

# CACC



# NEWS

*The Future of the Earth is in our Hands*

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

## Family Corner

### My Life on an Organic Farm

*By Emma*

My name is Emma. I live on an organic farm in Onondaga, Michigan with my mom, dad, and younger sister, Brigid. Our farm is called Green Eagle Farm. We grow fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs. I'm thirteen and have lived on the farm my whole life.

We have 20 acres and farm about four to five acres. We have three ponds and when it's wet enough they're connected by two creeks. We also have a few acres of woods.

The farm attracts a large variety of wildlife, pests, and beneficiaries alike.

In the Spring, I like to watch the trees bud and I'm always amazed at how green it gets outside. We plant our seeds in trays to later sell at the market and transplant in our gardens. Our markets start in May and it's always nice to see all of the vendors and our customers again!

Summer time is our busiest season. We start to harvest more and more. We harvest things like: garlic, basil, zucchini, kale, tomatoes, Asian pears and lots more!!!

I love to go outside and pick a big bowl of berries!!

In the Fall, we sell dried flower arrangements, apples, potatoes, shallots, onions and squash. It's fun to go out and pick pumpkins with my family. Our market season finally ends.

In the Winter, without the garden to tend, we get time off to travel. I love to ice skate on our ponds. Sometimes, if the ice melts a little, we can walk on our pond and it looks like we are walking on water. Then we have to order our seeds and any supplies we will need for the coming season and we repeat the pattern - slowly learning new techniques and finding delight in the simple things.

Emma is a very *experienced volunteer for CACC's*

### Happy Holidays from CACC!

It's time to celebrate, count our victories, and give our thanks to all of you - our donors, amazing volunteers and loyal members, and make plans for a New Year!

Special kudos to Bill Freese and the Huron Environmental Activist League (HEAL), CACC's chapter in Alpena, who helped bring a huge victory this year on cement kiln emissions. This past spring, Bill and others gave testimony in the Appeals Court in Washington D.C. in a lawsuit led by Earthjustice, resulting in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at long last regulating airborne emissions from both cement kilns and power plants. Now, Portland Cement Association has appealed regarding cement kiln emissions, and HEAL and the coalition led by Earthjustice, have once again legally intervened to protect this precious victory - decades in the making.

A heartfelt thank-you to our Wheatland volunteers, all! You, along with our donors and membership, make possible the work CACC does to protect and advocate for the health of our communities and watersheds. We invite you all to participate in CACC's planning and work for the coming year. We need your enthusiasm, your talents, your very real appreciation for our common "backyard" and irreplaceable Great Lakes.

**- The CACC Directors**

Snack Bar at Wheatland. She is a jewelry maker, draws and makes note cards as well as being an active worker on her family's farm.

P.S. from Gretchen Michaels, CACC's Youth Group Facilitator: Emma's Mom says that although they have lots of volunteers, they decided not to become a legal Community Supported Agriculture farm or CSA.

For more information on Family Corner, please visit our website: <http://www.caccmi.org>

## **HEAL joins Lawsuit Against Portland Cement to protect Cement Kiln Emission Victory**

A little history: In the spring of 2010, in response to a lawsuit filed by the Huron Environmental Activist League, Earthjustice, Sierra Club and others, the Washington D.C. Federal Appeals Court ordered the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to regulate certain airborne emissions, including mercury, from cement plants (kilns) and power plants.

On August 9, 2010, the EPA announced strong new air pollution rules for over 100 cement kilns across the country. EPA stated these new rules would prevent up to 2,500 premature deaths each year, and save up to \$18 billion in health benefits, cutting thousands of pounds of emissions of mercury, particulate matter, hydrogen chloride and hydrocarbons - all of which have had serious health effects on downwind communities for decades.

On November 8, 2010, the Portland Cement Association legally challenged EPA's rule-making for emissions from cement plants.

In response, on December 6, 2010, HEAL and the coalition headed by Earthjustice, once again filed a lawsuit to keep these critical protections on airborne emissions from cement plants and their polluting kilns. For more information, or to help with this issue, contact Bill Freese, Director of H.E.A.L. at [bfreese10@gmail.com](mailto:bfreese10@gmail.com) or 989-464-2689.

### **Report From HEAL - August 2010**

Just a few months ago, the Lafarge facility here in Alpena was cited and fined five (5) million dollars for violations of The Clean Air Act. In addition to the fine, they are required to install stack scrubbers and pollution control equipment with a deadline of 2011. Thus far we have reason to believe that they are dragging their feet on compliance with the settlement.

Continuing events here in Alpena have been a cause for concern. Since the MDNR & MDEQ merged, it seems they are less effective or unwilling to do their job, so we have once again contacted Region 5 of the US EPA.

We have far too many enclosed semis and tanker trucks coming to Alpena. Most of the tankers are not placarded. Some are from Great North out of Canada.

We have been unable to get answers as to what is in them. Some have been seen unloading at the storage tanks at Lafarge. We knew some liquids were from the Dow plant in the thumb area. It was supposed to be a safe so-called broth from a pesticide. We questioned this coming to Alpena because Dow has its own incinerator. A call from an anonymous source said they had worked for Dow and if the load would show up in Dow's emissions, they would divert it to Lafarge in Alpena, because our enforcement was lax.

One of our members regularly videos and photographs Lafarge and - while on Commonwealth Drive, a truck route - recently passed five of those large semis coming from Lafarge. Lafarge has continued burning plastic. They have done so 18 months before they were permitted to do it by the MDEQ. It was supposed to be a trial burn of non-halogenated, chlorine-free plastic from a paper plant in Cheboygan. The plastic was from recycled milk cartons. It has now turned into an unlimited supply, coming from a company called Recycling Concepts. Our concern about this is that these are parts from injection molds and the release alone could contaminate the plastic - and no one is sampling or testing it.

Lastly is the Canadian fly ash from Nanticoke Power in Ontario. We were told that the contract between Nanticoke and Lafarge was to end in late 2009 or sometime in 2010. There seems to be no end of the rail cars loaded with this ash still coming to Alpena and it is still the reason for us having the largest amount of mercury being emitted in Michigan.

These are the reasons we contacted the EPA Region 5 and also commented to the US EPA RCRA Docket on Hazardous waste that will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2010. We hope to get answers from Region 5 and action on wastes as raw materials in the cement-making process.

—**Bill Freese, Director, H.E.A.L.**

## **CACC's ECO - Calendar**

**Please check CACC's online calendar at:**  
<http://www.caccmi.org/calendar/plans.cgi/>

- Jan. 21-22<sup>nd</sup> - Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference, Grayling, MI. For details, see: <http://smallfarmconference.com/>

## CACC Members' Work Featured on the CACC Website

Sally Schemanski is a former Chairperson for CACC and a long-time CACC member and Wheatland volunteer. She is a diligent protector of our watersheds and she loves to dance! She has written an expose, "Big money, Big Industry and Big Environmental Disaster: Alberta Tar Sands and Why We Should All Push for Sustainable Energy," which ties in our connection to the hugely polluting Alberta Tar Sands and points to an energy path free from this kind of devastation.

Marlaina Kreinin holds a Master of Science Degree in Family Health Ecology. She is a professional storyteller, who has shown her talents at CACC's Backyard ECO Conference, and has taught both at the high school and university level. A published Michigan author, poet and grandmother to four, she is concerned that we are not tackling the root cause of illness. Instead of putting a big ad in the New York Times, she believes it would be far more fruitful to pay 100 storytellers to fan out over the country and tell people's stories that chronicle the roots of illness, including the use of pesticides and other toxins. Look for "The True Tales" by Marlaina Kreinin.

CACC is proud to publish the work of Marlaina Kreinin and Sally Schemanski. Look under "What's New" on the CACC website: <http://www.caccmi.org>

### An Appeal to our Members!

CACC gives heartfelt thanks for your generous donations of time, effort and funds in the past year. We could not do this important work without your critical support. We ask you to continue to assist CACC's efforts to protect the health of our communities and watersheds, with an end-of-year donation. Your donation is tax deductible, as far as the law allows.

This year has brought some hard-won victories. Efforts by HEAL, CACC's chapter in Alpena - and others - saw EPA finally write regulations for airborne emissions for cement kilns. And CACC, (as part of Great Lakes United's Green Energy and Nuclear Free Task Force - a Basin-wide coalition), helped stop (for now), transport of radioactive reactor wastes on the Great Lakes. CACC helped alert Great Lakes communities, and gave testimony at a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission hearing. These important victories all face possible reversal.

CACC is proud to introduce Angie De La Rosa as the new Designer for the *CACC News*. Welcome, Angie! CACC has new intergenerational writers, featured on our website and in our newsletter. One is Emma (author of "My Life on an Organic Farm"), who is part of CACC's newly - formed youth group, which evolved from Wheatland, 2009. They are eager to lend their work and voices to protect our watersheds.

CACC hosted a solar display at the Bad Axe Earth Fair and at the Wheatland Music Festival. The Great Lakes Health Banner was moved to Lansing and is now more accessible for use at events. CACC also is planning greater participation this next year with the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health.

CACC continues to act to rid our watersheds of persistent toxins - and to seek healthy alternatives, including sustainable energy and lifestyles. Advocating healthy food and organic farming is central to our core beliefs. CACC's Kitchen at Wheatland embodies care for our health, as well as Mother Earth and, with help from our volunteers there, also helps raise critical funds that help support our youth group, and integrate the fine arts with environmental protection - and so much more. In 2011, CACC plans greater work for healthy food and farms.

Lastly, we invite you to participate in CACC's work. Come to our events. Email us at our website with your community's ecological concerns. Future generations depend on us!



CACC participated in a rally to protect Eagle Rock from a metallic sulfide mine.

*Photo Credit: Kay Cumbow*

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CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Great Lakes United, Michigan Environmental Council, and the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health.

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