

Conservation in the News: November 2017

New book available through our Weeders Conservation Library, Green Amendment, written by Maya K. van Rossum the Delaware RiverKeeper, forward by Mark Ruffalo, published 2017 by Disruption Books: Austin Texas, and New York, New York.

Karen Doyle found a reusable bag that comes in a small bag like the one I found but costing less. Very good! It got me started looking for other reusable bags. I found stuff on the Walmart online site: Here is an example: reusable silicon sandwich bags. Look at it, if you find a problem that I haven't thought of let me know!

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Set-of-4-Russbe-Reusable-Snack-and-Sandwich-Bags-Yellow-Statement/488940108#read-more>

Good News! This article discusses the opportunities in clean energy in PA, as well as its growth potential;

<http://www.goerie.com/news/20171109/erie-forum-to-focus-on-clean-energy-jobs>

I have been hearing about "natural burials", in which the body is wrapped with a fabric soaked with bacteria that helps it biodegrade, rather than a coffin and preservative chemicals or cremation, that requires CO2 releasing energy. These articles put an approximate cost benefit, that could go to conservation:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/next/nature/wilderness-burials-may-be-better-for-the-environment-and-boost-conservation/>

<https://www.ecowatch.com/conservation-burials-2508144596.htm>

Nice little piece about the value of saving barns!

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/11/10/time-in-old-barn-well-spent/>

!WOW! Just found this gem in my e-mail. Story by a young woman who decides to learn how to go plastic free. Admittedly, she's just changing her own practices, harder with family. But after a week of concentrated effort, she's hooked:

https://www.buzzfeed.com/krystenpeck/living-plastic-free?utm_term=.chnorPMDPq#.uaQa0RpjRE

I'm impressed by the power of the blog to find information and to assist yourself in monitoring your own behavior and assisting in brainstorming with others about the ways around difficulties. I may try to start one someday....:-)

I've been watching my son, who works for Whole Foods change his habits as he's learning from the rest of the staff there. It's far away (Devon) from our home now, but will be closer when the Exton store gets going. I've justified shopping at the nearer Wegmans as I can buy local organic foods there with comparative ease. However, I'm also aware that it's also easy to be oblivious of all the ways we consume plastic. This article really brings it home as well. I don't think I can happily use tea tree oil on my teeth, next to my beloved tongue without at least a great back-up of Peppermint oil. Brave girl... And, I'll have to learn from a nearby organic pharmacy whether

Conservation in the News: November 2017

bentonite clay is ok and if I have to use that color in my mouth?! Please ?! I'd settle for much more baking soda and less tea tree oil and Peppermint oil, thanks, very much. Who knows if I'll ever persuade some family members to go along. I've been using Tom's toothpaste for a number of years. My husband buys his own "Crest". Now He'll surely think I've lost it when I give up Tom's plastic tube and plastic container for my deodorant. I'd love to be given a choice of the old metal tube versus plastic. I wonder if both have toxic effects or if , like so much else its a question of plastic being "cheap"? Anyone know?

Fossil fuels retain their subsidy but renewables , including electric vehicles take a hit:

<https://newrepublic.com/article/145759/republican-tax-plan-assault-renewable-energy>

Eye glasses require plastic: another reminder of the various reasons not to burn fossil fuels and the effort to reclaim the huge waste in our oceans to produce, among other things: Glasses!

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/indyventure/plastic-waste-pollution-ocean-make-designer-sunglasses-see2sea-catalonia-a8048836.html>

Back story to the claims that fracking isn't harmful... blind eye to Clean Water Act created by The Halliburton Loop-hole:

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16112017/fracking-chemicals-safety-epa-health-risks-water-bush-cheney>

Plastic can now be "upgraded" with a chemical that makes it biodegradable, is cheaper than plastic made from vegetables.

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/circular-economy/opinion/upgrade-the-plastic-dont-ban-or-tax-it/>