

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

www.caccmi.org

2011 - A Very Full Year for CACC

What an inspiring year! This is despite many critical environmental setbacks and with leaders and legislators, who (with a few shining exceptions) seem bent on reversing every gain made in the past 40 years for clean air and water. 2011 saw CACC collaborating with several regional watershed groups. To list a few: Great Lakes United, the SE Michigan Group of the Sierra Club, Beyond Nuclear, Northwatch, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, and many more. CACC inducted four new board members, all of them technically savvy and dedicated activists in their own communities.

Promising Changes at the IJC

The International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes for the U.S. and Canada, met in Detroit this fall, with two new promising U.S. commissioners - including Chairperson, Lana Pollack, who was Michigan Environmental Council President for 12 years and Dereth Glance, environmental leader from New York. David Dempsey, formerly of Michigan and environmental policy consultant and writer active in conservation for more than 25 years, is now U.S. Senior Policy Advisor. One of his priorities is citizen advocacy - ensuring your voice is heard at the IJC.

CACC's Highlights in 2011

- In 2011, Dr. Linda Schweitzer, Professor of Environmental Chemistry from Oakland University, addressed CACC's General Membership Meeting on the hidden dangers of lawn pesticides and healthy alternatives to them.
- CACC showed the notable film produced by Sierra Club member and Chair of the SE Michigan Group, Hal Newnan: "Love Your Lawn, Love Your Lakes", in which Dr. Schweitzer is prominently featured.
- Bill Freese, the tireless Director of the Huron Environmental Activist League, H.E.A.L. - CACC's chapter in Alpena, was a mainstay in efforts with Earthjustice, Sierra Club and others to stop airborne mercury contamination nationwide, from cement kilns and coal plants. He participated in a press conference in Washington D.C. and met with federal legislators on these important issues.
- Our fledgling Youth Group, an outgrowth of young volunteers at CACC's Snack Bar and Food Pavilion at Wheatland Music Festival, and concerned about a vital and healthy future in our Great Lakes, have made some great organic changes to the Snack Bar, and their artwork and writing have been featured in The CACC News. We look to see more of their inspiring leadership this coming year.
- Kathryn Barnes, CACC Director, designed our beautiful new CACC brochure.
- CACC co-sponsored an international forum in Dearborn, with Canadian and U.S. speakers on nuclear energy and its cheaper, safer alternatives.
- CACC sponsored Mary Olson, Staff Biologist at Nuclear Information and Resource Service, on a fall speaking tour in Michigan, on current national radioactive waste issues.
- CACC remains an intervener before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on the proposed Fermi 3 reactor.

Happy New Year

from the

CACC Directors

Victor, Annie, Phill, Lucia, Otetwin,
Kathryn, Kenneth, Joseph, Stas, John,
Gretchen, Connie and Bill!

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Goals for 2012

Among our goals for 2012 - CACC plans to do more outreach, especially to young people, with an eye to protecting the health of the Great Lakes e.g., toward lessening our toxic footprint - including a focus on mining, agricultural, industrial and energy issues. We plan greater collaboration with like-minded groups on these and other vital watershed issues and look to facilitate greater use of the Great Lakes Health Banner to give visibility to regional environmental health issues. Since gaining new board members with technological, creative and communication skills, we hope to see their talents showcased in both CACC's newsletter and website: <http://www.caccmi.org/> -and other ways, as well.

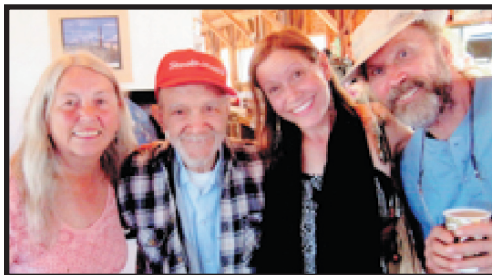
Thank You and an Invitation to Join CACC's Work

CACC gives heartfelt thanks to you, our volunteers, members and donors. Your critical support allows us to do important work for our watersheds, throughout the year. Special thanks go to our much-appreciated Webmaster, Pam Warren; Angie De La Rosa, Designer of The CACC News; Josie Jubb, who has maintained our membership list; Joseph Badura, who leads the CACC Canvass in Lansing and our Wheatland Heroes: Chef Extraordinaire, Connie Beauvais and Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Snooks.

We invite you to join us in 2012, as we make plans and continue this critical work to protect the health of our watersheds and communities - not just for today, but for far into the future. We are entrusted with protecting these life-giving waters, and there is much to be done. Join us with your contributions of ideas, time and funding. What we do now together, will have a profound effect on the future of the Great Lakes.

Happy Birthday Harold Stokes!

Thank you for all you do to protect life on Mother Earth!
From your CACC friends.



Above: Gretchen Michaels, Harold Stokes, Carolyn Rames, Gary Michaels

Right: Sally Schemanski, Harold Stokes

Photo credits: Sally Schemanski



CACC's ECO - Calendar

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

Report from HEAL – Huron Environmental Activist League CACC's Chapter in Alpena

The **TRAIN ACT** is the worst air pollution bill to ever reach the U.S. House floor and pass. It passed the house on the 23rd of September. While the original version of the bill would have been extremely harmful to human health and the environment, the bill that passed with its additional amendments is an *entirely different and much more deadly beast*. It is the most destructive air pollution bill to ever pass the House in the 40 years since President Nixon signed the CLEAN AIR ACT into law.

The health standards that the TRAIN Act will prevent are long overdue and would save tens of thousands of lives every year, once they are implemented. Blocking the standards for Cross-State Air Pollution and Mercury and Air Toxics for just one year would result in up to **25,000 lives lost**; more than **11,000 heart attacks**; more than **120,000 asthma attacks**; over **12,200 more hospital and emergency room visits**; and many hundreds of thousands more days of missed work or school. And the bill's lengthier minimum periods of delay (15 & 19 months) would result in up to 33,450 premature deaths. The real toll likely will be much higher, since the legislation allows indefinite delays in these vital public health safeguards.

It should be noted, that the source for these figures was obtained by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency from The National Academy of Sciences. It seems that the U.S. Representatives that signed the compact in order to follow the leader in the way they vote, have stated that the reason they voted for the TRAIN ACT - as well as H.R. 2250 (Hazardous Waste Incineration Bill) and another 6,500 premature deaths per year - and H.R. 2681 (Cement Delay Bill) and another 2,500 premature deaths per year and the additional thousands of heart attacks, asthma attacks, emergency room and hospital visits - was because of the use of bad science by The National Academy of Sciences.

An Interstate Compact is the source of the anti-environment record of the majority party in Congress. It started out as the "Health Care Compact," but somehow lost its way. Signing on to this compact took away the right of this majority to, more or less, think for themselves and, apparently, gave them no choice but to follow the leader. It is known that some regret signing this compact, but are locked into it. Too bad it did not include an expiration date.

Bill Freese, Director

Huron Environmental Activist League

Comments Due To Stop Reactor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is taking comments until Jan. 11, 2012, on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for a proposed new nuclear reactor in Monroe. This is a costly (\$12 billion, conservatively!) and unneeded, untried reactor, for which Michigan residents will be guinea pigs. It would add to the thermal, chemical and radioactive burden in Lake Erie, pollute our communities, and add to our long-term nuclear waste legacy. Comments, due January 11, can be emailed to: Fermi3.COLEIS@nrc.gov and include Docket ID NRC20080566 in the subject line. More information can be found at: <http://www.caccmi.org/> - A hard copy or CD of the Fermi 3 Draft EIS can be requested from Jessie M. Muir, NRC Env. Project Manager, by phone: 301.415.0491 or Email: Jessie.Muir@NRC.gov or downloaded at: <http://nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr2105/v1/index.html/>

Great Lakes and Nuclear Waste

Several Canadian towns that sit near Lake Superior or Lake Huron (among them Wawa, Schreiber, Saugeen Shores) are contemplating hosting a permanent deep geological repository for all of Canada's irradiated fuel. Also, Elliot Lake, a community already devastated by uranium mining, is considering this option. In addition, a draft EIS report is due out soon, for a proposed deep geological repository near Kincardine, Ontario, for so-called "low" and "intermediate" nuclear waste from 20 Ontario reactors. In the U.S., Wisconsin's Wolf River Batholith is now a major contender for a deep geological repository for U.S. irradiated fuel. Updates on waste issues will be filed at: <http://www.caccmi.org/> and also Northwatch at: <http://northwatch.org/>.

Sweet Victory on GMO Sugar Beets!

The Center for Food Safety <http://truefoodnow.org/> (free to join, with great updates) reports that a federal court has ordered a first-ever destruction of a genetically modified organism (GMO) - sugar beet seedlings - and stated that the plantings violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because potential environmental, health, and socioeconomic impacts of growing GE sugar beets were never analyzed. GMO crops have been shown to have serious health effects on humans, and have resulted in greater use of pesticides due to growing insect resistance.

Calendar of Events:

January 20, 6:30–8:00 p.m, Climate Change Town Hall Discussion, Blau Auditorium, U of M, 701 Tappan Street. See: <http://erb.umich.edu/blog/2011/11/17/climate-risks-and-choices-full/>

January 28, 8–5, Northern MI Small Farm Conference, Grayling High School, Grayling, MI See: <http://smallfarmconference.com/>

See our online calendar for more events: <http://www.cacmi.org/plans.cgi>

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