



MCWC

Michigan Citizens for
Water Conservation

Gearing Up

We are gearing up for Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation's Annual Garage/Bake Sales to be held on June 11, 2011 – Hometown Health Foods – 235 W. Wheatland Avenue in Remus, MI. We have changed locations this year and the Garage/Bake Sale will be located just five miles from Mecosta in Remus on M-20.

We need volunteers, items to sell (no clothes, please), and people for set-up during the week and especially on Friday. Men or strong women are needed to help Gary Swier with delivery and set-up on Friday, June 10 to make this a success.

Please save and price items for this sale. We are paying off our debts for past legal and environmental work little by little and this event will help.

Mark these dates and times on your calendar and, if you wish to help with set-up on June 10 and/or work June 11 at the sale, please email or phone Maryann Borden at mpborden@sbcglobal.net or (231)734-3829; or Terry Swier at tswier@centurytel.net or (231)972-8856.

DID YOU KNOW?

Only one in five plastic water bottles is recycled. The other four contribute to 4 BILLION POUNDS of waste from plastic water bottles. 2.7 MILLION tons of plastic are used to bottle water every year.

Lighthouse Beacon Award

The Lighthouse Beacon Award was presented to Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation at the 2011 Flow for Water Coalition's "Saving the Great Lakes Forever," held in Traverse City on May 6, 2011. What an honor for MCWC! Terry Swier, Monica Evans, Peggy Case, and Jeanne Peters accepted the award on behalf of the MCWC Board.

The award was presented by Flow to recognize the board of directors of the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation, its president Terry Swier and vice-president Rhonda Huff, for their extraordinary leadership and dedication in saving and protecting the public trust in the waters of the Great Lakes Basin.

Letter from the President

Many of you have heard me say over the last 11 years "I retired in 1999, but I'm still wanting to retire." Well, the time has come for me to step down as president of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation. The battle between MCWC v Nestlé has been won by MCWC. What a MAJOR VICTORY for us all. I would never have met a number of you if we weren't members of MCWC. Thank you for your friendship. I plan on staying on the board and continuing to represent MCWC in the environmental water community only not as president.

I hear people citing the reason for passing the gavel (yes I have a gavel) as wanting to spend more time with their family. I wondered what the real reason was and now I know that spending more time with family is the reason. Gary and I have been blessed with 5 grandchildren, four since the battle, and they are growing up before our eyes. Yes, I want to spend more time with the grandchildren and other members of our family.

This has been a difficult decision to make; however, I know I have made the right decision. The board that will be leading MCWC is very capable of continuing to lead Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation onward and upward.

This is not good-bye. I am moving to another capacity in the MCWC organization as a concerned citizen and member who will support MCWC in any way I can.

-Terry Swier

Our Great Lakes Commons

The recent conference in Traverse City, called "Saving the Great Lakes Forever," highlighted a people's plan to protect the Great Lakes Basin. Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation was one of the co-sponsors of the conference, which featured keynote addresses by Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians and Winonah Hauter, Director of Food and Water Watch. The conference served to re-energize many MCWC supporters who have been working on this plan for a long time.

Maude Barlow frames it as, "...a call to action on an exciting proposal to designate the Great Lakes and its tributary waters as a living *Commons*, to be shared, protected, carefully managed and enjoyed by all who live around them. *The Great Lakes Basin*

Commons would need to be protected by a legal and political framework based on *Public Trust Doctrine*, underpinning in law that the Great Lakes are central to the very existence of those people, plants, and animals living on or near them and therefore must be protected for the common good from generation to generation. This means that the lakes could not be appropriated or subordinated for private gain. It is also our determination that the Great Lakes will be designated as a *Protected Bioregion*, recognizing that while there are many political jurisdictions governing the Great Lakes Basin, it is, in fact, one integrated watershed and needs to be seen and governed as such."

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation is committed to this plan. It will take many people many hours to make it really happen. It begins and builds from the grassroots, which is all of you reading this newsletter. If you want to be involved, come to a board meeting, or call us at (231)972-8856 or (231)325-6812. Renew your membership, please.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fixing a leaky toilet can save up to 1000 gallons a month. Put just a bit of food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

Walk, Paddle and Roll

Our third annual Walk, Paddle and Roll event is scheduled for September 17, 2011. We will be in Benzie County again this year. Last year's event was lots of fun and attracted a number of new people to support the event. We plan for even more this year. The event allows us to raise money through the Fresh Water Future network. Last year we raised \$2,617 through this event. There will be an opportunity for online pledges to support the riders and paddlers, as well as a

way to donate directly to MCWC. More on that in a future email to members. Last year we rode the Betsie Valley bike trail and some of us paddled part of the Betsie River as well. We ended up at Betsie Bay for a picnic dinner provided by Suz McLaughlin. If anyone wants to join Terry Swier, Peggy Case, and Jeanne Peters in organizing the details for this year, or wants to ride with us, please phone (231)275-2244 or (231)972-8856.

Press Release – Anglers of the Au Sable

Traverse City. On April 26th, an ultra-conservative majority of justices on the Michigan Supreme Court, formed when two new justices were seated in January 2011, vacated an important environmental case fully decided in late December 2010. The case, *Anglers of the Au Sable v MDEQ*, had restored rights of Michigan citizens to bring lawsuits to protect the environment and water, including the State's treasured lakes and streams, under Michigan's Constitution and the Michigan Environmental Protection Act.

In its comprehensive December 2010 decision, the Supreme Court reversed a Court of Appeals decision that had undermined the rights of riparian landowners and the public in lakes and streams, and cut off the rights of citizens to bring suits under the Michigan Environmental Protection Act against the state for issuing permits that harm or pollute the environment.

However, in early 2011 newly elected Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette played a purely political card when he asked the Supreme Court to rehear the case. He reportedly indicated that the newly elected conservative Justices on the Court could provide a basis to overturn the Court's December decision. Attorney General Schuette's motion raised no new issues that had not already been completely deliberated and decided by the Court. The only change was the seating of newly elected Justice Mary Beth Kelly, who defeated Justice Alton Davis, and newly appointed Justice Brian Zahra, who replaced Justice Maureen Corrigan. Under long-standing custom, newly elected Justices generally have not participated in rehearing for cases that the Court fully argued

and decided prior to their taking a seat on the Court. And based on established precedent, the Supreme Court generally denies a motion for rehearing if the motion is based on a change in the political makeup of the Court or it does not present any new significant issues.

Jim Olson, one of the lead attorneys for the Anglers of the Au Sable, the organization who fought and won the decision in December 2010, said, "The December decision should have put a period on a long expensive struggle by citizens to right a wrong and protect our water and environment. Unfortunately, it appears the taint of pure politics turned the taste of justice sour."

"The decision is a slap in the face to citizens of Michigan who depend upon the plain meaning of our laws that grant them the right to bring actions in our courts to protect our water and environment. It's another decision for big business, and against citizens, the environment, and our economic recovery which depends on our pure water and environment," said Bruce Pregler, President of the Anglers of the Au Sable.

"A political pawn game favored politics over the rights of citizens in Michigan to expose wrongdoing by government and deep pockets," stated Janie Simpson, a property owner downstream from the proposed discharge. Gaylord attorney Susan Topp, who represented Simpson, said, "Rehearing was not warranted. Nothing changed. There were no new issues. No new laws. Just two new justices and our rightful victory was gone in the blink of an eye."

"On a positive note, the Court's order does not affect the trial court's injunction, and the Court also vacated the bad water law and environmental rulings of the court of appeals," Olson said.

"Kolke Creek and the Au Sable remain protected for now, and we live to fight another day," Bruce Pregler, the Anglers of the Au Sable's President, said.

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation Resolution to Oppose Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing Operations in Michigan

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) on April 30, 2011, the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board:

Resolved:

Whereas Horizontal hydraulic fracturing operations (fracking) are exempt from the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act and the Superfund Act, and

Whereas One to five million gallons of freshwater are needed for each fracturing well, along with 5,000-25,000 gallons of fracking chemicals, and repeated injections possibly necessary, and

Whereas At least 29 of the chemicals used to fracture to gain access to natural gas are known-or-suspected human carcinogens, and are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act as risks to human health or listed as hazardous air pollutants under the Clean Air Act, and

Whereas Several incidents of water contamination and methane gas mixing with drinking water have been documented as a result of shale gas development, and

Whereas According to the Director of the Geological Survey Office – a unit of the State Department of Natural Resources and Environment – officials do not look at cumulative effects of water withdrawals, and

Whereas In the case of the Pioneer well, near Lake City, Michigan, 5.5 million gallons of water were used for fracking, which came from

both a freshwater aquifer at the site and from water-hauling trucks; this exceeded the water extraction limits of the Michigan Great Lakes Preservation Act because the Encana Corporation of Canada obtained a waiver, allowable for certain types of gas and oil drilling, and

Whereas The fracking fluids can spill before they are injected into the wells, and fluids recovered from fracturing can contaminate surface waters, and

Whereas Drilling into these formations can create pathways by which fluids or natural gas itself can find its way into water supplies, and

Whereas The horizontal sections of the wells are not cased in cement and, therefore, leakage from these sections could represent a significant threat to ground water, and

Whereas It is the mission of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation to conserve, preserve, and protect Michigan's water, natural resources and the public trust in those resources for the benefit of the public, and

Whereas MCWC sees a direct and serious threat to the water quality, quantity, and safety of Michigan's water.

Therefore, be it resolved that Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation hereby proposes a ban on any further horizontal hydraulic fracturing operations in Michigan.

DID YOU KNOW?

Using a water-efficient showerhead can save you up to 750 gallons of water a month. They're inexpensive, and easy to install.

Pasties for Sale (Stock up for Summer!)

Pasties sales are still going strong. We have beef and occasionally vegetarian pasties available. Pasties continue to get outstanding reviews. Glenna Maneke, MCWC's pasties-chef extraordinaire, tries to keep some on hand, but call ahead so yours are reserved.

For Mecosta and Big Rapids area orders, call Glenna Maneke at (231)972-0500, or email manekegl@hotmail.com. For the Traverse City area, call Monica Evans at (231)325-6812 or email leelanaunative@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Up to 44% of bottled water is sourced from the tap – meaning that water already paid for by taxpayers and ratepayers ends up bottled and sold back to the American public at thousands of times the price. ...the monthly water usage charge for large commercial users was almost one-third lower per gallon than for a residential user.individual ratepayers and taxpayers are subsidizing the sale of a public good for private profit.

Fracking: Shake hands with the devil
(Originally printed in Traverse City Record-Eagle, 4/9/2011. Reprinted here with permission of the author, Ellis Boal.)

The Traverse City Business News in its February issue touts the benefits northern Michigan could gain if natural gas exploration in deep shale rock meets expectations.

Two deep-shale wells are currently in place. Some two dozen additional permits are either active or under review. More are anticipated.

Modern drilling methods employ hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking.” The bore goes

almost two miles down and then a mile horizontally. Extremely high pressure is used to inject millions of gallons of water, mixed in a soup with sand and chemicals, into shale rock to fracture it and release the gas.

If the well casing fails the chemical additives can foul the aquifer.

Part of the soup returns to the surface, sometimes accompanied by indigenous radioactive material. Part remains below, with the water forever lost to the hydrologic cycle.

The identity of the frack chemicals is proprietary and secret, including those which cause cancer. The flowback can be recycled, but recycled fluids become more toxic with each use. Much of the produced gas leaks to the atmosphere, contributing to global warming.

The EPA has begun a study of the process. But political pressure from the White House and elsewhere is at work. Environmental concerns important to EPA scientists have been restricted or eliminated from the study.

Michigan regulators say they have no evidence that fracking causes adverse impacts to the environment or public health.

But questioned at a March 9 meeting in Boyne City, Grenetta Thomassey, program director for Tip Of The Mitt Watershed Council, could think of no fracking operation anywhere in the world being conducted safely and sensitively to the environment.

With good reason:

* On two days of early March in Wyoming's Upper Green River Basin, ozone levels rose above the highest levels recorded in the biggest US cities last year. This, even though the gas industry is reducing truck traffic and switching to drilling rigs with

pollution control equipment.

* Canadian rock mechanic and hydro geologist Marc Durand says fracking will cause "irreversible harm" lasting thousands of years even after the wells are capped in concrete. Gas will continue to escape, he says, pointing to Quebec's experience with crumbling bridges and overpasses.

In November, 34 water protection groups led by Tip Of The Mitt wrote Michigan regulatory officials. They wanted "best management practices" incorporated into fracking regulations.

But that's all they sought. TOTM's Thomassey told industry publication Midwest Energy News last month: "The arguments are not there, I think, for a ban or moratorium...."

The "best practices" say nothing about the lack of well cap integrity denounced by Durand. They say nothing about testing for radioactivity. Wyoming operators use the same "best practices," and foul the air anyway.

With horizontal fracking, there is no such thing as a "best practice." Whatever the practices, regulators just can't manage it.

In January, a new organization started up, Don't Frack Michigan. On March 10, we wrote the governor and state officials, calling on them to ban the practice in Michigan.

Visit us at our website, www.dontfrackmichigan.org, and join the call.

-Ellis Boal

IF YOU CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS OR NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM MCWC, PLEASE EMAIL GLENNA MANEKE @ manekegl@hotmail.com.

Comically, the bottled water production process is fairly resource intensive. It actually takes 17 million barrels of oil to produce bottled water which is enough oil to fuel 1 million cars for a whole year. Oil isn't the only necessary resource. Luckily tap water is very cheap because it takes about 3 times the amount of tap water to produce and fill 1 bottle of bottled water.

Village of Honor Restoration Includes Platte River

The beautiful Platte River flows through the Village of Honor, in Benzie County. The town itself has suffered from the economic downturn, but a large group of citizens came together recently to turn things around. The Honor Area Restoration Project sponsored a community gathering called Revisioning Honor. Almost 200 people came together to engage in dialogue and determine priorities for Honor's future. A detailed report on the results will be posted on the website, www.RestoreHonor.org. What stood out above all else was the importance of a clean river to the citizens as they envision a healthy future for their town. They want more public access to the river, want it to remain clean, and want the abundant fish of the past to return. They see the future of the town tied to the future of the river, and its value as a destination for those who love the waters of northern Michigan. Since three of MCWC's board members live in or near Honor, and it is also the home of our favorite attorney, Jim Olson, we will be able to give personal support to these future efforts to protect the Platte. This is a town that is paying attention to the needs of the generations to come. A welcome ally for the work of MCWC.

UPCOMING EVENTS and FUND-RAISERS for MCWC:

- May 28** Monthly board meeting cancelled for Memorial Day
- June 11** Annual garage/bake sale
- June 25** Monthly board meeting 10:00AM at Morton Twp. Hall
- July 23** Annual meeting 1PM at Round Lake Resort
- Sept. 17** Walk, Paddle, and Roll fundraiser Benzie County

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The election of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation board members will be held at the Annual Meeting in July at the Round Lake Resort. Our by-laws state that the number of Directors shall be at least 3 and not more than 10 and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a 2-year term. At this time, there are 4 openings on the Board. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact Terry Swier with your name or the name of a person who you think can uphold the purpose and mission of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation. MCWC is organized exclusively for education and scientific purposes and the board and members continue to conserve, preserve and protect Michigan's natural resources and the public trust in those natural resources for the benefit of the public.

A MISSION TO GUARANTEE WATER FOR ALL

Catarina de Albuquerque (bottom left in the picture), the U.N. Independent Expert on the Right to Water and Sanitation, met with Terry Swier (bottom right) of Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation and Senior Researchers Mark Hays (upper right) in Boston this February to discuss the impacts of water bottling on communities across North America. Albuquerque's mission to the U.S. took on increased importance following the passage of a U.N. resolution, supported by Corporate Accountability International and its allies, affirming the right to water. Currently, the World Bank and corporations from Nestle to Veolia are fueling a corporate water grab that is deepening a world water crisis where already one in six people don't have enough water to meet basic needs.



TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT...

Help Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation decrease its debt of just under \$50,000 from past legal and environmental work, as well as to continue its mission to conserve, preserve and protect Michigan's natural resources for future generations, by renewing your membership and making a generous donation to MCWC.

Donations and memberships can be made online at: www.saveMIwater.org. Or mail your check along with the form to the right to:

**MCWC
P.O. Box 1
Mecosta, MI 49332**



Name _____

Address _____

State/ZIP _____ / _____

Email _____

Individual _____ \$25

Family _____ \$40

Lifetime Individual _____ \$250

Lifetime Family _____ \$500

Sustaining Pledge ____/month*

Other _____

*We'd love to get you signed up as a sustaining member. We can't promise you fancy address labels, blankets, or trinkets as a reward. We only promise to apply your money to the work of saving our waters into the seventh generation. You can have your pledge sent or transferred directly to the MCWC account. Contact Glenna Maneke at (231)972-0500 or manekegl@hotmail.com to arrange this.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

**Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation
P.O. Box 1
Mecosta, MI 49332**

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MCWC is a 501c3 grassroots group organized in December 2000. Our goal is to conserve, preserve and protect the public's natural resources. Our efforts have concentrated on research and education so that informed decisions are made regarding protection of the quality and quantity of Michigan's groundwater, wetlands, lakes, streams, ponds and wildlife.

Help preserve natural resources - recycle this newsletter by sharing it with a friend!