



CACC News

Visit www.caccmi.org

General Membership Meeting

Come, eat, play, and be part of the solution. Join us for the General Membership Meeting (GMM) on Sunday, June 10th at 1:00 pm, Magdalena's Tea House 2006 East Michigan Avenue in Lansing. This is your opportunity to assist the Board of Directors in steering this organization. You will also have an opportunity to vote for the Board seats. A potluck will be held after the meeting. Bring a dish to pass!

CACC's keynote speaker will be Kathryn Savoie discussing our Global Climate Change Dilemma. Kathryn Savoie earned her Ph.D. in Ecology in 1990 from the University of Michigan. She has been active for more than 20 years in movements for social, environmental, and racial justice. Dr. Savoie served for three years as Executive Director of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, and is a founding member of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice. Dr. Savoie works as Environmental Program Director at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) in Dearborn, Michigan, and is a board member of the Michigan Environmental Council. Dr. Savoie was trained by former Vice President Al Gore and his team of scientists and educators to present her version of Mr. Gore's slide presentation on the global warming crisis, documented in the film and book, *An Inconvenient Truth*. She lives in Detroit, Michigan with her husband and 10-year old daughter.



Kathryn Savoie

Nestle Drops Newaygo County

Give yourselves a pat on the back for another victory. Nestle Waters, AKA Ice Mountain, has decided against putting a spring-water well in Newaygo County. After searching out possibilities and hearing from the public Nestle has pulled back. This decision comes after 150 people showed up at a public meeting on January 10th to communicate the disapproval felt.

Pesticide Use in Schools

CACC has been on the inquiry path of school pesticides as an issue. It seems it is a local issue. The Governor's Office and the Michigan Association of School Boards have both replied to inquiries directing local citizens to discuss such matters with the local school boards and maintenance directors. So, let's take action. If you are interested in beginning this process in your local school system, contact your school board representatives. An educational letter will be made available on the CACC web site www.caccmi.org. Feel free to amend as necessary.

Let's start educating our educators and letting them know what we think of the use of 2,4D products on our children's playground. 2,4D is a commonly used pesticide that is a known neurotoxin. Contact Carey Pauquette-Schalm, CACC Administrator for more information, admin@caccmi.org.

Chemical-free lawns

Springtime is boom-time for the lawn-and-garden industry but this season, Scott's ad-blitz for Turf BuilderTM and Miracle-GrowTM is being countered by the [National Coalition for Pesticide-Free Lawns](http://www.nationalcoalitionforpesticidefree.com), which is urging homeowners to swap petroleum-based chemicals for organic alternatives. The Coalition reports that, of [30 commonly used lawn pesticides](http://www.nationalcoalitionforpesticidefree.com), 19 are linked with cancer or

carcinogenicity, 13 are linked to birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 26 with liver or kidney damage, 15 with neurotoxicity, and 11 with disruption of the endocrine system. The Coalition's [Simple Guide to Creating a Healthy Lawn](#) is available online. For information visit www.beyondpesticides.org.

Next Energy Study: Alternative Energy Would Green Michigan's Economy

A new study by NextEnergy shows that alternative energy and energy efficiency could boost both jobs and the economy in Michigan. Titled "A Study of Economic Impacts from the Implementation of a Renewable Portfolio Standard and Energy efficiency Program in Michigan", the study uses an aggressive and a moderate model of implementation, with both showing gains to Michigan's Gross State Product, and the creation of 2,020 to 6,381 jobs." The study used conservative figures in their approach. The study was overseen by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

The report can be accessed at

www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/deq-ess-MichiganRPS-EE-FinalReport_193745_7.pdf

From our Chapters

HEAL

As time goes by I know every last one of us 'tree huggers' has asked ourselves "Why do we bother?" For some the fight has been too long and hard. They have drifted away, burnt out, or become frustrated from taking one step forward and most of the time two back.

The answer to the question is, If not us then who? It is most certainly not those we have elected to represent us. The MDEQ or EPA? Forget it. A change in administrations might help, but when we elect those we can count on for help, we must depend upon ourselves to bring about necessary change.

I keep hoping for some good news to pass on to all you folks. We have a lot of irons in the fire and I have a feeling sparks are going to fly before too long. We have about three different projects going with EarthJustice. All of them relate to cement plant emissions and wastes. We have heard that the MDEQ is sending a letter to Lafarge denying the confidentiality they claim for withholding the mercury FOIA requests from us. (About time.) How can making lousy cement be given confidentiality? I would think, as in the past, when it was Huron cement of National Gypsum there would be a case.

Ever since Lafarge took over NGC in a leveraged buyout, it has been garbage in and garbage out.

For those of you not aware of other developments, Wolverine Electric is trying to build and locate a coal-fired power plant just north of Alpena at Rogers City. They want to place it in the Calcite quarry right on the shore of Lake Huron. More mercury, ash, and other pollutants for northeast Michigan that would give us 4 facilities generating electricity in our area, one in Lincoln, one in Hillman, and then Rogers City. Lafarge already sells power back into the grid. Lincoln and Hillman both burn tires. They started out with the promise of being wood powered but did not take long to switch over to the dirtier stuff. Lincoln does have an electronic precipitator, a little cleaner. The folks in Lincoln passed an ordinance to limit how rubber tires could be used. Hillman is just plain dirty.

I will try to pass on information to the Rogers City people. They have been looking for any help they can get and appreciate any help.

Bill Freese, Director

HEAL



Reason

Earth Day Action Alert: **Include Women, Children, Future Generations in Environmental Health Standards**

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) has a campaign to change radiation protection standards so they will protect women and children. Many current federal radiation protection standards are based on "Reference Man," a hypothetical "Caucasian" male, 20 to 30 years old, 154 pounds, 5 feet, 7 inches tall, of "Western European or North American in habitat and custom." Reference Man is widely used to set federal regulations, for instance, limits on how much residual radiation is allowed in radioactively contaminated soil.

TAKE ACTION: Organizations and individuals can help IEER send the message that federal agencies

need to protect those most at risk from exposure to radiation and/or toxic chemicals, be they pregnant women, the embryo/fetus, infants, children and/or some other group. Sign the [Open Letter to President Bush to Protect the Most Vulnerable](#) at www.ieer.org/campaign/letter.php - More information: (301)-270-5500 or www.ieer.org/campaign/

Honeybees Disappearing

"If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination...no more men." This is a rumored quote from Albert Einstein that was presented by the National Union of French Apiculture in the early 1990s. Quote or not, when we begin to delve into this thought it becomes apparent how true these words ring. We depend on pollinators for everything, our crops that provide 1/3 of our food in the United States. If we kill the pollinators, we in turn kill ourselves.

The honeybees are disappearing. The reasons for this disappearance have yet to be proven. The research community has been challenged to find the answers. The honeybee disappearance has been noticed in the United States where honeybees are responsible for pollinating \$15 billion worth of fruits, nuts, and other crops every year. This problem has also been reported in Europe and Brazil. The honeybee hives, set out as usual next to farm fields, result in remaining queen bees and young offspring with very few worker bees left behind. The worker bees that usually set out to collect supplies to build on to the nest and create more honey leave and never return. This is highly unusual. Typically in the event that a parasite or a pesticide is responsible, there are dead bees at the hive. This time they are just vanishing.

The researchers currently working on this are looking at the following possibilities according to the Congressional Research Service presented on March 26, 2007.

1. Parasites, mites, and disease loads in the bees and brood
2. Known/unknown pathogens
3. Poor nutrition among adult bees
4. Level of stress in adult bees (e.g., transportation and confinement of bees, or other environmental or biological stressors)
5. Chemical residue/contamination in the wax, food stores and/or bees
6. Lack of genetic diversity and lineage of bees
7. A combination of several factors.

There are also rumors of problems with cell phone towers, and Bt corn pollen. While discussion is happening on these two topics, no research has been documented. We need an answer to this mystery before Einstein's quote can be confirmed.



Here are some great web sites for teachers, homeschoolers, and anyone working with kids:

- Urban Options www.urbanoptions.org offers The Sustainability Education Handbook – Resource Guide for K-12 Teachers www.urbanoptions.org/SustainEdHandbook/index.htm - along with other great resources
- The Alliance to Save Energy www.ase.org. See their Educators page.
- Center for Science and Environment www.cseindia.org Click on their Environmental Education page, then click on “Gobar Times” at top of page. This month’s cover story is about carbon, its role in our lives and how it is affecting our weather.

Hey! I Want to Do That

Washington legislature passed the first in the nation bans on toxic flame retardant. HOORAY! It passed with a vote of 41 to 8 and is now waiting for signature from the governor. This legislation has the potential to get rid of harmful substances such as PBDEs that can be passed innocently through mother’s breast milk. It is on everything from televisions to children’s sleepwear.

A collaborative effort saw this process through with partnerships from the medical associations, to the firefighters association. Tough measures are still being taken to insure safety, but all involved realized the ‘critical’ need to ban toxic flame retardant. For more information Washington Toxics Coalition, 206-200-2824 or visit www.watoxics.org.



*Holly White and friends, ECO 2006
Photo Courtesy: Kay Cumbow*

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Editor: Carey Pauquette-Schalm

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Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination

8735 Maple Grove Road

Lake, MI 48632-9511

Phone and fax- 989-544-3318

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We encourage our members to sign up for the email edition of the CACC NEWS for these reasons: You receive it more quickly. It saves trees. Our dollars can be utilized for programs and resources rather than printing and postage -AND you receive it in COLOR!

Mark Your Calendars

- Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference & Business Expo, Novi, MI, May 15-17. For more information visit www.michiganrecycles.org
- The CACC Annual meeting will be held Sunday, June 10, beginning at 1 pm, at Magdalena's Tea House, 2006 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing
- Conference opportunity, Great Lakes Areas of Concern: Achieving Restoration Targets and Sustaining Stewardship, June 28-29 in Cleveland Ohio. For more information, contact Matt Doss, Great Lakes Commission, 734-971-9135, mdoss@glc.org
- Liquid Solar Heating and Radiant Flooring Installation Workshop, May 16th-18th, GLREA Energy Center, Dimondale, Michigan. To Register or for more information, please contact GLREA: 800-434-9788 or info@glrea.org or www.glrea.org
- "EAB & Beyond: Finding Value in Urban Trees," Conference and Workshop. May 23rd -24th. For more information please visit: <http://semircd.org/ash/news/AshUtilConfInfo.pdf>
- Inconvenient Truth slideshow on global warming: www.theclimateproject.org, and click on the Michigan map to find location near you.



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CACC

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