

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

www.caccmi.org

A Tribute to Mary Sinclair

By Ann Hunt, CACC Director

The environmental community recently lost one of its heroes. Mary Sinclair was a giant in the struggle to stop the construction of the Midland Nuclear Power plant. When the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other bureaucrats refused to take her seriously, she went back to college to earn her doctorate, commuting from Midland to Ann Arbor to achieve this goal. I remember attending a training session in Albuquerque, New Mexico in the 1990s and when people there found I was from Michigan, they wanted to know if I knew Mary. They were quick to let me know what a treasure we had.

Mary was a keynote speaker at the Backyard Eco Conference, and after she was introduced the audience gave her a standing ovation without her having the opportunity to say a word. Mary was moved by the recognition of her peers - especially after the derision she had experienced in her home community. During that same meeting, she had the opportunity to learn about other activities of the main nuclear industries -- waste incinerators. She immediately began to network with other activists, sharing information she had gathered with them.

Mary was also on the team of the Dow Waste Reduction Project, led by the Natural Resources Defense Council, in which we were able to identify enough process changes, inefficiencies, and other easily corrected opportunities that Dow would not have to operate its second incinerator.

Throughout my years of knowing and working with Mary, I was always impressed by her quiet determination, her commitment to the Midland community, and her pride in her family. She leaves a remarkable legacy and will be profoundly missed.

CACC's ECO - Calendar

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

Dr. Linda Schweitzer, Toxicologist, to Speak at CACC's GMM!

Dr. Linda Schweitzer, Professor of Environmental Chemistry at Oakland University, will speak at CACC's General Membership Meeting (GMM) on the harm done to our health and ecosystems by toxic lawn care chemicals. The meeting will be held Saturday, June 4th, 2011, from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Fireplace Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church, East Lansing. Hal Newnan's short, insightful film "Love Your Lawn, Love Your Lakes" will also be shown. The film features Dr. Schweitzer and gives practical alternatives to a healthy yard without the toxic sprays that do injury to our children, our pets, and our watersheds.

You are invited to bring a dish to pass for our always delicious Potluck. You are also invited to donate new or gently used items for our Silent Auction fundraiser. Stas Yascolt, CACC's lively auctioneer (Pinconning's Best!) will lead the auction. Come prepared to bid - you won't be disappointed!

For more information on CACC's GMM, including election of board members, please see our website:
<http://www.caccmi.org>

Map to the CACC's GMM location can be found here:
http://www.mapquest.com/mq/5-rIS3dswgeQuA9P_U

Global Victory on Endosulfans

In a hard-won victory, 173 nations - parties to the Stockholm Convention - agreed this April to phase out most uses of the persistent, bioaccumulative pesticide endosulfan. Endosulfan use has resulted in deaths, birth defects, developmental delays, cancer and other serious health effects worldwide at its point of use. Carried long distances by wind and water, endosulfans have been implicated in damage to the Arctic and other ecosystems. To learn more about the long-term harm of pesticides, visit the website of the Pesticide Action Network of North America (PANNA) <http://www.panna.org/>

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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.

Check for other issue updates on the CACC website at:

<http://www.caccmi.org>

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Report From HEAL CACC's Chapter in Alpena

I have learned over the past 20 plus years that being an environmentalist has its share of ups and downs. You celebrate victories cautiously, while still looking over your shoulder. Having experienced the differences in political administrations leaves little doubt of which ones you can count on and which ones to be concerned about.

We know that the House of Representatives has adopted Texas Republican rep. John R. Carter's Resolution 9, to eliminate the rules submitted by the US EPA which require the Portland cement manufacturing plants to meet standards of the Clean Air Act. This could get interesting, because the US EPA is under court order to set the standards. This will put two parts of our government, legislative and judicial, against each other and in this case, we favor judicial.

We have been told that Representative Carter does not even have a cement plant in his district. He is concerned that the rules would hurt U.S. cement plants and help foreign competition -even though most cement plants in the U.S. are foreign-owned. It's like turning a blind eye to their ownership, by wrapping these companies in an American flag. It does not seem to matter to him that the rules will help eliminate 2,500 premature deaths each year, thousands of heart and respiratory effects and some of the enormous health care costs to people living near these plants.

In the 2009 Toxic Release Inventory, the US EPA has the Lafarge cement plant here in Alpena, Michigan, listed as the dirtiest plant in North America for point source pollution. Once again, we are number one, but it is nothing to brag about. It is what we have had to live with, since Lafarge took over

National Gypsum in a leveraged buyout in late 1985. Lafarge is in the top five for mercury emissions in North America, thanks to 450,000 tons of toxic Canadian coal fly ash, used in their processing. Over 50% of their mercury emissions are from this coal fly ash. 95% of this is the most toxic form of mercury. It is another form of CANADIAN GARBAGE and it is affecting the health of the residents of N.E. Michigan and our environment.

There are changes coming for us in N.E. Michigan, we hope. In January of 2010, under a Consent Order with the US EPA, Lafarge North America was fined 5 million dollars and will have to install stack scrubbers and pollution control equipment in all 13 of their cement plants. The updates will cost them 170 million dollars and will reduce their emissions by over 90%. Updates are moving forward, as a recent article in the Federal Register confirms that Lafarge will be installing one large stack scrubber, instead of two small stack scrubbers, with approval from the Department of Justice. This consent order is separate from the new US EPA rules, which would drastically reduce their mercury emissions. We have heard that the Senate is opposed to many of the proposed environmental cuts that are in the House package, that would gut the Clean Air Act.

HEAL and many other environmental groups and individuals have joined with Earthjustice to show our elected officials how important our Right to Breathe really is.

Update: On May 27th, 2011, Earthjustice again intervened, requesting that the EPA take action, as EPA is stalling on the Consent Order, saying more studies need to be done. Stay tuned for further news.

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

News from the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health

A new peer-reviewed study, that included Michigan families and that was published in Environmental Science & Technology, revealed that 80% of products designed for newborns, babies and toddlers - such as changing pads, crib wedges, and car seats - contain chemical flame retardants in either toxic amounts, although legal - or they lack adequate safety information. These chemicals, found today in children's bodies and in our environment, have been linked with serious health issues. The study and what you as a concerned consumer can do, can be found at the MNCEH website:<http://www.mnceh.org/>

VOLUNTEER at CACC's Kitchen at Wheatland, September 9-11!!

Join the fun! Help CACC out at our kitchen during the Wheatland Music Festival this fall. Volunteers help cook, serve food, do the dishes - all in the company of CACC friends! We work in six hour shifts, and volunteers receive 1/2 off food at the CACC concession all week-end. Wheatland Music Festival is CACC'S largest fundraiser each year, and your gift of time helps ensure CACC's work to protect the health of our communities and watersheds. To volunteer for CACC or for more information, contact Kathy Snooks at: snooks@ironbay.net or 906-249-1020. Learn more about the Festival at: <http://www.wheatlandmusic.org/>



Help Protect Japan's Children - Green Action Japan

Our hearts go out to the people of Japan, who have had such enormous loss of life and a difficult struggle for survival, due to the recent earthquakes, tsunami and nuclear crisis. Experts now say the unfolding nuclear crisis may well surpass Chernobyl in radioactive releases and impact to the health and environment in Japan and world-wide. Green Action Japan is leading efforts to protect children from higher radiation doses, as they are far more vulnerable to health effects from radiation than adults. For more information, see Green Action Japan at: <http://fukushima.greenaction-japan.org/> - For more information on nuclear issues, see Beyond Nuclear at: <http://www.beyondnuclear.org/>

CACC Cosponsors International Roundtable on Nuclear/Clean Energy Issues

On May 14th, CACC helped bring speakers on Great Lakes nuclear/clean energy issues to Henry Ford Community College, for an all-day event. Over 50 people attended, including media. Residents in the Great Lakes Bioregion have many nuclear proposals to contend with. Among them are: a proposed permanent nuclear waste dump for 20 Ontario reactors, beneath the shores of Lake Huron; proposed trafficking of Canadian reactor wastes to Sweden - where metals contaminated with plutonium and other radioisotopes, will be mixed with clean metal and distributed globally, without labeling or consumer consent - while putting important marine and freshwater ecosystems at risk; a proposed new, untried and costly reactor, Fermi 3, at Monroe, Michigan - and relicensing of the aging reactor, Davis-Besse in Toledo, with a history of serious accidents and unresolved safety issues.

The speakers kept the audience spellbound and there was general agreement of the urgent need to educate our communities on both the real threat to our amazing freshwaters from nuclear facilities throughout the Great Lakes - and also, on how to transition to clean energy, focusing on energy efficiency and a European-style feed-in tariff, that rewards community investors in renewable energy, and gives renewables a needed kick-start. For information and resources, look under "New" at CACC's website: <http://www.caccmi.org/>

Speak Out to Stop Genetically Modified Wheat!

Genetically modified wheat may be the next GMO crop to create havoc in U.S. farm fields, unless we, farmers and consumers, speak out now. The Organic Consumers Association reports huge problems already with GM corn, soybeans and canola. Organic soybeans and canola have especially suffered from cross-contamination, and have put organic farmers in a legal fix, as patents on the seeds make it illegal to grow seeds of GM origin. Critically, organic varieties are lost at a time when natural disasters are proving the worth of biodiversity. Many nations want GM free certification of crops they purchase, and GM wheat will simply limit our world markets.

Take Action: The Organic Consumers Association has a whole page dedicated to stopping the testing of genetically modified wheat. See: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/wheat.cfm>

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