

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

www.caccmi.org

Citizens Clean Up Their Lake

Tanya Cabala, CACC Editor



The White Lake area, on the West Michigan shoreline in northern Muskegon County, was a sleepy, but scenic resort community when it innocently embraced the chemical manufacturing era in the 1950s. The people who lived there appreciated the jobs and newfound prosperity, but ended

up paying a steep price when pollution from the companies damaged White Lake and put the community into a national spotlight as a poster child for pollution, right around the time of Love Canal. Ironically, the company that caused the majority of the damage was the same company responsible for Love Canal -- Hooker Chemical Company.

Fortunately, there were citizens who raised the alarm about the pollution issues, to the dismay of some local leaders and businesses. They were eventually joined by more members of the community, a cleanup was prompted and Hooker Chemical closed down in 1981 after building a vault to contain onsite wastes and installing a purge well system to halt the contamination from entering the lake. Cleanups at other sites began and the community began to heal. But more was needed. In 1985, White Lake was named one of 43 Great Areas of Concern, due to its pollution legacy. In 1992, a community group, the White Lake Public Advisory Council (PAC) formed to focus on finishing up the restoration process. The PAC worked with state and federal environmental agencies to fully characterize the problems, set cleanup goals, and work step by step to finish the job.

In fall 2014, White Lake was officially delisted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Great Lakes Area of Concern, and a huge community celebration took place. Many lessons were learned from this effort. Community was the essential ingredient – it was citizens who raised the alarm and pushed for the final cleanup. It was not easy and it took a long time, but it was worth the effort and it has unified the community in pride and accomplishment. See www.restoringwhitelake.com for more information.

** ACTION ALERT **

River Cleanup, August 16

CACC will be partnering with Buckley’s Mountainside Canoes to clean up trash from the Chippewa River in the city of Mt. Pleasant on Sunday, August 16. We need volunteers!

When garbage collects in a river, the natural forces of erosion begin to break down the materials. Plastics degrade into their components, nearly microscopic polymers. These polymer chains can eventually collect in rotating oceanic currents, called “gyres,” forming the soupiest element of the “Great Oceanic Garbage Patches,” miles long debris vortexes. While collecting litter from a river may feel like a small act in the face of the mounting global environmental crisis, there is in fact no such thing. Every piece of discarded plastic in direct contact with the water cycle is releasing polymers, which will eventually end up in a “garbage patch,” endangering aquatic life that may ingest the tiny particles. The slightest reduction in that release helps to hold the balance that marine life needs to survive. Email “river cleanup” to volunteer@caccmi.org. (We also need mesh bags such as onion sacks to collect trash.)

Volunteer at Wheatland, September 11-13!

Don’t forget, we need your help at the awesome music festival we cook at every year. We hope you will join us in the productive fun, and we look forward to seeing our many returning volunteers. For this and other CACC volunteer opportunities, email a simple “hello” to volunteer@caccmi.org. Our volunteer coordinator will respond.

This spring, do this

Plant a milkweed: You’re helping three species. (Milkweeds, monarchs, and humans.)



Photo credit: www.watershedwildlife.com

Be sure to walk outside, even in less than fair weather. There are secret beauties hidden from those who would wait for a sunny day.

CACC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015

Victor McManemy,
231-709-1566

Ann Hunt,
anniehunt@caccmi.org

John Witucki,
989-529-1704

Stanley Yascolt,
stanleyyascolt@yahoo.com

Phill Hunt,
phunt@caccmi.org

Connie Beauvais,
cacc.connie@gmail.com

Joseph Badura,
josephbadura@caccmi.org

**Bill Freese, *Huron Environmental
Activist League Representative,***
bfreese10@gmail.com

STAFF

Wes Raymond,
Administrator
admin@caccmi.org

Jennifer Raymond,
Volunteer Coordinator
volunteer@caccmi.org

Katie Montini,
Newsletter Coordinator
news@caccmi.org

The **CACC NEWS** is published by
**Citizens for Alternatives to Chemi-
cal Contamination (CACC)**
8735 Maple Grove Road
Lake, MI 48632-9511
Phone: 989-544-3318
www.caccmi.org

Editor: Tanya Cabala,
Great Lakes Consulting

Design: Angie De La Rosa

Printer: Leader Printing & Mailing

CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council, and the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health.

The CACC Newsletter is printed on 30% post consumer use recycled paper.

Update from HEAL

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

The latest news from Earthjustice was in March. They stated that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had granted reconsideration of certain issues associated with small (area) industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers and commercial and industrial solid waste incineration (CISWI) units. Most of the proposed changes are relatively minor, but Earthjustice believes there are a few opportunities to strengthen the rules beyond what they are trying to achieve with our current D.C. Circuit court cases. HEAL decided to join this suit, and will remain involved with Earthjustice on these issues as long as we have a facility, the Alpena plant, that uses the "burn to earn" loophole, which provides a financial incentive for burning its wastes. We hope the new rules will limit what it burns once and for all. We do appreciate the plant's compliance with a consent agreement which will reduce emissions by 90%, but we are still concerned about the regularity of "upsets" at cement plants that result in increased pollution. The incineration and burning of toxic wastes and its effects will always be of concern to us.

ow.ly ?



Shortened links make it easier for readers to copy a link from the printed newsletter into a browser on a computer or mobile device.

In the News

Nuclear reactors on Lake Michigan in trouble: The two most brittle nuclear reactors in the U.S are on Lake Michigan, according to a recent report by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The worst is Point Beach #2, with Palisades, adjacent to Van Buren State Park Beach, coming in at a close second. Steel in a reactor shell is made brittle by constant bombardment of radiation from the reactor core. Reactor emergencies often require the core to be flushed with cold water, and a brittle shell is more likely to crack in such a scenario. This could cause a breach of the plant's containment and release of significant hazardous radioactivity into the environment. More information at: ow.ly/LpITs

Movement on climate change: Pope Francis will release a much anticipated papal encyclical on climate change this summer, calling on the 1.2 billion Catholics in the world to help mitigate the effects of human activity by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and embracing renewable energy. More is at: ow.ly/Lughk

Mining expands in the Great Lakes: New mining activities in ecologically sensitive areas of the Great Lakes Basin continue to be approved in spite of the constant diligent pressure from local activists. Assistance is welcomed. Visit caccmi.org/mining-activism to get involved.

Bioregionalism trends up: "Bioregionalism" is a political, cultural, and ecological system or set of views based on naturally defined areas called bioregions, defined through physical and environmental features, including watershed boundaries and soil and terrain characteristics. Twenty-five years ago, this common sense approach to understanding geography was considered politically radical, if it was considered at all. Now, the spring 2015 issue of *Yes! Magazine* has an overall bioregional tone and contains an article describing the perspective. Hopefully, this is a sign the idea is beginning to gain traction with the people! The article is at: ow.ly/LvLQ5

From the Admin's Desk: Subject Verboten

Wes Raymond, CACC Administrator

In March, the Florida governor's administration ordered its Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ban use of the terms "climate change" or "global warming" in any documents or meetings. After this decree, DEP official Barton Bibler attended a conference where a presenter discussed climate changes. Upon submitting his notes from the conference, Bibler was suspended for two days, and DEP required that Bibler's doctor complete a "medical release form," evaluating him for an unspecified "medical condition and behavior" before he could return to work. In April, the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands banned its staff from even answering emails that mention climate change. State Treasurer Adamczyk sits on the board, and criticized its executive director, Tia Nelson, for working on global warming issues in the past. Tia Nelson is the daughter of Gaylord Nelson, the U.S. Senator who founded Earth Day in 1970. She led the Nature Conservancy's climate change initiative for 17 years.

At the risk of sounding clichéd, this reminds me of George Orwell's classic dystopian novel "1984," particularly chapters 4-6, where Orwell describes "Newspeak," the official party language which removes or condenses words and ideas, thereby controlling thought. To make an idea unspeakable is to make it unusable, and eventually unthinkable. We cannot allow this practice to continue. American "Newspeak" may be a source of workplace confusion and frustrated humor today, but given a few decades' growth, we could lose the words we need to tell stories like the one you just read.

Check out our website for a recipe for "Raw Vegan Mousse," a recipe provided by Jennifer Raymond, CACC's volunteer coordinator. Jennifer is an owner/operator of Rock Road Farm. She operates a two-county community garden system for Mid-Michigan Community Action. She enjoys kayaking, fishing, knitting and tie-dye. The many dishes in her repertoire include a number of delicious vegan meals.

EPA Releases Partial List of Fracking Chemicals

Wes Raymond, CACC Administrator

Hydraulic fracturing, commonly called "fracking," involves pumping a highly pressurized mix of water and proprietary chemicals and other materials into deep shale formations to release trapped oil and gas deposits. There are many concerns about fracking. In particular, accidents are known to happen when the cement casing of wells is not done correctly.

Through a partnership with the industry-run, self-regulated reporting agency "FracFocus," the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a partial list of chemicals in "fracking fluids."

FracFocus provides a partial list of the chemicals injected into 18 wells in Michigan. One example is the well, "State Marion & Riverside 14-36." Located approximately 450 feet from the West Clam River in Missaukee County, this well was reportedly injected with 25,914 gallons of fracking fluids. Among the list of 35 reported substances were approximately 26 gallons of ethylene glycol (antifreeze), about 240 gallons of ammonium persulfate (a common bleaching agent), and around 17 gallons of an undisclosed "proprietary chemical." While the data reveals that the fluid mixture is mostly water, salt and sand, these seemingly small applications of chemical additives can add up to a large amount of potential contamination when huge volumes are used and when we take every one of the wells in operation into account. FracFocus only shows data from wells that are voluntarily submitted to its database. That list currently includes over 94,000 wells in the US.

When the fracking fluids return to the surface, the wastewater or "flowback," is contaminated, no longer usable, and can sometimes contain low level radioactivity from contact with naturally occurring radioactive material deep within the shale formations. In Michigan, the wastewater is contained in steel tanks and then injected in deep underground wells.

Visit www.fracfocusdata.org and choose the "find a well by state" option to begin exploring the available data.

FracFocus 3.0
IT'S ALMOST HERE...

- Expand the public's ability to search records
- Improve data accuracy
- Provide extraction of data in a "machine readable" format
- Include educational information on chemical use, oil & gas production and potential environmental impacts

FIND OUT MORE

Looking for information about a well site near you?
FIND A WELL

Search for nearby well sites that have been hydraulically fractured to see what chemicals were used in the process.

TOTAL WELL SITES REGISTERED 94,716

FAQs

Q What information is contained in the hydraulic fracturing records?
A The following is a list of elements contained in the hydraulic fracturing records viewable on this site and an explanation of what each element means.
D The header of each fracturing record contains the following information:
1. FracFocus data - This is the date on which the

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

June 28, 2015. Grand River Water Festival. Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe Ave., NE, Grand Rapids. Live acoustic and traditional music, along with an environmental meetup. CACC is attending. See www.grandriverwaterfestival.org for more information.

Aug. 1, 2015. Seed Saving. Golden Rule Farm, 11744 Tannerville Road, Kaleva. 1 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$30. Register online: <http://bit.ly/1E7e674>.

Sept. 11-12, 2015. Volunteer at CACC’s Kitchen at Wheatland! Send an email to volunteer@caccmi.org and we will sign you up!

June 7, 2015. CACC General Membership Meeting (GMM) 2015. Mystic Lake YMCA Camp. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special guests: Peter Sinclair, Brad Kallio. Everyone welcome! See www.caccmi.gmm for directions to the camp and more information.

Please keep the CACC NEWS coming to my mailbox!

- \$25 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$20 Student – Fixed Income
- \$50 Organization
- \$250 Lifetime

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Special interests _____

I prefer to have the CACC NEWS Emailed to me.

I prefer to have the CACC NEWS mailed to me.

By requesting the email edition of the CACC News, you will help save trees, and keep CACC’s funds for programs and resources instead of printing and postage.

Support CACC! Be part of the solution! Support healthy, sustainable communities and watersheds!

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____

Please check your expiration date and renew promptly!

Return Service Requested

PRST STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 222
Dearborn Hts, MI
48127

CACC
8735 Maple Grove Road
Lake, MI 48632-9511