

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

www.caccmi.org

Highlights of the May 19 GMM Meeting

Gretchen Michaels, CACC Director

Efforts to protect Michigan's natural resources have come "full circle," according to Jim Olson, environmental lawyer and keynote speaker at the May 19 General Membership Meeting (GMM) at Circles Pines Center in Delton, Michigan. Jim gave an informative talk about the history of environmental law in Michigan from the 1970s to the present, citing cases that have set important precedents, including a case involving CACC in 1978.

I was proud to hear of CACC's beginnings. Annie Hunt told the story of how she and husband, Phill, joined with the Hartzlers and other area residents to research, collect data, and hire Jim Olson to stop a helicopter from spraying the pesticide Dimilin to kill gypsy moths on the Hunt's organic farm. The positive impacts of their action still affect us all today -- the case was won, the pesticide use was halted, and CACC was founded.

Now, here we were again with Jim Olson, coming full circle. This time Jim, along with members of Michigan Land Air Water Defense, came to inform CACC's board and members of a lawsuit aimed at stopping fracking on public lands in Michigan. (Fracking is a procedure used by oil and gas companies to access natural gas that requires massive amounts of water, uses hundreds of toxic chemicals, and endangers water quality and public health.)

The group seeks to hold the state accountable to the state's public trust doctrine, which requires certain natural resources to be maintained for the public. CACC appreciates Jim's decades of work and wish him stamina and wisdom in his courtroom battles!

Another highlight of the GMM was an update from Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear (www.beyondnuclear.org) and CACC member Kay Cumbow on serious problems at the Palisades nuclear plant in southwest Michigan and nuclear waste concerns around the Great Lakes.

As always, our potluck was delicious, the auction was lots of fun, and the board of directors for 2013-2014 was deter-



Jim Olson.

Photo credit: Kay Cumbow.

mined. Board members Ken Reffior and Otetwin Schrubbe stepped down due to college classes and work schedules. Both intend to remain active CACC members. Tina Kahn joined the board. The rest of the board remains the same. We all look forward to a progressive and energetic new year!

Come See Us at Wheatland, Sept. 6 – 8!

Gretchen Michaels, CACC Director

CACC "kitcheneers" are working on plans for Wheatland 2013. It's been 36 years since our volunteers first fed crowds on the grounds of the Wernette family farm. As the music festival gets better and better, so does the CACC cafeteria, café and snack bar. This is always our biggest fundraiser – come see us!

We need members, friends, and newcomers to staff our kitchen, September 6 – 8. Volunteers are needed for cooking, serving, doing dishes, and cleanup. By volunteering for a six hour shift, you help us continue to protect the Great Lakes.

CACC will provide a free meal during your shift. After your shift (breakfast, lunch, dinner or snack bar), CACC will reimburse the majority of the cost of your festival ticket and give you a ½ price food pass for the entire weekend. WE NEED LOTS OF HELP— WE PROVIDE LOTS OF FUN!!

To volunteer or to find out more, contact Kathy Snooks at snooks@ironbay.net or 906-249-1020 or check the CACC website at www.caccmi.org.



CACC Kitchen at Wheatland, 1987.

Photo credit: CACC historical archives.

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"Friends" Help Protect Our Air, Water, the Environment and Public Health

Bill Freese, Representative, Huron Environmental Activist League (HEAL)

As time goes by I have come to realize that you almost have to have a scorecard to keep up with today's environmental events. When I first became a member of HEAL, it did not take long to find out who was a friend and who was a foe. On the "foe" side, we had the governor and his anti-environment director and his crew of "yes men" from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Lafarge (owner of the cement kiln we're fighting) and even some of the higher level people at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The "friends" were the Dan McGeens, Art Cadens, John Vicks and Mark Stephens and those like them at DNR who helped. For doing their job too well, they could expect to be promoted to a desk somewhere in a corner of the agency, demoted, muzzled, or removed from their job. Many of them, dedicated, but extremely frustrated, retired early and left the DNR.

The names have changed, but fortunately there are still many friends. They are the people of Earthjustice who are in court representing groups like HEAL, Downwinders at Risk, Friends of the Hudson, Desert Citizens Against Pollution, Montanans Against Toxic Burning, PenderWatch & Conservancy, Cape Fear River Watch, and the Sierra Club. These environmental groups, like CACC, are committed to protecting our air, water, environment and the health of all its people. To do this, the groups have to convince those that have been elected or appointed or whose job it is to protect us to do their job.

In April, Earthjustice, representing the environmental groups above, asked a federal court to hold off on revisions (amendments) EPA made to air quality standards earlier this year for cement manufacturers. The revisions would give the cement industry two extra years to comply with requirements to reduce pollution from their manufacturing processes. Earthjustice argued that the revisions would delay emission reductions and weaken standards meant to decrease emissions of soot, mercury, lead, benzene and other toxic pollutants. The effect of the delay alone would be 1,900 to 5,000 avoidable deaths.

If a stay on the revisions is granted, the cement industry will need to comply with the new requirements by September 2013, not two years down the road. We hope the "friends" will win this time.

Safe Energy Groups, Citizens call for Shutdown of Unsafe Reactor

Kay Cumbow, CACC Member

This May, safe energy groups and area residents called for closure of the problem-plagued, aging Palisades nuclear reactor, located in southwest Michigan, on the shores of Lake Michigan. In May, the plant was closed temporarily due to a continued water leak from a tank that caused seepage into the control room and leakage of several thousand gallons of contaminated water into Lake Michigan. More problems surfaced in June, with the discovery of a leak in the roof of the plant's control room.

The plant, which began commercial operation in 1971, *(Continued on next page)*

Making Sustainability Work

Tanya Cabala, CACC Newsletter Editor

This won't be news to those who've been at the forefront of the environmental movement, but a new approach to implementing sustainability is slowly taking root at the community level. This increasingly popular approach to "living green" is called Permaculture. It is focused on designing systems to provide for essential human needs without causing pollution or exploitation. The term is a combination of "permanent" and "agriculture," as the primary focus is on food production.

Stephen Niezgodka, of Montague, Michigan, a long-time practitioner of Permaculture, is working with a local farmer to organize a weeklong workshop (August 16 – 24) in his hometown on the topic later this summer. According to Stephen, "Permaculture applies to a family, a garden, a homestead, a community and a region. It is about plants, animals, buildings and infrastructures, but more importantly is also about the relationships created between these things by the way they are placed in the landscape."

Some of the topics (and "hands-on lessons") include building swales, ponds, trellises, and fences, how to design homes for energy conservation, forest gardening and aquaculture, identifying useful plants, and building cooperative community networks and financial systems. The workshop will be taught by nationally known instructors Peter Bane and Keith Johnson, editors of the "Permaculture Activist."

Visit www.schollfarms.com for more information.

(Safe Energy article continued from previous page) was relicensed for another 20 years in 2007, despite being the most embrittled reactor in the U.S., according to the federal regulatory agency, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). If subjected to cold lake water in an emergency situation, the embrittled reactor could shatter like hot glass. Owner/operator Entergy has also failed to address several serious safety issues that they had promised to address when they purchased Palisades from Consumers Energy in 2007. Often listed on the NRC Watch List, the plant has been closed for repairs ten times just since January, 2011.

See www.beyondnuclear.org/home/2013/6/9/palisades-action-needed.html to learn citizen involvement opportunities associated with the Palisades plant. Beyond Nuclear advocates for a sustainable, benign and democratic energy future. The group has been actively involved in addressing issues related to nuclear power in the Great Lakes.

The Sustainable Garden and Kitchen

This column celebrates healthy soil, seeds, and a local harvest. In a world wired for fast food and chemically treated fruits and vegetables imported from fields afar, we honor the patient work of the gardener, the farmer and the imaginative cook.

This recipe comes from CACC director and Chef Extraordinaire, Connie Beauvais. Connie has been cooking professionally since 1978 and has worked at delis, restaurants, and catering companies. She has also organized the menu and food for CACC's Kitchen at Wheatland for several years. Connie is the owner of "Lettuce-Duet," a personal chef and catering company.



Connie Beauvais

Photo credit: Kay Cumbow.

Gazpacho Soup is a refreshing garden soup originally from Spain, made with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and onions, chopped up raw, a mix of herbs and spices and served cold. A great treat for a hot summer day! This soup serves 12, is mildly spicy, and will last seven to ten days in the refrigerator.

Ingredients

4 cups tomato puree	2 zucchini
6 cups cold water	2 celery stalks and leaves
3 green onions	1 tablespoon garlic
¼ cup red onion	½ cup fresh parsley or cilantro
1 green chili pepper	¼ tablespoon olive oil
2 cups green peppers	¼ cup white vinegar
4 cups tomatoes	3 tablespoons salsa sauce
2 cucumbers	1/3 cup lemon juice

Spices

2 teaspoons basil	1 teaspoon white pepper
½ teaspoon salt	½ teaspoon dill weed
2 teaspoons Spike	1/8 teaspoon cayenne
1 teaspoon tarragon	3/4 teaspoon cumin
1 teaspoon oregano	1 tablespoon tamari
1 teaspoon black pepper	

Directions: Slice green onions. Chop tomatoes, red onion and green peppers. Mince chili pepper. Remove seeds from the cucumbers and zucchini and cut into 1/4 inch chunks. Chop celery and mince celery leaves. Mince garlic. Chop parsley. Mix all ingredients together. Chill for at least two hours before serving. Water may be added if the soup is too thick. Jalapeño peppers can be added for more kick.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

August 16-18. Help Celebrate Circle Pines 75th Jubilee! For details or to get involved, see info@circlepinescenter.net or call 269-623-5555.

August 16-24. Permaculture Workshop, Montague, MI. To register or for more information, see www.schollfarms.com or contact Stephen Niezgoda at wmparmaculture@gmail.com or 231-215-5249.

September 6-8. Volunteer at CACC's Food Pavilion at Wheatland Music Festival! Help CACC protect our watersheds! Great food, music, and fun! To learn more, contact Kathy Snooks at snooks@ironbay.net or 906-249-1020.

Visit the CACC website www.caccmi.org for an update/action alerts on current Green Energy/Nuclear Issues.

Check out CACC's online
ECO-Calendar at
www.caccmi.org/plans.cgi
for more events and volunteer opportunities.

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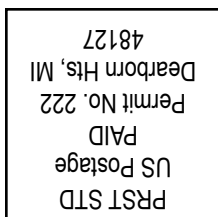
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