

Protecting Communities and Special Places



e-Newsletter April 24, 2014



**"At some point in my lifetime--and certainly in my children's--
natural gas will become more scarce and expensive.
The only question is, what comes next."**

**-Russel Gold, The Boom
Senior Energy Reporter for The Wall Street Journal**

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(ACT NOW if interested,
registration ends at noon
TODAY)

CCAN Strategy Call on
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What Does Your Ideal Energy Future Look Like?

by Brooke Woodside, Managing Editor

After traveling through the highly drilled pan-handles of Oklahoma and Texas two summers ago, a rest stop at a Texas visitor's center revealed something quite unexpected. Informative plaques highlighted the state's energy history, as well as some rather progressive plans for the future. Sure much of their history involved the black gold of the oil fields as well as the "clean-burning" natural gas that we're all too familiar with these days, but their future plans focused on something rather surprising: wind. According to a recent article in Forbes Magazine, the state's renewable energy plans have been incredibly successful as it now generates the most wind energy in the country. Not only has the wind power generated lowered the price of electricity for the entire market, but it also created thousands of jobs and stimulated the local economy. Today, more than 100,000 Texans are employed in the renewable energy sector. Texas achieved this status by implementing a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), which enabled wind corporations and utilities to go above and beyond the state's renewable energy goals for 2015.



We can talk until we're blue in the face about how we don't want fracking, but if not natural gas, then what type of energy do we want to be supporting? Even supporters of natural gas development recognize that it is just another fossil fuel that will eventually become limited and therefore more expensive someday, so it is incredibly important that regardless of what is currently taking place, we do what we can to develop alternative energy that will sustainably lead us into the future (and hopefully give us an early departure from harmful fossil fuels). Enough with the "sacrifice zones" creating devastating

Songs from the Sacrifice Zone II

Fairfield Twp Meeting

Request a Moratorium on Further Drilling of our State Park and Forest Lands

Quote of the Day

Join RDA

SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Missed a week? Find former newsletters [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

LCWA Tire & Trash Cleanup Day

(ACT NOW if interested, registration closes at noon TODAY)

THIS Saturday, April 26 9am-1pm

West Bank of the Loyalsock Creek, along Butternut Grove, Gamble Township

The Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association is working with Clinton County Cleanscapes to help clean up a large amount of the remaining debris left from Hurricane Lee.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

The Chesapeake Climate Action Network's Cove Point Strategy Call

April 28

consequences in one area to benefit another. Enough with the shady business dealings, absurd campaign contributions, and hypocritical profit-driving tactics of the fossil fuel industry. If all this fracking is supposed to "relieve our dependence on foreign oil," then what's with the proposed export facilities?! And when is it ever going to make sense to burn ridiculous amounts of one fuel in order to obtain another with such devastating environmental consequences, let alone to permanently contaminate perfectly good drinking water in order to obtain such a "clean-burning" fuel?

After viewing the Gasland II screening at the Community Arts Center last fall, I signed up with Community Energy, an electricity supplier dedicated to 100% wind and solar power generation. My electric bill really hasn't gone up all that much since I signed on, and it was way more affordable than the \$20,000 personal solar installation I looked into for my house. It honestly feels really good to turn on my light switch or heated mattress pad and know just what source of energy my home is utilizing. This just goes to show that there are affordable ways to support what you truly believe in. Furthermore, the lofty solar price I was quoted for my house was more than five years ago, so it's guaranteed to have come down quite a bit since then. Apparently, solar panel prices have come down 60% between 2011 & 2012, and they are still coming down, according to [this article](#) in PV Magazine.

Thirty states have implemented renewable energy plans, and these are goals all sides of the political spectrum seem to be able to agree on and work together to achieve. Although the fossil fuel industry would be quick to discredit such findings, studies have shown RPS laws to actually reduce the price of energy. Colorado is another success story as the state's RPS helped support close to 4,000 jobs in the renewable energy sector. Vermont is aiming for 90% of its energy to come from renewable sources by 2050, and is working toward a 20% goal by 2020. The state is currently undergoing a "Total Energy Study" to plan out how best to achieve this goal through a combination of alternative energies (Green Energy Times, 2/15/14). It's time for Pennsylvania to join the majority of our country and take a larger step up to the renewable energy plate. Yes, there seem to be positive and negative aspects of any type of renewable energy development, so it appears best to spread out the load through many energy forms instead of focusing on any one energy source alone. The old adage "everything in moderation" seems to apply to sustainable energy development. And we are doing everything but moderating the development of our natural gas infrastructure. Senator Daylin Leach has introduced a bill for Pennsylvania that would increase the amount of electricity required from renewable sources to 15% by 2023. See the sidebar event to the left of this newsletter for details on "[Clean Energy Lobby Day](#)" to find out how you can support this potential legislation.



The intrusive gas pipeline cutting under Route 87 in Montoursville - It's time for Pennsylvania to take a larger step forward into the renewable energy sector.

MD, VA, DC and Beyond Region-Wide Conference Call

With key federal and state permit deadlines approaching this spring and summer, we need to keep this region-wide movement growing and taking bigger and bolder action to stop Dominion Resources' proposed fracked gas export facility at Cove Point in Southern Maryland.

Throughout the call, you will receive strategy updates and hear from many inspiring leaders.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details and to register for the call.

Clean Energy Lobby Day

April 29

Harrisburg or Your Local Senator's Office

Climate disruption is a huge problem, but we have a solution: invest in homegrown renewable energy that creates jobs for Pennsylvania families and helps to grow an industry. To make that happen we need to let our elected officials know there's strong public demand to invest in clean energy!

Senator Daylin Leach has introduced a bill that would increase the amount of electricity required from renewable sources to 15% by 2023. Even better, it would prioritize solar energy produced in Pennsylvania!

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

Banff Mountain Film Festival Inspires Through Passion

by Brooke Woodside, Managing Editor

A friend of mine had the opportunity to visit Banff last summer and sent me one of the most beautiful postcards I have ever received. After that lovely introduction, I came to find out that the Banff Centre hosts a world-renowned film festival once a year with visits to 40 countries across the globe. The application process to host the festival is a lot more competitive than it was a decade ago, but fortunately the Sierra Club Moshannon Group applied & started showcasing the magic eleven years ago in State College, PA. Lucky for us, the roots were planted and now the festival returns year after year! This year's films were fueled by extremely passionate people artistically showcasing what they truly love and believe in.

In the feature film & award winner, attendees witnessed two young Norwegian surfers surviving a winter somewhere "North of the Sun" in a shack they hand-built from scraps and garbage they found on the beach. What they couldn't utilize, they bundled up & ended up removing (nearly three tons of garbage!) from the area when the winter was through. In "Stand," a stand-up paddleboarder traveled the west coast of British Columbia, visiting with the native people & highlighting just what is at stake if the Enbridge tar sands oil pipeline is constructed. The narrator makes a valid argument that the tourism & fishing industries that have been fueling the economy for decades could be totally wiped out with just one oil spill, and though that cannot be predicted, each tanker ship would have to navigate extremely dangerous waters through the narrow inlets of the Great Bear Rainforest before hitting the open ocean and heading for Asia. In "Streams of Consequence," we met the natives of Patagonia who are fighting the dams that would completely submerge the homesteads they have been thriving in for generations.



"Nordfor Sola - North of the Sun"

Other film selections included: a 71-year-old biologist's very first rappel into a South American canyon to document the age of a prehistoric frog species, the pebble toad; the beautiful story of one woman's life, the "Keeper of the Mountain" (Mt. Everest); powder skiing through the remains of a smoldering forest fire; a very recent women's triumph in the realm of olympic ski jumping; whitewater kayaking, rock climbing and canyoneering adventures; and the grand finale - a very artistic piece featuring totally naked skiers and snowboarders... what a riot!



The State College High School Auditorium was packed with compassionate people who all seemed to love and appreciate nature and the adventure of the great outdoors. Local vendors and organizations showcased information and stimulated conversation. The energy was very positive and uplifting, and I'm glad we were able to be a part of it. Thank you to the Sierra Club Moshannon Group for hosting such an

Shale Advocates Counter-Rally

**May 6th
12-1pm**

Harrisburg

Let's show the media, our legislators, and the general public that not all Pennsylvanians support unrestricted drilling, and that safer, more responsible practices are necessary to protect our fragile forests and trails.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Songs from the Sacrifice Zone II

**Sunday, May 18
4-6:30pm**

Central Oak Heights,
just north of Lewisburg

Cost:
\$5/person
\$10/family

The Sierra Club, Otzinachson Group is hosting it's second annual frack awareness concert. More details can be found [HERE](#).

Save the Date

Tuesday, May 20

Fairfield Twp Meeting
American Legion,
Post 104
Broad Street,
Montoursville

RDA is hosting an informational lecture for the residents of Fairfield Township who will be effected by the Shaheen Well Site. More details to

inspiring event, and to the Banff Center for showcasing such heart-warmingly important passion, talent and creativity.

Keep It Wild Hike - Old Logger's Path - April 19, 2014

It was a beautiful day for a hike! The sun was shining and the air was just brisk enough to keep us semi-cool despite the nearly five hour adventure. We were joined by old friends and new as people took time out of their busy Easter weekend to come and enjoy a nice dose of nature. This section of the Loyalsock Trail was fairly rocky with a number of small stream crossings, but for the most part was rather easy & very enjoyable. About half-way through, part of the group took a shortcut to get back to their family affairs while the rest of us climbed up to vistas overlooking much of the Loyalsock State Forest. Fresh growth was abundant throughout the trail, and enormous rocks dotted the landscape. We passed through some luscious wetlands full of mysterious creatures which peaked our imaginations.



Photo courtesy of Richard Karp



The hike also painted an interesting energy picture. We could see the impacts of two very different sources of energy first-hand. Not far from where we started out, we crossed a clear-cut section of the forest where a pipeline came through. It passed up and over the mountain we were on, straight across a valley, then up and over the neighboring mountain. Though much of the ground floor vegetation had grown back, the trees are most likely gone for good. The pipeline continued in both directions as far as our eyes could see. About an hour and a half further into our adventure, we saw the other side of the energy equation. One of the vistas opened up to a view of windmills dotting the ridge of a nearby mountain. It was refreshing to see them spinning and creating electricity "out of thin air." The windmills are pictured in the banner [up top](#).

Fracking: A Fable

by Barbara Hurd

as featured in "Brevity Magazine," March 3, 2013

for our grandchildren, with apologies

In the past, everything took forever. Rain fell for centuries, and millions of years after that, the ancient Appalachian Basin just west of what is now the East Coast spent even more millennia becoming a sprawling, shallow bowl. And then nothing much happened. Another million years passed. Mountain ranges slowly rose and receded, and continents wandered into each other and eventually the basin began to fill with seawater and for another million years, the surrounding mountains slid wetly down the slopes of themselves and settled into the bottom sludge of the basin.

More tens of thousands of centuries passed while the water sloshed and the undersea mud thickened, and in all that time, no human ever stood on its shores, no blue crab ever scurried in the ooze. There were no witnesses. And even if there had been, who could

follow.

Request a Moratorium on Further Leasing of Our State Park & Forest Lands

[CLICK HERE to take action](#)

Our state forests are rare places that provide respite and recreation for our citizens. The proposed lift on the moratorium of gas leasing will lead to further drilling that will jeopardize fragile ecosystems. Our state forests and parks should be set apart, protected and held in trust for the future.

We need your help to stop additional gas leasing of state park and forest land. We urge you to please take action by sending a message to your legislators so the General Assembly will not open the door to additional leasing.

Join RDA!

We welcome your active participation and are in need of help for special events, publicity, research, and other projects. Contact us for details.

Membership levels:
Adventurer.....\$10
Explorer.....\$20
Woodlander.....\$50
Guardian.....\$100
Naturalist.....\$500
Preservationist...\$1,000

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, RDA relies on donations for the important work we do. In order for RDA to continue its valuable education and advocacy outreach in 2014, please consider a tax-free contribution to our efforts.

have stood the boredom of watching that slow, barely breathing world? The only testimony ever made to that languid time was locked in the mud.

For yet another several million years, it piled up-thick, black, and putrid. Over the next millennia, miniscule creatures evolved: phytoplankton, blue-green algae. They floated in the shallow seas until they died and drifted down to be entombed in the ooze that lay fifty, one hundred, two hundred feet deep.

Then came more mountains moving. A few continents collided, some peaks rose, some valleys sank. Meanwhile, down in the black ooze, remnants of those tiny creatures that had been held in the mud were shoved more tightly together, packed side by side with sludged-in sediment, cemented together, cooked by the heat deep in the earth, and converted into hydrocarbons. Layer after layer of crammed-together particles and silt began to sink under the accumulating weight of the mountains that grew above. Wrung of its moisture, its pliability, its flow, the mud slowly, slowly, over millions of years, turned into gas-rich rock.

And there it lay, miles under the surface, as the old basin above it emptied and rose and more continents meandered into each other and finally the sun dried the Appalachians, which eroded and softened, and three hundred million years after the first mud settled on the bottom of that basin, humans appeared. We developed with lightning speed - geologically speaking -our brains and vision and hands, our fast and furious tools, our drills and ingenuity, and all the while that ooze-become-rock lay locked and impenetrable, deep in the earth, farther than anything, including anyone's imagination, reached, until in the split second that is humankind's history on this planet we pushed a drill with a downhole mud-motor a mile deep and made it turn sideways and snaked it into that ancient rock speckled with evidence of another eon, and a few minutes later we detonated small explosives and blasted millions of gallons of slick water -sand and water and a bit of biocide in case anything was alive down there - into what hadn't seen water or light for four hundred million years.

The shale shattered, the black rock spider-webbed with skinny fissures as the above world inserted its tendrils, and into those tiny rifts we rammed more sand to keep them wedged open wider.

And then-remember the blue-green algae?-the gas that had been locked in that stony underworld for almost four hundred million years suddenly had an exit. It flowed through the intricate shudderings of brand new fissures and up the borehole through the limestone that had been laid down millions of years after the mud, and up through the bedrock just below someone's pasture and out into a world with air and fresh water where we humans, fur-less and in need of fuel to stay warm, exercised our resourceful minds.

And then in another split-second's time-geologically speaking-we drilled another thousand wells, fracked another million tons of stony earth a mile beneath our feet.

And when the slick water was withdrawn from the fissures and small slither-spaces and that prehistoric bedrock was lickety-split forever changed, no one could predict the impact, not even we inventive humans whose arrival on this planet is so recent, whose footprints, so conspicuous and large, often obliterate cautionary tales.

And soon the unpredictable, as always, occurred.

And now, in no time at all, not everything takes forever any longer.

Barbara Hurd is the author of three books of creative nonfiction and two of poetry. Her work has appeared in numerous journals including Best American Essays, The Yale Review, The Georgia Review, Orion, Audubon, and others. The recipient of an NEA Fellowship for Creative Nonfiction, winner of the Sierra Club's National Nature Writing Award, three Pushcart Prizes, and four Maryland State Arts Council Awards, she teaches in the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

RDA Newsletter

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Please note: The RDA newsletter includes reporting on a variety of events and activities, which do not necessarily reflect the philosophy of the organization. RDA practices only non-violent action in voicing the organization's beliefs and concerns.

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Contact RDA with questions and comments using either the address below, by email at responsibledrillingalliance@gmail.com or by phone at 888.332.1244 (toll free).

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