

August 2017 News for Conservation

Upbeat News about Renewable Energy:

I'll be going to a conservation meeting on September 18th 9:00-10:30 am at Lindsay Leisenring's home: her address is 2575 White Horse Road, Berwyn, PA 19312. She is our Zone V Conservation Chair. Any of you who would like to come are welcome, as well! We'd love to have you come! Let me know , so she can prepare. Best, Biddie

On July 11, 2017, Lindsay Leisenring wrote:

“The Garden Club of Philadelphia is planning to make our meetings more green by aiming to make every utensil, plate, and napkin reusable, compostable or biodegradable. Last spring, we ordered 20% horticultural vinegar for our spring plant sale and encouraged our members to try it, instead of Roundup, to kill weeds. “

I think these are great ideas. I've started carrying wooded utensils in my pocket book, as they are lighter than my own... My Quaker upbringing invariably kicks in and I find myself cleaning them and putting them back! LOL! I also bought some waxed paper straws after reading how much plastic straws contribute to pollution in the oceans. AS you drink with these straws they break up, unlike plastic (an indication of how biodegradable they are!) I think the benefit of not using plastic more than compensates for the slight degradation. I don't try to reuse these, in fact, I frequently find myself reaching for a second!

I have discovered ways to provide eco-friendly plates, cutlery and cups for hosting lunch for the Herb society. most are available from Amazon, and I'm getting biodegradable cups for both cold and hot drinks from: <http://greenpaperproducts.com>. Thanks for the inspiration, Lindsay and the Philadelphia Garden Club!

I had never heard of 20% cider until this post. The cider in our kitchens is only 5%. So I went onto (of course) Amazon where I found 20% (\$25) & 30% maybe (\$35!) cider. I bought 20% and wham, did it kill the weeds in the gravel on our driveway! So much better than the cider we've used before. It expensive, but wow, does it work. so for now, I'm sticking with 20%. George found out what I paid for it and is now more sparing of its use! He hasn't said not to buy it but I frequently find him outside pulling up the weeds he used to spray! 😊

<https://cleantechnica.com/2017/08/04/clean-renewable-energy-no-longer-novelty-everyday-life>

Another of the many reasons that pipelines are causing problems:

http://lancasteronline.com/sports/outdoors/fracking-is-causing-invasion-of-harmful-non-native-plants-in/article_81308b20-77ba-11e7-b759-3bde084426ab.html

With this article are some stats that I wasn't aware of. In fact I was surprised to read that the author has heard people saying that the only value of recycling is to save space in landfills! It surprised me that there are many out there who don't "get it". Here are some highlights:

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“Recycling is one of the best ways to save energy in the extraction, processing and manufacturing of products and packaging. By decreasing energy use through recycling, the U.S. reduces greenhouse gas emissions by the equivalent of taking over 38 million cars off the road every year....Additionally, recycling is a smart investment in more resilient local economies—by doubling our recycling rate to 75 percent by 2030, we could create 1.1 million new jobs...”

.Only 50 percent of Americans automatically have curbside recycling included alongside trash service, so for the other half of the country, throwing something away is still easier and often cheaper. Composting is only available to 2 percent of U.S. households, even though more than one-third of our discards could be composted. That’s just single-family homes. Business recycling is a huge untapped opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create green jobs.”

<http://www.waste360.com/waste-reduction/recycling-awkward-fifth-wheel-sustainability-party>

Always more detail to the recycling tutorial!

<http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20170811/trash-tutorial-therere-reasons-not-to-recycle-some-containers>

Australians are moving forward to ban restaurant use of plastics, having banned plastic bags.

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/09/world/australia/plastic-tasmania-hobart.html?_r=0

In researching the history of the 2015 Clean Water Act, which this current administration wants to dump and replace with a less regulating law, I found the following web site. It is sobering reading. Pennsylvania is suffering in fracking counties from these exemptions along with countless other violations of common sense.

<http://www.frackfreecolorado.com/oil--gas-exemptions-from-federal-laws.html>

Information on effects of climate change on vegetation,
within text:

“Over the last 50 years, average annual temperatures in the northeastern United States have warmed by about 1 degree Fahrenheit. But crucially for the beetles, the year’s coldest nights — which determine whether they survive the winter — have warmed by as much as 7 degrees Fahrenheit...In biology, that coldest night is more important than average temperatures.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/28/climate/southern-pine-beetles-killing-trees-as-temperatures-rise.html?smid=fb-share>

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This is a TED talk from 2016 by Al Gore. It is the essence of his recent movie. There are some very scary facts, ironically he mentioned a storm in Houston that while astonishing in its scale, has just been "eclipsed" by the most recent disaster. However, there is also much reason for optimism:

https://www.ted.com/talks/al_gore_the_case_for_optimism_on_climate_change/up-next

I received an invitation to attend a Climate Reality Work Shop with Al Gore in Pittsburgh from October 17th to the 19th. Who knows if I'll get a green light to actually go? The last time I received one, I remember thinking that it was way too expensive for my budget. Now it is free, save for paying for travel, room & board.

The invitation has also given me an opportunity to ask for videos from his organization to update us on ways we can be better informed and what we can do individually. If you all would like to try and support a lecture, let me know.

Best Always, Biddie