% of the 60 families are related by blood or marriage. Although many residents profess to be poor, I have to disagree with them. Most have houses, televisions, cell phones, washing machines and either a truck or car available to them. They have had over 100 years of consumer brain washing through advertisements. Most think that progress cannot happen in San Antonio since the people will not work together.

The village is divided into the Red and Blue political parties where jobs are given to those in power and the others hate them. The British taught them to divide the people to control them. There are four religions practiced here: Catholic, Evangelical, Adventist and Mennonite. Their football (soccer) team won the northern title last year. In the last eight years they have accumulated lawn mowers, weed eaters, cars, etc. I now want to be a facilitator in uplifting the lives of those villagers who wish to improve their lot in life.

First, I try to educate the people in the fact that they are not poor since they buy several Cokes a day among the trash food they buy. Second, I try to create a

sense of "can do" attitude.

This is easier said than done. The community talks about having tourism but nothing happened so I built a floating restaurant to boost the optimism and spirit. The restaurant is available free to families who bring their own food and it is an income producer when a family cooks and serves meals to the public. They donate a dollar a plate to the center's library fund.

We need overnight accommodations here but I don't want to own them so I go into a partnership with a villager by providing the flotation and materials for a deck and he uses materials out of the "bush" to construct a cabana on the float to make a floating cabana. We will split the income until I have recovered my investment at which time he will own the cabana.

Other villagers are getting excited about tourism and a group of young men are training their horses for horseback riding.

Other activities include: 1. The council requesting the government to make the large savannah across the river into a wildlife preserve with canoe trails, 2. Starting a garbage-pickup service for the villagers (garbage is now dumped along streets and roads), 3. Bicycle tours, 4. Fishing and birding tours and 5. Educational workshops and tours. Maybe we will even have a pageant on the history of the area.

The door has been opened so we will now wait and see what develops.

Check out: <http://www.rrylander.com> and my blog: <http://rrylander.com/blogengine.net/>.

White Nose Syndrome

Continued from page 12
mals, including bats. Although considered a relatively safe and effective pesticide, in larger doses it can be toxic to bees, aquatic animals and mammals. Some side effects seem similar to what WNS bats are experiencing.

Could Abamectin or a similar pesticide be responsible for WNS in bats AND the bee colony collapse — both appearing at about the same time?

It is actually disturbing to me that some biologists seem to be ignoring any possibilities that WNS could be caused by a pesticide/insecticide/herbicide — almost like they are afraid to find such a connection. Almost like it's better to lose all our bats than to blame an American chemical company for making and selling a defective or insufficiently-tested product! This is the feeling I got from the researchers and biologists I spoke with.

Overkill

And now, incredibly, there are SOME researchers who are talking about killing whole populations of hibernating bats! It's bad enough the PA Game Commission has ordered that all bats collected by wildlife rescuers — regardless of whether they were sick or injured — have to be killed! Some suggest killing all the bats in hibernating populations in various caves! There are some "scientists" (and I use that term loosely) who think that any cave that has bats with WNS should be gassed and



every single living thing killed.

Trouble is WNS doesn't kill ALL the bats in a cave with an infected population. While it does kill 90% or more of the population, SOME bats survive and THESE are the most important bats in the cave! Bats that "for some reason" are resistant to WNS need to be studied and may very well be the best chance that we don't lose our whole bat population in this country! Why kill healthy bats that are the only bats that prove to be resistant or immune to WNS?

All of the Above?

Now, after three years and untold hours of research, the

most compelling information seems to point to a pesticide, insecticide or herbicide that may be responsible for altering or weakening the bats natural immune systems. And we may have a situation where the warmer winters, disturbances from windmills, excessive oil and gas well drilling, combined with greater pesticide use are all assaulting the poor dying bats! We may have a deadly combination of several different causes.

Note: Caving has been banned in Pennsylvania's only national forest, the Allegheny National Forest and, as I understand it, in any cave on Pennsylvania, game lands or any caves in property owned by the state of

Pennsylvania or the federal government.

It's believed that cavers, spelunkers or people visiting caves can carry the Geomyces fungus from cave to cave infecting whole bat populations. So many governments now prohibit people from going into caves on their lands but it is still legal to cave on private property or to go into "commercial or show caves."

I have been caving in legal, "commercial" caves and have seen nothing but healthy, uninfected bats!
[Ed.: The first time we met "John (the cave guy and a bit 'batty') Stoneman" (as he signed himself), don't 'ya know he took us through a couple of caves?]

Bat

feeding

on

bugs,

December

17, 2006.

Photo

by

John

Stoneman.

Val's Column Spare Our Friends from the Cookout

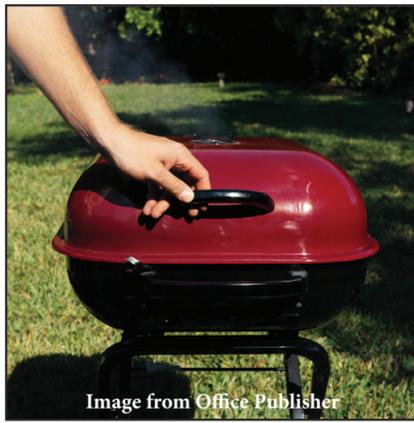


Image from Office Publisher

By Valerie Stanley
Laurel, Maryland

Many years ago, when I was in private practice in a law firm dedicated to doing animal protection work, I was invited by Farm Sanctuary (www.farm-sanctuary.org) to give a speech about the lack of legal protections for farm animals at a protest at the Lancaster Stockyards.

This was not a business day at the stockyards so it was relatively empty except for the many protesters and people attending the rally. I remember it was extremely hot and muggy and the sun was shining brightly as I gave my talk.

I thought of the many farm animals who were brought there to be sold at auction and how they were treated like so many widgets. I spoke about how there were — and still are — only two federal laws that supposedly protect animals raised for food and how meaningless they are. These are the “Twenty-Eight-Hour Law” and the “Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act.”

The Twenty-Eight Hour Law requires that for every 28 hours of interstate transport, animals must be offloaded, provided food and water and given at least five hours of rest. Since

passage of the Act, USDA interpreted it to exclude trucks. Therefore, since more than 95 percent of all animals raised for food are transported by truck, the law was essentially useless.

Finally, at the end of 2006, USDA reversed its interpretation; however, it is yet to be seen when USDA will start prosecuting violators of this law.

The Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act requires that animals be rendered unconscious before they go through the slaughter process. The Act does not cover poultry and it doesn't work, period. Slaughterhouse by Gail Eisnitz is an excellent exposé of why the law does nothing to protect animals in the very terror-filled last hours of their lives.

A friend of mine worked undercover at a pig slaughterhouse. She said the memory she could not erase from her mind was the deafening screams of the animals and for months and years after she left, she would wake up in the middle of the night and hear these screams over and over again.

That day when I was at the stockyards, I wondered how the animals dealt with the heat. Foolishly, I thought that steers, being such big and strong animals, must be able to tolerate it. After the rally, I took a tour

through the stockyards, hoping I guess to find an abandoned animal I could rescue. I found one but I could not rescue him.

There in a large trailer stood an enormous steer; he was simply left at the stockyards — no water, no protection from the sun or the heat. He stood motionless in the trailer — dazed and lethargic. He was not handling the heat well, as I had so ridiculously thought.

He was suffering and he was all alone. If you have ever experienced heat exhaustion, it is one of the worst feelings in the world; I imagine that is what he was going through.

Every spring and summer evening in any neighborhood throughout the United States, one can smell people having cookouts. That smell has long ago ceased to carry any fond memories for me. Every time I smell a cookout, I think, “There go my friends on the grill.”

What do vegetarians do at non-vegetarian cookouts? They often ask if their veggie burgers or “not dogs,” as my family calls them, can be cooked first on a clean grill so that they do not need to touch meat.

Here are two recipes from VegCooking.com you can try when the urge to grill overtakes you.

Tropical Veggie Burgers

1 cup green lentils, rinsed
1/4 cup brown rice
2 cups vegetable broth
Water sufficient to cover the lentils and rice
Salt, to taste
1 1/2 Tbsp. margarine
1 onion, chopped
4 tsp. curry powder
1/3 cup shredded carrot
2 Tbsp. Sauvignon Blanc
2 Tbsp. hot sauce
1/2-3/4 cup panko*
4 garlic cloves, minced
4 tsp. minced fresh ginger
1/2 tsp. ground allspice
1 tsp. cumin

• Put the lentils and rice in a saucepan with the vegetable broth adding enough water to cover by about 2 inches. Season with salt and bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce the heat and simmer, uncovered until the lentils and rice are tender, about 30 minutes. Drain any excess liquid and place the lentils and rice

in a large bowl. Let cool.

• Meanwhile, melt the margarine in a skillet over medium heat and sauté the onion until tender, about 4 minutes. Stir in the curry powder and cook until aromatic, about 1 minute. Cool slightly and then add to the lentils and rice.

• Stir in the remaining ingredients and season with salt. Form into patties and place in the refrigerator for 30 minutes to 1 hour.

• Grill for 5 to 10 minutes on each side until grill marks appear and the patties are hot.

*Panko is a bread-type coating often used in onion rings. T. or Tbsp. = tablespoon; tsp. = teaspoon;

To Assemble:

1 can pineapple rings, drained
1 red onion, thinly sliced
1 Tbsp. margarine
Kaiser rolls
Lettuce
Vegan mayonnaise

Grilled Garlic-Herb Corn

Fresh corn is grilled in a savory margarine for an unbeatable summertime side.

1 cup margarine, softened (try Earth Balance brand)
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 T. minced parsley
1 T. minced basil
1 T. minced chives
4 garlic cloves, crushed
6 ears corn, husked

• In a small container, combine the margarine, salt, pepper, parsley, basil, chives and garlic. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.

• Spread the herbed margarine over the corn, covering completely. Wrap in aluminum foil and grill for 15 to 20 minutes, turning often, until cooked thoroughly.
Makes 6 servings.

Masquerading Dietitian Uncovered At Shady Grove Adventist Hospital!

By Mark Lauman
Rockville, Maryland

If you're like me, you go to work in the morning, come home in the evening, review the day's activities with the spouse and children and repeat this ritual five times a week.

Weekends are often a blessing when attending a youth play or baseball game, sometimes a curse when engaging in a home repair rated “advanced” on Home Depot's Web site.

Nevertheless, life in the northern Maryland suburbs gets an A- for serenity, at least in the 21st-century connotation of the word.

For some reason, this lifestyle causes a lot of people to suffer from anxiety attacks, myself included. I've had my share of racing heartbeats, labored breathing and urges to escape uncomfortable situations.

Suffering from a particularly bad episode a few weeks ago, I decided to determine if the cause was a deficiency in my vegetarian diet.

I called Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Maryland to consult with a dietitian and made an appointment for one week later. “In the meantime, keep a diary of everything you eat,” said the receptionist.

One week later I appeared at the hospital and was greeted by the staff dietitian.

“Hello Mr. Lautman. My name is Pumbidita and I'll be your consultant today. Please follow me to my office.”

We walked down a hallway and entered the mammography section. “Our offices are in here,” she explained. “At Shady Grove Adventist, the dietitians work in the mammography section.” (*This is the only true statement in this entire article.* Readers are encouraged to confirm by calling Shady Grove's switchboard.)

“Don't worry,” Pumbidita continued, “we won't do a mammogram on you.”

That was reassuring. Like anyone else, I have my latent fears of hospital mix-ups and just yesterday I read about McKenzie Hospital in Idaho where the dietitian left a note for the maintenance crew: “Put fruit in the compost bin.” Her handwriting was so poor that it looked like “Put milk in the compost bin.”

By the time the mistake was discovered, one week had passed and McKenzie had two tons of contaminated yogurt smoothie in what was once the Pacific Northwest's most progressive recycling bin.



Image from Office Publisher

“Do you have your eating diary?” Pumbidita asked me. “Good, let me take a look.”

She perused my eating habits and gave a definitive evaluation.

“I see you eat a lot of bananas. That's good, because you get your potassium from bananas. You also eat raw spinach. That's good, because you get your Vitamin A from spinach.”

Dietitians often use the syntax “you get your <nutrient> from <source>,” as in “You get your Vitamin A from leafy greens, you get your Omega 3 from flax seed oil, you get your enzymes from raw vegetables.”

It's too bad other consultants don't work the same way, like “You get your new job here, you get your happiness here, you get your stock options there, you get your relatives there.” It would make life much more predictable.

“Well,” she continued, “you do eat too many snacks at work and you should try and cut down on the soft drinks. Other than that, I don't see anything of concern. As long as you take a vitamin supplement, you're getting everything you need. I wish all of my patients ate the way you do.”

“That's all?” I asked. “Yup. Since you're in such good shape I won't charge you the customary \$60 consultation fee.”

“You're dropping me just like that?” I was astounded. “Aren't you supposed to recommend a source of tryptophan? I'm shaking all over. I need tryptophan!”

“Sir, tryptophan is indeed a naturally occurring chemical that calms the mind. Do you know the source of tryptophan? It comes from turkey meat. If

you think you're agitated now, wait until I tell you what the turkey goes through to give us tryptophan. First the animal is shoved into a staging area, then it's gassed, then it's slaughtered, then . . . sir, are you feeling OK? You look awfully pale.”

“OK, we'll let the turkey keep the tryptophan. What about the complete protein thing? Aren't you supposed to ask me what subspecies of garbanzo beans I eat together with the whole wheat bread made from the 2007 bumper harvest to make a complete protein?”

“Peanut butter on whole wheat toast is a complete protein, sir, and you eat plenty of that.”

“Well, what about selenium? I need it for the prostate, don't I? We can hide here all day in the mammography unit but that won't protect me from Mr. Prostate Cancer! Tell me, what kind of a dietitian are you?”

“Mr. Lautman,” she said, calmly lifting the phone handset. “I can dial extension 204 for an armed guard or extension 205 for psychiatric restraint. Which would you prefer?”

“Neither, I'll just leave. Thank you for your time.”

Harumph. It seems to me that at Maryland's Shady Grove Adventist Hospital it's not only the grove that's shady!

Mark Lauman has been suffering from chronic vegetarianism since 1994 and spasmodically even before then. While he tries to avoid everything that is made with child labor, he simply cannot resist his 14-year-old son's pancakes. “They're best with pure maple syrup,” he admits.

Wringin' your hands only stops you from rollin' up your sleeves.

Charlene Wiggins

Earthbridge Newsletter, June 2009

Film Exposes Dangers in U.S. Food Industry

By Christine Kearney
Reuters via CommonDreams.org

NEW YORK (June 10, 2009 excerpt) — Bigger-breasted chickens fattened artificially. New strains of deadly E. coli bacteria. A food supply controlled by a handful of corporations.

The documentary “Food, Inc.” opens in the United States on Friday and portrays these purported dangers and changes in the U.S. food industry, asserting harmful effects on public health, the environment and worker and animal rights.

Big corporations such as biotech food producer Monsanto Co., U.S. meat companies Tyson Food Inc. and Smithfield Foods and poultry producer Perdue Farms all declined to be interviewed for the film.

But the industry has not stood silent. Trade associations across the \$142-billion-a-year U.S. meat industry have banded together to counter the claims. Led by the

American Meat Institute, they have created a number of Web sites, including one called SafeFoodInc.com.

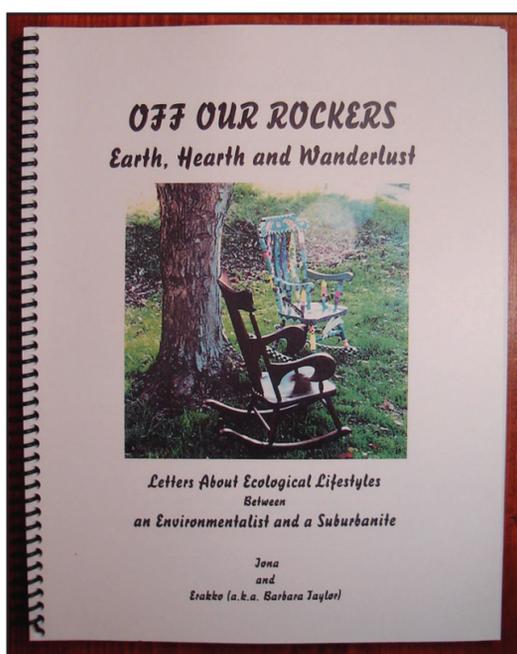
“Each sector of the industry that's named is doing its part to counter a lot of the misinformation in the movie,” said Lisa Katic, a dietitian and consultant with an unnamed coalition of trade associations representing the food industry.

Their campaign promotes the U.S. food supply as safe, abundant and affordable, whereas the film asserts that images of animals grazing on grassy farms emblazoned on U.S. food product labels are misleading.

“Food, Inc.” explores the argument that food comes not from friendly farms but from industrial factories that put profit ahead of human health.

“The film pulls back the curtain on the way food is produced,” said Michael Pollan, who appears in the film and is the best-selling author of several books on food.

Found in the Attic — Vintage Book Co-Authored by Iona and Erakko in 2002



Special Sale
Only Eight Copies Left
\$10 each plus \$3 shipping

An exchange of letters about ecological lifestyles between an environmentalist (Iona) and a Suburbanite (Barbara Erakko Taylor). Two women share their thoughts and actions about how they live trying to maintain a loving relationship with their respective environments. Send check payable to “The Order of the Earth,” HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.

News Submitted by Our Readers (*excerpts*)

Submitted by Mark Petersen, Roanoke VA:

Mud-bloggers Convicted

By Laurence Hammack
The Roanoke Times

Five more people were convicted this week in the U.S. Forest Service's ongoing battle with mud-boggers. The men pleaded guilty to driving their four-wheel-drive trucks off a closed road in the Poor Valley area of Tazewell County, spinning through a mudhole and up a creekbed.

Mud-bogging, a form of recreation among some four-wheelers, becomes a federal crime when they go cross-country in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests.

Dozens of people have been charged so far this year and the Forest Service was forced to close two roads after finding more than \$30,000 in damage to the environment.

As part of plea agreements reached this week in U.S. District Court in Abingdon, each of the five men was fined \$135 for driving off-road in April. They were ordered to collectively pay \$3,200 to help restore the area.

"This is just another example of people disregarding the rules and tearing up barricades designed to prevent access to an area just so they can have a good time," Forest Service Captain Woody Lipps said in a statement. "A few hours of fun in a truck can cause months or years worth of damage to the forest."

Submitted by Loris Boutwell, Tiger GA:



Photo National Aquarium Baltimore Web Site

Love of Dolphins Motivates Work

I volunteer for an operation called The Dolphin Project. Once a month we go out in boats along the coastal waters of South Carolina and Georgia to count dolphins. We also note their activities. Afterward, we send the data and pictures to Duke University where scientists analyze our information and determine if the dolphins are abundant and healthy.

Because dolphins are mammals, they need to come to the surface to breathe. That's when we're able to spot them and record our data. It also allows us to take pictures of their dorsal fins, which are like a person's fingerprints — no two are exactly alike.

We often hear the dolphins before we see them.

When they surface, they make a very loud sound which allows us to determine their location.

During these outings, we don't feed, touch or interact with them in any way. This ensures that they remain undisturbed. Even though dolphins are friendly, social creatures, they are still wild, so we give them the respect due to any wild animal.

If a dolphin slaps the water with its tail, then dives, it's angry. We quickly leave and look for dolphins elsewhere.

I'm proud to work with The Dolphin Project.

I want to ensure that bottlenose dolphins continue swimming the Atlantic coast for many years to come.

John Scanlon, Hilton Head SC

Farmer Donating Land for Conservation

By Tim Unruh
Salina Journal

DUBUQUE, Kansas (AP, *excerpt*) — Knowing he won't live forever, farmer Wallace Weber wants his land to be cared for, nurtured as he has nurtured it.

The retired U.S. Army colonel, who lives in Russell County, Kansas, is in the process of donating 1,700 acres of land — and eventually money to manage it — to Pheasants Forever. Worth more than \$1 million, it is the largest single donation in Pheasants Forever's 26-year history, according to the organization.

Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Pheasants Forever is a national nonprofit conservation organization that works with farmers, ranchers, hunters and others who care about creating habitat for wildlife, spokesman Bob St. Pierre said.

"I was born at this place. My first conscious memories, inside and outside, are on this place. It's so much a part of your life," Weber said. "I feel the same connection to this that Native Americans feel to the wilderness and the grasslands. It goes beyond description . . ."

Greensboro Environmental Leader

By Laura Hill

It's called Greensboro — and not many cities are as aptly named as this one. Whether it's glorious public gardens, sustainable civic projects or environmentally sound business practices, the greening of Greensboro, North Carolina is in high gear.

"We have a very strong feeling from our community that it supports our green initiatives," says City Manager Mitchell Johnson.

Greensboro has broken new ground through a number of environmentally friendly policy decisions from land use and transportation planning to new bike lanes and greenways, sustainable building practices and stream restoration. The city also has been a pioneer in the use of hybrid cars and biodiesel fuels in public vehicle fleets . . .

Note: Please send date and source with articles.

Dear Iona,

It is still early spring here — the maple trees have blossomed but not the fruit trees.

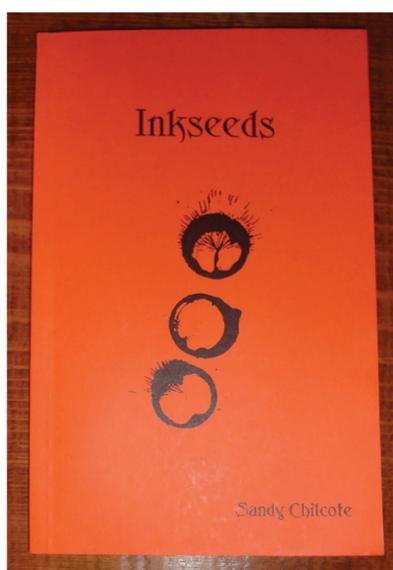
Here is a poem about it.
Sandy

goldfinches and purple finches
flipping and tipping
in the black cherry tree
the first petals of spring —
gold and purple feathers
mixed with dreams of cherry blossoms

--Sandy Chilcote
Newfoundland, Canada
Image from Office Publisher



Poetry Book Fundraiser for "The Order of the Earth"



Sandy Chilcote, who has graciously shared his beautiful poems with *The Order of the Earth* readers for over a year now, is donating seven of his *Inkseeds* poetry books to help our newspaper raise funds.

The first seven people to reply with a contribution in a reasonable amount will receive a free copy of Sandy's book.

Here is what Sandy says about his work:

"I always work at capturing in words the dance that I see around me and I hunt patiently for those offerings of words — words that have their own real moments."

Just send in your check for any amount to: The Order of the Earth, HCR 83 Box 881, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255 and write "Poetry" on the memo line.

Letters to the Editor

Yea, H. L. Menken (1880-1956)!

I LOVE, LOVE, LOVE the quote by Mencken that was posted underneath Sunny War Eagle's article (June 2009, p. 11).*

Like most kids and many adult readers, I practice visual literacy first. I 'read' photos, their captions, headlines and sub-headings first, then go back to what interests me the most and then read from there. This is how I quickly noticed Mencken's wonderful quote.

Your newspaper is exciting but of course bitter-sweet . . . so much awful news to report yet there is the glimmer of hope that your paper offers which ultimately inspires me. The encouraging, personal and creative non-fiction articles are what I read first. I have to begin with the positive.

Thank you to whomever sent this quote in to your paper. That one is a keeper and is going into my writer's notebook and probably reprinted in bold print for my refrigerator as well! It is good 'ammunition' for me to have available for those that like to tell me that I could be a citizen stirring the pot and causing more problems.

Thank you, Iona. What a marvelous paper! Keep your Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining writers engaged. We can't write enough about that ugly topic. Great stuff!

You, like Maria Gunnoe (09) need the Goldman environmental prize too some day!
Peace,

Cindy Waugh, Sykesville MD

**"The notion that a radical is one who hates his country is naive and usually idiotic. He is more likely one who likes his country more than the rest of us and is, thus, more disturbed than the rest when he sees it debauched. He is not a bad citizen turning to crime; he is a good citizen driven to despair."*

Fighting Mountaintop Removal

(from the author of last month's article, "Making a Sacred Zone in Appalachia")

I live in a little unincorporated community about two miles from Ansted. We hear and feel the blasting when it happens. The coal trucks roar over our roads and menace us as we travel about our daily lives. My children's schools belch coal filth into the air for heat. That's our world.

Radio was my first job and it's been my occupational love all my life. I came back to it six years ago and we've hung on for dear life since, with The H.O.R.N. now being the oldest liberal radio network still in existence. Everyone working at The H.O.R.N. is a volunteer and no one gets paid.

I'd like for it to be otherwise, but at this point, it takes everything we get via listener contributions just to keep the effort going.

It seems there are those of us who are congenitally unable to participate in the For-Profit model. Like some sort of financial lactose-intolerance, we can't deal with the modern American paradigm of compartmentalizing some portion of ourselves to go forth and seek the economic mother's milk of anything-for-a-buck evil so the rest of our lives can be good. I've tried it. It didn't work out at all well.

So I figure as long as I try to do what's right and try to teach that to my children, I can do without some of the larger, more gaudy things by which our culture tries to define us.
Bob Kincaid, Ansted, West Virginia

A Voice for the Forests

Yes, clear-cutting is simply profit, wholesale.

I used to get so angry with my professor back at Cal State over Modern Logging and Forestry Practices. They wonder why streams can't support Salmon and blame enviros for no jobs.

Forty other people and I sat in an old-growth forest for two weeks when I was 20 years old. The company, Pacific Lumber, cut all the trees around us. One night the wind blew so hard we got down in fear of the old redwood falling. I served two weeks in jail in Eureka for that action.

The irony is that when the company cut it down, two loggers lost control of the cut and the tree fell into a very deep ravine. It was there a long time providing critters with a home. The tree ended eventually getting hoisted up by a crane and cut up for the mill.

Ever heard of Julia Butterfly? She sat in 1996 for over four months to protect an old-growth tree. We need more people like Julia.

On the morning news, an expert was saying that oil will get up to \$300 per barrel. That's \$7.25 per gallon. Economic Collapse!! Won't be pretty.

Every time I see a contrail in the sky, I think of you and the magazine. I forward your newspaper to someone new each month with the hopes that they'll subscribe or contribute.

Getting back to those greedy lumber harvesters (tree murderers), they'd harvest the dirt if they could. It all comes down to the American consumer wanting new stuff from Home Depot and Lowe's.

Mother Earth will reclaim herself minus a few billion of us fleas.

Time will win and the forests will grow large and tall again. I am hopeful that the "green" movement will really pick up and that the government will see the potential to transition over to a better way.

In the meantime, take care and I look forward to the next issue.

Love, Your Friend

Mark Petersen, Roanoke, Virginia

Help on All Fronts

WoW! Double WoW!! Looks great. Let me know when it goes to press.

I think I usually send a check near the end of the month? And 25 copies worked well for us in May. Let's keep it at that for now, especially since I'll be recovering from surgery for a while.

But I still plan on sending you some poetry and stuff!

Terry Darling, Warren PA

Dream About Chemtrails

I really like the idea of not frightening people or creating visualizations of disaster. Maybe having more of a positive leaning would make the paper stick out more . . . it would be like a light in the darkness . . . especially with such bad news on TV and in newspapers, etc.

I suppose if more people held visions of the Earth's beauty and of the progress being made in the environment, that this is what there would be more of, more of the positive would be created. At least we can hope.

But, then, the exploitation of the planet has to be pointed out too.

A couple years ago I had a dream about Chemtrails . . . that I was looking up at the sky at them and the double trails were split apart and there were hearts in the middle. In another there were dolphins and in a third set there were cartoon characters. I keep a dream journal so when I woke up I wrote it down and drew what I saw. I took it to mean, at least personally for me, that if I sent out love into the world instead of anger, they couldn't affect me . . . and if I visualized dolphins and humor and playing . . . that this would also raise my vibration sufficiently so they couldn't affect me . . . and none of the darkness being spread around could affect me.

Bright Blessings, Doug

Douglas Joshua Davis, Chagrin Falls, Ohio

Finding New Friends

I'm a long-time friend of Doug Davis and he sent me a couple of copies of your great paper, *The Order of the Earth*. We've enjoyed reading them and sharing them with others. Just wanted to let you know what a fantastic job you're doing with the paper. It's so great seeing people interested in helping to wake people up to our duty as stewards of this Planet.

I'm also curious if you've ever done an article on GMO's (genetically modified organisms) and their devastating effect on our Mother Earth; the food chain and all that goes along with that? And if you haven't, would you consider doing so? This is a subject people really need to be made aware of.

Thanks you for all you're doing and keep up the good work.

With Light, Love and Oneness,

Zentura & Charlie, Casper, WY

[Ed.: Yes, we have often covered GMOs. See articles on pages 4, 5, and 12 this month.]

On Her Way

Next week I will be writing an article on a new tree to be planted at my school. Things are still crazy busy but starting to slow down with the end of the year. I hope that your paper is doing well.

I appreciate all of the emails. They are making it easier for me to keep in touch with the world.

By the way, I will be attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. I am registered as an undeclared science major and hope to find work and research that will benefit man, the environment and satisfy my need for knowledge.

Environmentally Yours,

Alyssa Balles, Three Springs PA

[Ed.: Alyssa volunteered with "OE" this Spring.]

Writers Are Readers and Letter Writers

Here is July's column. I am sending my long promised donation in the mail. As usual, I love reading this paper. I love your comments, efforts and sense of the whole.

I am glad summer's coming; the greens seem particularly beautiful this year.

It would be fun to meet you in person.

Be well,

Marion Stuenkel, Madison WI

Hi Iona,

Let's get your sacred paper into all 50 states!

Divine Love,

Loris Boutwell, Tiger GA

Hello Iona,

You produce a wonderful and very important newspaper.

Rod Rylander, San Antonio Rio Hondo, Belize

From Another Publisher

Hi Iona,

I'm in awe of your paper and the articles you are presenting!

Great work!

Carol Vracarich

Publisher, Central PA Holistic Health Networker
Newport, Pennsylvania



Photo by Criss Cefus.

Lilacs and Red Bud Trees growing in Suffield, Ohio in May. Submitted by Douglas Joshua Davis of Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Hymn to Green

By Elizabeth Ayres
California, Maryland

Like a kid kept after school to repeat her lessons (I must not talk in class, I must not talk in class), summer has me filling in the blank lines of every day's page with endless variations on one simple theme: green, green, green, green, green, green, green. Everywhere I go, everywhere I look: green, green, green, green, green, green, green.

Green grass. Green trees. Green bushes. Green in long thin skewers, fat round dollops. Green edges serrated, green edges smooth, spiked green needles with no edges at all. Close up, green can prickle or feel soft to the touch. From a distance, green is an immensity in which I lose myself. An infusion in which I can steep. A silence into which I am gathered.

Green is strong and stalwart, reliable, but green keeps secrets, don't you think? There's some espionage going on between green and the season. To discover what it is, I turn to the book summer provides.

Green. Chapter One. Chlorophyll needs every color in

the spectrum except green, which it generously bequeaths to our human eyes. Chapter Two. Chlorophyll 'b' absorbs more red than chlorophyll 'a,' which makes it go ga-ga. Chapter Three. Concerned that chlorophyll 'a' might feel cheated, chlorophyll 'b' shares its energy. Chapter Four. Chlorophyll 'a' is happy and grateful. To show its appreciation, it gets to work making something chlorophyll 'b' can't make: sugar. Something we human's can't make, either: oxygen. Chapter Five. The chemical compound that stores sugar and releases oxygen in plants is similar to the chemical that forms DNA in people, who exhale the carbon dioxide plants inhale to keep making the sugar we eat and the oxygen we inhale.

Ah, I understand now, yes, that explains it. Why I want to call green my home. Why I want to fall into green as if into a dear friend's arms. Why I want to croon green jazz all night long until morning comes and I can see my sweet and precious green once more. We are soul mates, lovers, life partners.

Green inspires me, completes me, challenges me to be

my best. Is there someone who doesn't have something I have a lot of? I'll share, like chlorophyll 'b.' Do I have some special gift? I'll use it to make the world a better place, like chlorophyll 'a.' I'll be everything my beloved green calls me to be: a perfection of give and take, an apotheosis of cooperation, and while I'm at it, I'll see what I can do about those fossil fuel emissions.

Putting out more carbon dioxide than green can take in, we're becoming the parasite in this wonderful symbiosis, which is sort of like two-timing a soul mate, not to mention giving the book a very sad end.

So I think we should all stay right here in summer school, praising green, green, green, green, green, green, until we're blue in the face.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of *Know the Way and Writing the Wave*, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing (CreativeWritingCenter.com). You can hear Elizabeth read on internet radio (www.wryr.org), Monday evenings at 8:30 p.m. eastern time, or catch more reflections on her "Encounters with Wonder" blog: elizabethayres.wordpress.com.

Face-Off Over "Fracking" in Natural Gas Drilling

Water Battle Brews On Capitol Hill

By Jeff Brady

Submitted by Ryan Talbott with this note: NPR has the audio of this story at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=104565793>.

Morning Edition, May 27, 2009 (excerpt)—Environmentalists and the natural gas industry are getting ready for a battle in Congress over something known as "hydraulic fracturing."

"Fracking," as the industry

calls it, involves injecting a million gallons or more of water and chemicals deep underground to pry out gas that's locked away in tight spaces.

Environmentalists want the federal government to regulate the practice because, in some cases, fracking may be harming nearby water wells. The industry says regulation should be left up to the states.

Hydraulic fracturing allows drillers to dramatically increase production. The chemicals pumped underground with the water help drillers bore through the hard rock. The pressure used is tremendous — about 300 times

a typical garden hose. That creates small cracks in the rock that allow gas to escape.

Steve Harris believes that pressure also ruined his well. He lives on 14 acres south of Dallas.

Shortly after a driller fracked a nearby well, he and his neighbors noticed a change in water pressure. "When you'd flush the toilet — in the back where the bowl is — water would shoot out the top of the bowl," says Harris.

When he took a shower, there was a foul odor and the water left rashes on his grandson's skin. His horses stopped drinking from their trough and there was an oily film on top of the water...

6,000 Rare Dolphins Discovered in South Asia

Submitted by Bill Boteler with this note: This is good news for this little dolphin, a close relative of the recently extinct baiji dolphin over in China. A population of 6,000 animals is large enough to feel hopeful about. There are also river dolphins in South America. The river dolphins in the Amazon have a pink hue. They are considered magical by the indigenous people.

Found on LiveScience.com Apr 1, 2009, excerpt

A huge population of rare dolphins threatened by climate change and fishing nets has been discovered in South Asia.

Researchers with the Wildlife Conservation Society estimate that nearly 6,000 Irrawaddy dolphins, marine mammals that are related to orcas or killer whales, were found living in freshwater regions of Bangladesh's Sundarbans mangrove forest and adjacent waters of the Bay of Bengal.

There has been hardly any marine mammal research done in this area up to this point.

Each discovery of Irrawaddy dolphins is important because scientists do not know how many remain on the planet. Prior to this study, the largest known populations of Irrawaddy dolphins numbered in the low hundreds or less.

In 2008, they were listed as vulnerable in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List based on population declines in known dolphin populations.

"This discovery gives us great hope that there is a future for Irrawaddy dolphins," said Brian D. Smith, lead author of a study describing the discovery. "Bangladesh clearly serves as an important sanctuary for Irrawaddy dolphins and conservation in this region should be a top priority."

The study's findings were announced today at the First International Conference on Marine

Mammal Protected Areas in Maui, Hawaii and are detailed in the winter issue of the *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management*.

Despite finding this extraordinarily large population, the study's authors warn that the dolphins are becoming increasingly threatened by accidental entanglement in fishing nets. During the study, researchers encountered two dolphins that had become entangled and subsequently drowned in fishing nets — a common occurrence according to local fishermen.

In another study, detailed in the March/April issue of the journal *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem*, Smith and his coauthors report the additional long-term threat to the dolphin population of declining freshwater supplies caused by upstream water diversion in India, coupled with sea-level rise due to climate change.

These circumstances also threaten Ganges River dolphins, an endangered species with a range that overlaps that of the Irrawaddy dolphins in the Sundarbans mangrove forest. Yangtze River dolphin, or baiji, are a type of freshwater dolphin thought to be extinct due to the impact of humans. The Irrawaddy dolphin grows to some 6.5 to 8 feet in length and frequents large rivers, estuaries, and freshwater lagoons in South and Southeast Asia.

In Myanmar's Ayeyarwady River, these dolphins are known for "cooperative fishing" with humans where the animals voluntarily herd schools of fish toward fishing boats and awaiting nets. With the aid of dolphins, fishermen can increase the size of their catches up to threefold. The dolphins appear to benefit from this relationship by easily preying on the cornered fish and those that fall out of the net as the fishermen pull it from the water . . .

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