



CACC CLEARINGHOUSE NEWSLETTER -

Working to Protect Our Environment Since 1978

JUNE/JULY 2005

AN ECO TO REMEMBER!!

ECO 2005

HEARINGS ON GREAT LAKES WATER USE/DIVERSIONS!

There are 3 important groups of hearings regarding the Great Lakes this summer:

1) **Hearings on Annex 2001, the Great Lakes Basin Water Resources Compact and Agreement drafts.** Go to **Council of Great Lakes Governors website: www.cglg.org** Scroll to "news" for updates and Revised Draft on Annex 2001. Public comment ends August 29th. These hearings are regarding consumptive use/diversion of Great Lakes waters and efforts to regulate these uses. 4 meetings and 1 hearing will be hosted in Michigan by the **Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Office of the Great Lakes**, 517-335-4056. They are listed below:

Public Meetings: (Summer 2005)

August 2, 7pm -Chippewa County Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, Second Floor, 319 Court Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI

August 8, 1pm - Loutit District Library, 407 Columbus Avenue, Grand Haven, MI

August 11, 6:30 pm - Public Meeting Room, 100 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron, MI

(Continued on page 3)



Dr. Kathryn Savoie, Environmental Program Director at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, talks with Ann Hunt, CACC director.

CACC's Backyard ECO Conference returned to Camp Neyati this year. Thanks to our accomplished, dedicated speakers, to everyone who attended, and all the people who worked hard to make it happen. We owe a special tip of the hat to the talented cooks, the Youth Camp staff and chaperones, and to John Witucki

for organizing and directing the Conference.

The new CACC board for 2005-2006, elected at CACC's annual meeting, includes Joseph Badura, Lucia Campbell, Scott Clark, Kay Cumbow, Ann Hunt, Philip Lane Tanton, Karen Freelocey, Victor McManemy, and John Witucki. Congratulations to the new board! We hope the labors of this board continue to build a firm foundation for CACC, and strong advocacy for Great Lakes environmental issues.

CACC gives grateful thanks to those directors stepping down: Jim Leach, Harold Stokes, Cameron Harwell and Terry Gill.

CACC now has an Advisory Committee to the Board! Newly appointed members include

ECO 2005



CACC director Victor McManemy seeks treasures at CACC's Silent Auction. - Kudos to everyone who participated in this annual fundraiser!!!

Harold Stokes, Gretchen Michaels, Sally Schemanski, Michael Keegan, Terry Gill, and Cameron Harwell. Welcome new committee members!!

ECO 2005 gave us many vital issues to work on creatively in the coming year!

JOIN CACC AT WHEATLAND!! SEPT. 9-12, 2005

Written by Lucia Campbell, CACC Director

Throwing a party for 13,000 best friends you haven't met yet, helping with CACC's biggest annual fundraiser AND saving yourself money is a triple winner - and the opportunity comes around every September!

Wheatland Music Festival is held the first weekend after Labor Day on a beautiful farm in Remus, Michigan, about 20 miles west of Mount Pleasant.

The best of traditional music and dance, a juried art show and GREAT food available from early morning

Help CACC and feed folks healthy food, too!



(article continued on page 3)

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS-REPORT FROM H.E.A.L. HURON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST LEAGUE- ALPENA, MI

Written by Bill Freese, Director, Huron Environmental Activist League

The MDEQ held a public hearing in Alpena on June 1st. The permit request was by Lafarge to allow an increase in production of 25%. H.E.A.L. had no quarrel with the increase in production, but we were strongly opposed to the part of the permit that would allow a huge increase in mercury emissions.

The EPA Toxic Release Inventory estimated that Lafarge emitted 58 pounds of mercury in 2002 and 69 pounds in 2003. That is just an estimate. They have never tested Lafarge for mercury and they burn 7 to 8 ton per hour of the dirtiest and cheapest coal and coke they can buy. The new permit used a worse

case scenario of 570 pounds of mercury emissions (almost ten times more) per year with 30% more or less remaining in the cement product. That left 390 pounds more or less (probably more) to be emitted into our environment.

Mercury is recognized as a developmental neurotoxicant by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease registry. The suspected human health hazards are: toxic to cardiovascular (blood), gastrointestinal, neurological, reproductive, respiratory and immune systems. It also is a kidney, liver, skin and sensory organ toxicant. From the above linked health effects, you can see there is nothing much good about mercury.

There are 463.6 grams of mercury to a pound. One

gram of methyl mercury is all it takes to contaminate a 20 acre lake enough to warrant fish consumption advisories. The 58 pounds of mercury emitted in 2002 was enough to contaminate 532,000 acres of water. The 390 pounds that the MDEQ will allow in the current permit application would allow Lafarge to contaminate from 3,616,080 to 5,285,040 acres per year.

This is the major concern of H.E.A.L. and the residents who spoke out against any increase in mercury emissions. You would think that 58 pounds per year would be set as maximum with rules in place to reduce that amount to as little as possible.

We have sent letters of protest to the MDEQ Director

and Governor Granholm. Although she has voiced her concern on mercury pollution, Governor Granholm's office as of this date has not responded to our letter.

We can only hope that the MDEQ is aware of what the long term health effects of that much mercury to our environment would be, and take steps to eliminate or change the mercury limit in the permit before it is approved.

"One gram of methyl mercury is all it takes to contaminate a 20 acre lake enough to warrant fish advisories."

**- Bill Freese,
Director, H.E.A.L.**

WHAT YOU CAN DO !!

Write Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and Governor Granholm: Express your opinion regarding these critical issues to Governor Granholm and DEQ Director Steven Chester. Visit websites cited on these pages to learn more.

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
PHONE (517) 373-3400

Steven Chester, Dept. of Environmental Quality, Constitution Hall, 535 W. Allegan St., Lansing, MI 48913
PHONE (517)-335-6010

The MDEQ Calendar is on-line at : www.michigan.gov/deqcalendar or contact: Ruth N. Hartwig (517) -373-0347

PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES: WATER/DIOXIN NEWS

SIPHONING THE GREAT LAKES

We are at a crossroads in the Great Lakes Basin. The stakes are high. Much has happened since Nestle began pumping huge amounts of water from Michigan's heartland.

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation's victory in the Mecosta County Circuit Court regarding Nestles' water withdrawals in Michigan has been argued again in the Michigan Court of Appeals and is awaiting an opinion. The DEQ has now stepped up to regulate some water withdrawals. Governor Granholm has spoken out strongly on water withdrawals. **Your letters**

and support are crucial . For history, court documents, and what you can do, click on: www.savemewater.org/

See related article on page 1: **"Hearings on Great Lakes Water Use/Diversions!"**

The Lake you save may be your own!!

DIOXIN NEWS

David Linhardt, former chemical engineer for DOW has established a website: www.dioxinspin.com to post information on dioxin contamination in Midland, Michigan and the Tittabawassee River. He is writing a book, [Dioxin...DOW](#)

[Chemical and the Poisoning of Midland, Michigan](#). **The Tittabawassee River Watch website: www.trwnews.net/** is filled with information from the EPA, the Michigan DEQ, independent researchers, and from countless meetings of citizens in the Tittabawassee River Watershed.

Decisions made on dioxin contamination in this watershed will resonate globally for decades to come. Now is the time for Michigan residents to voice our concerns!

Look for more in-depth articles on both of these crucial issues in Aug/Sept.

JOIN CACC AT WHEATLAND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

until late evening, makes Wheatland Weekend an annual event for many folks.

Each year, clever campsites sprout in fields and woodlands. A long-time Wheatie explains: It's not about camping; it's how comfortable you can be in an alfalfa field!

Great music and dance, friendships formed and revisited, unique and beautiful art and craft work, merge to make Wheatland a feast for the senses!

You can enjoy all this on a tight budget, while contributing to the good works CACC is known for, by volunteering for a 6 hour shift in the famous CACC Kitchen!

The kitchen is renowned for good and hearty food, prepared on-site and served with smiles and good humor. You can get your coffee in a real

cup! - Purchasing a CACC cup gets unending refills that cost only a quarter! Saturday evenings, a full course whitefish dinner adds a dimension of rustic elegance to the experience.

You can be part of it all!!

CACC is accepting volunteers for this year's fundraiser at the festival. Besides that warm feeling that comes from working for a good cause, past benefits have included: free food while you work, discount at the CACC booth the remainder of the Festival, meeting LOTS of great people, helping CACC raise funds to underwrite programs for the coming year, and reimbursement of a big portion of your Wheatland ticket. (The balance goes to the ECO Youth Program Scholarship Fund.)

Come enjoy the food and fun!

IF YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER... To learn more about the Wheatland Music Festival, go on the internet to: www.wheatlandmusic.org/ To learn more about the CACC Kitchen and volunteering,, contact Connie Beauvais at 517-641-4013 or e-mail Connie at: beauvaischambre@acd.net



CACC Director, Karen Freel-Locey, cleans corn on the cob at Wheatland!!

August 12, 1p.m. - Cadillac Place, 1st Floor Conference Room, 3058 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 2-300, Detroit, MI

The single PUBLIC HEARING will be held:

August 23, 1:30 pm - Michigan Library and Historical Center, Lake Ontario Conference Room, 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing, MI

2) The Great Lakes Restoration Draft Action Plan was released by the Great Lakes Regional Collaborative

July 7th. Public comment ends Sept. 9th. More information: www.glruc.us/

Also see: www.restorethelakes.org Click on the calendar on the left side of the page. There are 2 Michigan meetings:

- Grand Rapids- Aug. 1
Detroit- Aug. 18

3) The Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee wants to hear Michigan citizens' concerns on ground and surface water conservation. One meeting remains:

Friday, 8/5/2005 3pm - 5 pm
Saginaw Valley State University,
ES122 Regional Education Center,
7400 Bay Road, University Center.

problem-ridden Palisades nuclear power plant near Covert, Michigan are attempting to get the plant re-licensed for 20 more years. To learn more or get involved, contact Kevin Kamps at Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 202-328-0002.

You can request a copy of the Draft Study Report on the proposed burial of irradiated fuel in Canada: "Choosing a Way Forward," at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's website: www.nwmo.ca

ENERGY FRONT- GREAT LAKES

An energy bill with huge ramifications for the environment has passed the U.S. House and Senate. Now the conference committee must hammer out a compromise bill. For the latest on this and other energy news, see Public Citizen's Critical Mass' Eye on Energy Newsletter at: www.EyeOnEnergy.org

Canadians will likely choose a permanent high level nuclear waste dump by November, 2005. This dump may be sited on or near the Great Lakes!

U.S. citizens need to speak as stakeholders now. For more info, visit North-Watch's excellent site: www.nukewaste.ca Also visit Women's Legacy at: www.womanslegacy.org

Canada and the U.S. are undergoing a dangerous, costly, nuclear energy buildup. Despite government statements, nukes do NOT help global warming. Nukes make us all a target for terrorism. Uranium mining,

needed to produce nuclear fuel, destroys First Nation/ Aboriginal communities for all time. Nuclear power and weapons are slowly damaging our gene pool, and poisoning our entire biosystem.

A wealth of timely information can be found at: www.nirs.org (Nuclear Information and Resource Service) and www.neis.org (Nuclear Energy Information Service)

The owners of the embrittled,

CACC is on the web!! - www.caccmi.org

**CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION**

8735 Maple Grove Road
Lake, MI 48632
Phone and fax 517-544-3318
www.caccmi.org

Our office is staffed sporadically. Mail and phone messages are regularly monitored, however.

You may also contact our chairperson, John Witucki, at 989-895-2124

**CACC HAS A NEW WEBSITE
AND A NEW WEBMASTER!!**

CACC has a new website: www.caccmi.org and a new webmaster, Pam Warren.

Pam has been a resident of Troy, Michigan for 14 years. She was born and raised her family in Cadillac. Married for 36 years to Bill, they are the parents of 3 daughters and grandparents of 5. Employed in several quality departments, she ended her career as a RAB quality system auditor and project manager for an inventory management firm based in Memphis, Tennessee.

Since retiring, she has been working on other skills and returning to some favorite

Hobbies. These are bluegrass music, genealogy, sewing, knitting, gardening, grandchildren and computers. She is the treasurer of the Oakland County Genealogy Society.

Pam and Bill have been CACC members for many years, and have spent 20 more or less years volunteering at the Wheatland food concession, along with their children and Pam's parents!! Rex and Letha Raymond get the credit for introducing the Warrens to CACC, after discovering they were Wheatland attendees.

CACC has never been so lucky!!

ECO CALENDAR SUMMER 2005

August 28, CACC/work board meeting - at Wheatland. For information call John Witucki 989-895-2124

Tittabawassee River Watch/Lone Tree Meetings, (Jan-Nov) 4th Monday of each month, 6:30 pm, Thomas Township Library, 8207 Shields Dr., Thomas Township. Map at: www.trwnews.net/

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation meets 10am, 2nd Saturday of each month at New Hope United Methodist Church, 7296 9 Mile Road, Mecosta, MI

Wheatland—Sept 12-15th contact Connie Beauvais 517-641-4013 or e-mail at beauvais.chambre@acd.net

CACC gives a heartfelt Thanks to our many Contributors and Sponsors!! - Also to our ECO and Wheatland Staff and Volunteers!! We couldn't do it without you!

This newsletter is undergoing change, so bear with us!!

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We encourage you to write us at: CACC—Newsletter, 8735 Maple Grove Road, Lake, MI 48632

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kcumbow@caccmi.org

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