

## Conservation News March, 2017

An example of how our efforts reaps great rewards!

Film screening to explore 'giants' of Montana land conservation.

“A handful of local ranchers found themselves worried about the potential for overdevelopment to harm the valley and the Blackfoot River, made famous in Norman Maclean’s 1976 novella, ‘A River Runs Through It’...Now, four decades later, conservation easements protect 2.4 million acres of private land in Montana, MALT says.”

[http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/outdoors/film-screening-to-explore-giants-of-montana-land-conservation/article\\_c2876752-f364-503f-8150-0ff60f5ddf7b.html](http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/outdoors/film-screening-to-explore-giants-of-montana-land-conservation/article_c2876752-f364-503f-8150-0ff60f5ddf7b.html)

Massachusetts working to commit to 100% renewables by 2050.

[http://www.ecowatch.com/massachusetts-renewable-energy-2261007001.html?utm\\_source=EcoWatch](http://www.ecowatch.com/massachusetts-renewable-energy-2261007001.html?utm_source=EcoWatch)

Endangered Species Act under attack:

[http://www.ecowatch.com/gut-endangered-species-act-2261617185.html?utm\\_source=EcoWatch+List&utm\\_campaign=e7a2c761a1-MailChimp+Email+Blast&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_49c7d43dc9-e7a2c761a1-85327165](http://www.ecowatch.com/gut-endangered-species-act-2261617185.html?utm_source=EcoWatch+List&utm_campaign=e7a2c761a1-MailChimp+Email+Blast&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_49c7d43dc9-e7a2c761a1-85327165)

I finally found a copy of an article about recycling that I read last summer and mentioned it. Some asked that I forward it to them, so here it is:

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/jengale/recycle-week\\_b\\_12023014.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/jengale/recycle-week_b_12023014.html)

I went to the GCA Nil and Conservation meeting in Washington D.C Below are important links concerning the threat to our environmental laws:

1. The Congressional Review Act:

[https://www.gcamerica.org/\\_uploads/filemanager/publicationsresource/LU%20115.1%202017.pdf](https://www.gcamerica.org/_uploads/filemanager/publicationsresource/LU%20115.1%202017.pdf)

The League of Conservation Voters Score Card for Congress:

<http://scorecard.lcv.org/>

GCA website, NAL:

There are also great power points on issues like the Maui Dolphins, which are threatened with extinction. A high school senior, Brigitte Harbers, who has been active in protecting them gave this moving talk. She has helped increase the population by approximately 8 animal's. Given the miscible population estimate ( She started with about 55 dolphins counted in the world, now there are estimates of 63.), this amounts to a staggering 15%. Way to go Bridgette! It's posted to the GCA website. Go to NAL, and click on read more for the section on the conference. scroll down to find nay great power points and transcripts.

In addition to most of the links that make great reading on the GCA website, I suggest you read, if you haven't yet, the position papers by GCA regarding Clean Air, Clean Water, Climate Change, National Parks and Public places, Sustainable ... Seeds etc. Transportation. Go to the National Affairs and Legislation link (NAL). Hit that and find scrolling below GCA Position

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Papers. There is also interesting information of the background of these positions. and for those who don't have the time to read all these papers, there is a summary.

I found the " CONSNAL COMPILATIONS 2016" December 2016 - Vice Chairmen Reports to make fascinating reading: Here is one I found extraordinary to read :

### "Nature Helping Us

A "freak" of nature may actually turn out to be a savior. The albino redwood, a ghostlike tree which occasionally sprouts up among the massive trunks in the Coastal Redwood Forest, was always thought to be just a weak relative of the giant specimens. Scientists thought they were stressed because, without the gene which allows them to produce chlorophyll, they were being forced to graft their roots onto nearby trees for nourishment.

But new studies have suggested that the albinism may in fact be caused by what they are doing...sucking up the pollution in the soil and storing it...thereby keeping heavy metals like nickel and copper, away from their healthier relatives and allowing the species to live on! " It's in the section on Forests and Redwoods: pages 15 through 18 of the report. It makes good , optimistic reading to hold one together while reading much of the other reports.

Interesting info on progress in New York and California & Massachusetts toward renewable energy. " New York, California and Massachusetts comprise 20 percent of our nation's population. If these states were considered a country, they would comprise the fourth-largest economy of the world. These states are a beacon to the United States, showing the promise of a sustainable, clean, renewable energy economy. Development of renewable energy not only counters climate change and the adverse health effects of polluted water, air and land, but offers substantial economic benefits to all." ;

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/03/15/another-voice-renewable-energy->

### Bill Walton Uses ESPN to Trash Coal, Push Renewable Energy

This really surprised me:

"The sun, like the ball, is out there, up for grabs," he wrote. "Just think: enough solar energy strikes our Earth every hour to power the entire planet's needs for a whole year. But, like basketball, are we willing to commit and discipline ourselves to harness that awesome power?"

Walton also described himself as a "human solar panel."

"Make no mistake: this is about our survival," he wrote. "Our job as human solar panels, gleaming in the golden light of day, is to educate, illuminate and advocate for things that seem so perfect, and so right, and are quite simply common sense."

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/bill-walton-uses-espn-to-trash-coal-push>

Also in the news:

"Germany's renewable energy push has forced \$30 billion in losses on its biggest utilities"

"A drop in wholesale power prices, driven by the growth in (subsidized) renewable energy, is also squeezing the big power producers. The worst of the restructuring and write-downs may be

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behind them, but it will never return to business as usual for the firms that built their fortunes on coal, gas, and nukes.”

<https://qz.com/933077/germanys-rene>

Nice story about recycling by family and students:

[http://www.heraldbulletin.com/community/learning-to-recycle-and-reuse/article\\_72b56d82-633c-5bec-bdb8-fce132f705d5.html](http://www.heraldbulletin.com/community/learning-to-recycle-and-reuse/article_72b56d82-633c-5bec-bdb8-fce132f705d5.html)

Our friends at RAIR are on the go!

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/view-finders/87335-north-philly-artists-think-outside-the-box-to-draw-audienc>

The Nature Conservancy statement regarding the president's attack on Clean Power Plan:

<https://www.nature.org/newsfeatures/pressreleases/statement-by-the-nature-conservancy-concerning-the-executive-order-signed-by.xml?src=share.nature.addthis.facebook#.WNsQGvkXFRo.facebook>

Thanks to Marilyn Sprague for this news about an effort to past our Philadelphia building ( again!) with billboard wraps over windows.:

[http://org.salsalabs.com/o/2436/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=20625](http://org.salsalabs.com/o/2436/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=20625)

Two new studies measuring the impacts of billboards on traffic safety draw a direct link between roadside advertising and increases in crashes.

<http://scenic.org/storage/PDFs/2017%20trb%20studies%20press%20release.pdf>