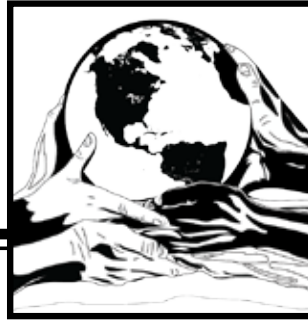


CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

<http://caccmi.org>

In The News

Snyder Appoints Former BP Exec to head MDEQ

Governor Rick Snyder appointed former BP America Executive Heidi Grether as director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Grether was General Manager for Gulf Coast External Affairs during the response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill. <http://ow.ly/RlhZ3030bYo>

BP Whiting Refinery spills Wastewater into Lake MI

BP notified the Indiana Department of Environmental Management that it discharged 8,932 pounds of total suspended solids (TSS) on August 1st 2016; it is allowed to discharge only 5,694 pounds per day. A test on August 2nd revealed TSS had risen to 26,621 pounds. TSS are particles of industrial waste in the water that can be trapped in a filter. BP's wastewater treatment plant is required to filter industrial byproducts out of water used in oil refining operations before it is discharged back into Lake Michigan. <http://ow.ly/AcIE3030cDP>

EPA data shows toxic PFCs in two large Michigan public water systems

Unregulated pollutants linked to thyroid disorders and childhood developmental issues were found in two large Michigan public water supplies. The city of Ann Arbor and Plainfield Township (near Grand Rapids) are the only Michigan utilities detecting levels of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) so far. Officials have not determined sources for either. There is suspicion a closed landfill may be the source in Plainfield Township. <http://ow.ly/tKyq3030eoT>

Port Huron Man cleans local Riverbanks Joshua Radhs, founder of Michigan Clean Up Our River Banks, is determined to clean as much as possible of the St. Clair, Black, Pine, and Belle Rivers (and Mill Creek) in Michigan's St. Clair County. He began by walking out his front door to the St. Clair River. He will work through the month of September 2016. Radhs will have to contend with the legendary Glass Hill, a former dumpsite on the Black River. <http://ow.ly/CJ6Z3030iTe>

Illinois DNR to use Alligator Gar against Asian Carp

Biologists are restocking alligator gar in several states where it disappeared about a half-century ago, partly in the hope that it will be a weapon against Asian carp, an invasive species that has been swimming almost unchecked toward the Great Lakes for decades. The alligator gar is the largest fish native to Illinois. It is a prehistoric species that has not been documented in the state since 1966, and was officially declared extinct in the state in the 1990's. <http://ow.ly/WjnN3030cQG>

CACC River Cleanup gets the Goods!

CACC is thrilled to have partnered with Buckley's Mountainside Canoes for another River Cleanup! Part direct action, part family canoe trip, our annual effort to remove litter from the Chippewa River was a complete success yet again. It rained so hard we would have been dryer had we jumped in the river, but we still managed to recover a huge pile of garbage including a table, a barstool, a smashed up kiddie pool, the obligatory tire, and various other miscellaneous. Not bad for three hours in three canoes and a kayak! We might keep the barstool, and one of our volunteers even scored a vintage jean jacket; proving the river is kind and gives back to those who help her. Big thanks to the cleanup crew and big thanks to Buckley's!



The haul. Pictured: Secretary Panda B. Dewey with daughters Evie and Jo. Not pictured: Ashley Granger, Jacob Sindle, Hendrix Briggs, Abe Dewey, Rex Raymond, Wes Raymond. Photo by: Wes Raymond

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CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council, the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health, Beyond Nuclear, Freshwater Future, and the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association.

Seed Saving Workshop Cultivates Ideas

CACC was proud to co-host a seed saving workshop featuring Ben Cohen of Small House Farms. Ben is a practicing herbalist who travels the state to teach people about wild and native plants, and how to work towards independence from outside food sources. Ben has grown seed crops for Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company, the botanical explorer Joseph Simcox, and he is also an active part of the Gardens Across America project where he serves as a grower and regional coordinator. His presentations are animated by the joy and primal delight he takes in saving and propagating seeds.



*Ben describes an exotic seed
Photo credit: Jennifer Raymond*

Gardening is rooted in self-determination. Teaching people how to renegotiate their relationship with food through their own independent agricultural practice is a primary objective in CACC's overall approach to social ecology and Earth liberation. We are thrilled to be able to present this and other similar programs throughout the communities we serve. These programs help people re-empower themselves and their communities by providing accessibility to healthy food and alleviating reliance on destructive industrialist food systems.



*Ben expresses delight at seed saving
Photo credit: Jennifer Raymond*

Ben is a community builder. We saw community built before our very eyes as attendees, meeting for the first time, swapped contact info and shared growing plans. He brought a supply of seeds to share that were well received by an energized audience; all eager to reskill, and to join the ancient symbiosis between the human species and the menagerie of plants who produce our food. Visit smallhousefarm.com to learn more!

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

From the Admin's Desk

Vote – But Stop Watching Television

CACC Administrator – Wes Raymond

We have a really great lineup in this issue, so I'm going to refrain for the most part. Rest assured the admin's desk is well stocked with the usual amount of sardonic reflection on global ecocide.

Voting. I know it's hard to feel enthusiastic about the national level cirque des guerres, but it really does matter to your immediate biotic community who your drain commissioner is. So you listen to a little Pete Seger to psych yourself up, and you go vote. (Banks of Marble got me through the primaries.) All I'm saying is – If the owls, salamanders, ferns, mighty redwoods, and salmon could vote, they probably would – but I can hardly get a dog to watch TV for more than a minute. That means something.

I'd like to introduce Susan Harshfield. Susan is considering becoming editor of CACC News, after she finishes a couple other projects. She is a writer, researcher, ruthless autodidact and chemical un-enthusiast. She wanted me to let everyone know that the following piece is "fluff"... but I think it's just great.

On Tele-Phony and Disconnectivity

Susan Harshfield

Prior to the telephone, Morse code expedited our spoken sentiments. Reducing language to a series of dots and dashes was a venue through which the rate of globalization grew exponentially. But this convenience quickly caused a market leading to its own obsolescence; we needed something better. After much trial and error, science gave us our telephones and the ability to connect, live, to another person anywhere.

Here's the problem. Commercial use, over time, has given way to a necessity to be continuously connected to every human we know. We make phone calls instead of sending birthday cards or visiting family on holidays. "Calling home," has become an equitable concept to a face-to-face interaction. We hold no reverence for this technological wonder and our new-found communication capabilities. We take our connectivity entirely for granted, and in turn, we've essentially trained ourselves to live inside our minds, stay inside our homes, and hear nothing but our very own voice.

A reaction to hearing someone's news (regardless of content) is not the same over the phone as it is in person. Any emotion is altered by its environment. Of course phones are indisputably necessary in our commerce-driven world, but unlike the human condition, business is not an emotional endeavor. Interpersonal communication, however, is very uniquely defined by emotion. Without visual context, such as gesticulations or a facial expression to read, we are not providing or receiving the entire message.

Making our lives simpler has caused us to oversimplify our own minds. The conscious choice to phone a neighbor in lieu of knocking on a door and committing to live, conscious interaction has reduced our spectrum of sensitivity, and we could not seem to care less. Our relationships require more effort than just speaking; we are more than talking heads. Telephones are not likely subject to obsolescence, but it's becoming very clear that we still need something better.

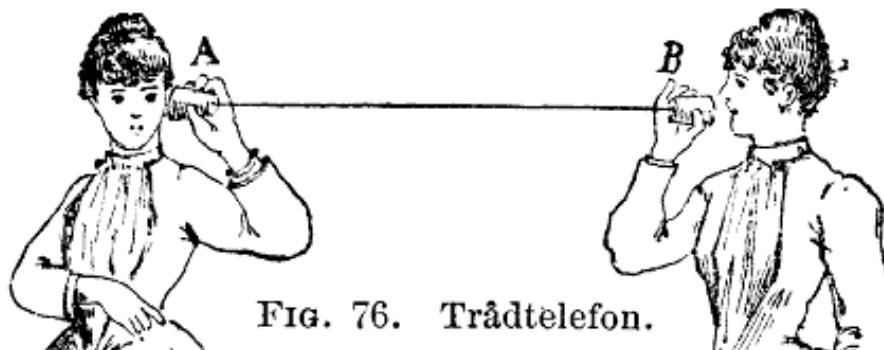


FIG. 76. Trådtelefon.

Climate Change in Michigan

CACC Board Secretary - Panda B. Dewey

Many people accept that climate change is a real thing. They agree that we, humans, have done things that have greatly increased the temperature of our planet much too quickly. These same intelligent people that agree this is happening, are also doing nothing about it; they are denying the fact that it's happening simply by doing nothing. "Oh, yeah, ice is melting 3,000 miles away, but Michigan still has winter, so we're fine for now." This mindset isn't going to work out for long.

I recently had the pleasure of attending our general meeting and listening to Mr. Peter Sinclair talk about climate change. This man has spent years studying the human effect on our planet. Honestly, I wanted to cry after hearing what he had to tell us. I am nearly thirty years old, and just in my short span of years I have noticed so many of the things he was telling us about.

Have you noticed that in the past twenty years, our levels of snow in the winter have decreased? Have you also had the thought in the back of your head that the summers seem just a bit hotter? The sun seems to burn you just a little more? You're not just getting old. Your memory is not going. This is really happening.

Our levels of precipitation in summer storms are going to increase. You may think, "That's great! We need the rain!" Yes, we do need the rain, but we need good steady rain that will soak the ground. The storms will increase in severity as the years go on. That means flash floods, tornadoes, top soil washing away with every storm, and harsher blizzards in the winter. Detroit was already flooded in 2014 by such storms. This flash flooding and top soil removal contributes to the giant toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie.

If we start right now, if we all did our part today to keep our world safe, by mid-century Michigan would have a climate similar to Indiana. That is if we started working on this problem last week. By the end of the century, our climate will be similar to Missouri's. That was the scenario if we would have started last week. We didn't.

If humans continue to ignore this problem as they have been, by mid-century, our climate is going to be just like Missouri's. I don't know about you, but I don't think our wetlands would be quite the same if we started to feel like the southwest here. If we are feeling like Missouri by mid-century, then that means that by the year 2100, just 84 years away, Michigan will feel like Texas. 105 degrees in the shade, Texas. Our growing seasons will be earlier, and drier. We will have to bring more and more water from the lakes to grow our crops. We'll run them dry.

The next time you wonder if you should turn on the air conditioning or open a window, please, please think about everything you love about our great state. Think about winters as a kid when the snow was so deep you could get lost digging tunnels in it. For your grandchildren, and their grandchildren, I beg you. Look into renewable energy. Solar, wind and water power can help save what is left of our climate, but there's no going back now. We have started something that cannot be stopped. We can pause it right here if we all pull together.

Volunteer Effort produces New Logo, CACC Shirts

We need to do a major shout out to some of our volunteers and collaborators. Special thanks to Nick Link for updating the logo! Nick is one of our longtime Wheatlanders. He shot the time-lapse footage of the CACC Fundraiser Kitchen we all love so much.

Also special thanks to Bohemia Printing for printing the new and improved CACC t-shirt! They are some old friends of ours, located in L'Anse, Michigan. Check out Amy and Jeff's shop at www.bohemiaprinting.com! Credit for the font choice and lettering placement goes to



them! Thanks a bunch, Bohemia Printing!

Coffee mugs and water bottles too! While we understand the fate of the biosphere does not rest on updating our 501.c.3 logo gear, these durable goods are intended to last through decades of reuse, thereby deconstructing the user's personal relationship with disposable culture, while also undermining capitalism and its relentless demand for destructive industrial processes. Enjoy!

*Photos top to bottom:
Nick Link Photo credit: James P.M. Lee
The new design! Photo credit: Bohemia Printing*

Sustainable Garden and Kitchen

Oh, Honey!

CACC Volunteer Laureen Horan



Ahh, September. The month that marks the end of summer and the beginning of fall, which inevitably leads us into our chilly, Michigan winters. Some people find the month of September to be depressing, as the temperature drops and all of the beautiful green forestry dulls to a frosted brown. Many others, including myself, know that September is the time to enjoy spending hours outside without sweating immensely and suffering through the muggy heat. It's the time to appreciate nature, and not just the beautiful autumn colors the plant life phases through, but also to appreciate the wonderful things nature provides for us. September is National Honey Month, and sometimes we don't realize the many benefits that can be received from honey. That being said, we also forget to recognize how important bees are to human life.

First of all, honey works wonders on the insides of our bodies. Honey contains flavonoids, which are antioxidants that can help to reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease. Additionally, "All honey is antibacterial, because the bees add an enzyme that makes hydrogen peroxide," said Peter Molan, director of the Honey Research Unit at the University of Waikato in New Zealand. Honey also curbs coughs, specifically buckwheat honey. In a study of 110 children, a single dose of buckwheat honey was just as effective as a single dose of dextromethorphan in relieving night time cough and allowing the proper amount of sleep. Also, topical application of honey has been shown to be as effective as conventional treatment with silver sulfadiazene (your typical burn cream). Conclusively, honey's antibacterial qualities are particularly useful for the skin and can also be moisturizing and nourishing! Personally, I love to use a honey and brown sugar mixture on my skin. It's an excellent exfoliant, and the honey leaves my skin feeling soft and gives me a lovely glow.

Keep in mind, if you're seeking the benefits of honey, then you need raw, organic (and preferably local) honey. Avoid processed and filtered honey, you want the real deal! Honey's antibacterial properties have also been shown to help acne and keep the elasticity of the skin intact. Honey can also be used to replace sugar in food in many instances. According to MOMables.com, 1 teaspoon of sugar is equivalent to 1/4 teaspoon of honey.

Now that we've established only a few of honey's numerous benefits, let's take the time to appreciate the source of honey itself- the humble bumble bee. Obviously, it's no fun to get stung by a bee, and you have to take extra precaution around bees if you have an allergy to them. However, losing bees forever would hurt the human race much more than just a sting. It may be hard to comprehend the importance of bees, but it's crucial to recognize how much bee-pollinated food we consume every day. According to the Honey Bee Conservancy, 1 out of every 3 bites of food comes from a bee-pollinated plant. Without bees, the entire concept of pollination would be eliminated from our eco-system, and the lack of pollination would result in the absence of hundreds of crops- including apples, blueberries, cherries, pears, olives, broccoli, carrots, celery, gourds and melons, and even peanuts and sunflowers... the list goes on and on. As if that's not troubling enough, the inexistence of bees would lead to the loss of \$15 billion to the farm and food industry, which would cause the expense of food to rise exponentially.

You may not realize it, but bees are starting to decrease dramatically in population, and there's not any specific reason as to why. A very recent New York Times article, entitled "Our Bees, Ourselves" by Mark Winston expounds upon the benefits of bees and points out that 1/3 of all bee colonies have vanished in the last decade. Some of the causes as to why bees are disappearing can be herbicides, pesticides, pathogens, parasites, global warming, and poor nutrition. On that note, what can we do to help the bees as much as they help us? There are many ways! The best ways are to plant a bee friendly garden full of flowers (try to plant Michigan-native flowers!) or to start your own beehive. If you don't have the time or resources to properly care for the bees, consider sponsoring a beehive project. Don't forget that every time you purchase local, organic honey you are contributing not only to your local economy, but also to the bees!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

September 25 Cold Cellars for Four Season Storage – Traverse City. Take your food storage to the next level. Presented by Crosshatch Center for Art & Ecology. \$30 info: Jeannie@crosshatch.org

October 8 Fall Treasure Hunt at Grand River Fen Preserve – Otherwise closed to the public. Rare chance to hike prairie fen, upland restored prairie, and oak savanna! Call The Nature Conservancy at 517-316-2260 by October 3.

October 20-23 Without Borders Conference – Kalamazoo. Collectively conjure, theorize, decolonize, and map a future we can all thrive in. Registration fees on sliding scale. <http://ow.ly/e25c303fmZv>

November 4 Great Lakes to Great Lakes – Ann Arbor. Dr. Doran discusses Great Lakes conservation strategies from his travels to Lake Tanganyika in Africa. Space is limited. Call The Nature Conservancy at 517-316-2260 by October 31st.

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