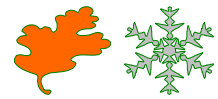


Creation Care



The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord, the earth and all who live on it are his. --Psalm 24:1

Northern Ohio District, Church of the Brethren, Creation Stewardship Advocate, Clyde C. Fry, ccseven@embarqmail.com

Occasional Newsletter #18, Spring 2016, On the Web: nohcob.org, Click: Resources, Click: Creation Care



About a Third of our Planet's Food goes to Waste! We Can Change That.

At Home, small changes in the kitchen can reduce the amount of food your household throws out.

- ❖ Use "FoodKeeper" or other apps for food-expiration reminders.
- ❖ Switch to smaller dishes to control portions. The standard plate is 36% larger than it was 50 years ago!
- ❖ Eat leftovers on at least one regular night each week.
- ❖ Give uneaten food a second chance by freezing or canning extras and blending bruised fruit into smoothies.

At a Store make careful decisions about what & how much you buy.

- ❖ Shop at stores that offer misshapen food at a discount
- ❖ Purchase prepared meals at the deli or salad bar, which allows supermarkets to make use of imperfect produce.
- ❖ Buy frozen foods, which suffer fewer losses from farm to shelf.
- ❖ Shop often. Start with a large trip and then make smaller follow-ups to buy a few days worth of produce at a time.
- ❖ Buy fresh food at local farmers' markets.

At a Restaurant Americans spend about as much at restaurants as they do at grocery stores.

- ❖ Skip the cafeteria tray. Diners who use trays waste 32% more than those who carry their plates in their hands.
- ❖ Take home leftovers.
- ❖ Share side dishes to keep portions under control.
- ❖ Ask the waiter to hold extras such as bread and butter you don't plan to eat.
- ❖ Encourage restaurants & caterers to donate leftovers.

In Your Community Businesses, schools, nonprofits, and governments can all find ways to dump less food.

- ❖ Bring back "home economics" classes to teach cooking, canning, and storage basics.
- ❖ Get your school to join the "USDA Food Waste Challenge."
- ❖ Ask your local government for a curbside food-scrap collection service like that provided in roughly 200 U.S. communities.
- ❖ Share the bounty of your home garden with your community through ampleharvest.org.

--From: National Geographic, March 2016, Page 52, 53



Earth Day, April 22

Genesis 2:15

The Lord God placed the Man in the Garden of Eden to Cultivate it and Guard it.

For resources, go to www.creationjustice.org/creatures

While Genesis 2:1-15 calls humans to till and keep creation, Genesis one calls us to also marvel at and love all creatures. William Greenway writes: "The seven days of creation does not inspire a spirit of

superiority, a distance, of domination, or of exploitation. The seven days of creation is inspired by, testifies to, and hopes to inspire a spirit immediately seized by divine love... For the seven days of creation calls us to love as God loves. It calls us to godly dominion." Greenway goes on to say: "Non-human creatures enrich our human vocation, teach us about God, and companion us on life's journeys. We give thanks for all God's creatures and devote ourselves to better care of, and relationship with, these creatures." Psalm 104 is a creation psalm giving glory to the Creator. In verse 24, we read: "How great are Your works, O God! You made them all with wisdom, the earth is full of Your creatures."

¹Greenway, William N A Jr. "To love as God loves: the spirit of dominion." *Review & Expositor* 108, no. 1 (2011): 86, ²108, no. 1 (2011): 101



April 29, 2016
Celebrate God's Gift of TREES!

As a child I remember celebrating Arbor Day in my home town by planting trees. **Arbour**, comes from the Latin word meaning tree. Arbor Day became a holiday in which individuals and groups were encouraged to appreciate, plant and care for trees because of their beauty, importance in air purification, temperature control, water conservation, holding and enriching the soil, protection of the flora and fauna in their limbs and under their leafy umbrella, food production, paper making, arts, crafts, construction material and fuel. It is celebrated throughout the world with religious observances, educational programs and tree planting during the growing season.

The first documented Arbor Day took place in the Spanish village of Mondoñedo in 1594. The modern celebration was re-launched in the Village of Villanueva de la Sierra in 1805 by a Catholic Priest with the unanimous consent of the local population. The first American Arbor Day took place in Nebraska City, Nebraska on April 10, 1872 when an estimated one million trees were planted in the state. Nebraska was also the place in which the non-profit Arbor Day Foundation [ADF] was established in 1972. Because of the Biblical mandate to care for the earth, many Christians have been at the forefront of the arbor movement.

One of the ADF'S "tree stewardship" projects is the popular "Tree City" movement. To qualify to become a [Tree City USA](http://www.treecityusa.com), a town or city must meet four standards established by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.

1. It must establish a Tree Board or Department run by a professional forester or arborist, an entire forestry department, or a volunteer tree board that must be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees.

2. It must pass a Tree Care Ordinance that designates the establishment of a tree board or forestry department and give this body the responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan. Beyond that, the ordinance should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular community. A tree ordinance provides an opportunity to set good policy and back it with the force of law when necessary. Ideal-

ly, it will provide clear guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public places.

3. It must establish a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita with evidence that the community has established a community forestry program that is supported by that annual budget.

4. It must organize an Arbor Day observance and proclamation with a simple tree planting event or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters.

In 1977 Springfield, Wooster, and Westerville became the first "Tree Cities" in Ohio. Today Ohio leads the nation with 251 Tree Cities.

Notice that the human story in the Bible begins in the presence of the tree of life in Genesis and is consummated in the presence of the tree of life in Revelation when Christ returns.



On April 14, 1994 the chief executive officers of our Nation's tobacco companies appeared, for the first time, before the subcommittee on *Health and the Environment* of the U.S. House of Representatives. Known as the "Waxman Hearings" the subcommittee chair, the Honorable Henry A. Waxman, called the meeting to order and made the following stinging opening statement:

"This is an historic hearing. For the first time ever, the chief executive officers of our Nation's tobacco companies are testifying together before the U.S. Congress. They are here because this sub-committee has legislative jurisdiction over those issues that affect our health. And no health issue is as important as cigarette smoking.

It is sometimes easier to invent fiction than to face the truth. The truth is that cigarettes are the single most dangerous consumer product ever sold. Nearly a half million Americans die every year as a result of tobacco. This is an astounding, almost in-comprehensible statistic. Imagine our Nation's outrage if two fully loaded jumbo jets crashed each day, killing all aboard. Yet that is the same number of Americans that cigarettes kill every 24 hours!"



The tobacco chiefs raised their hands in an oath to tell the truth and then proceeded not to do so. Everything hit the fan when the now-infamous 1996 memo from the *Brown and Williamson* tobacco company was leaked to the press. It read: **"Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the minds of the general public."** Creating DOUBT has become the playbook for anyone wishing to mislead the public. #

The vast majority of mainline scientists and health professionals had established that smoking tobacco was both dangerous and deadly to human health. The tobacco industry KNEW that the scientists and health officials were telling the truth! Yet, for decades, the tobacco industry responded by employing as many foul and deceptive means as they could to cause public doubt using a series of dirty tricks like paying their own "experts" to concoct opposing "evidence." They used the POWER OF DOUBT to sidetrack the life preserving information that scientists and others had to offer the public. Because

nicotine is an addicting drug, those under its control found and still find it difficult to accept the truth of its deadly impacts.

As a pastor, in those days, I took on the smoking issue because the scripture teaches that our bodies are sacred creations in the image of God and temples of the Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:26ff, I Cor. 3:16, 17). A few of the smokers in the congregation were offended and wanted me to "stick to religion," but most were open to the teaching and its biblical connections and resolved to stop smoking. Only three of the smoking group were unable to stop smoking. Those three eventually died of smoking related diseases.

What we faced with the tobacco industry some years ago we now face with the fossil fuel industry. Confronted with the same overwhelming world-wide mainline scientific evidence in support of a rapidly changing climate, of which human conduct is a major cause, the fossil fuel industry decided to use the POWER OF DOUBT to keep the public confused and divided. This era of doubt, however, is gradually coming to an end. I share this optimism for three reasons:

1. While the U.S. is tied up in economic and political chaos the majority of the other free nations embrace the reality of climate change and its human connection and are investing in a creative variety of renewable energy programs. Although all of these nations are far ahead of what we are doing, the U.S. is also making significant renewable energy investments of which the general public is not yet aware.

2. The evidence of dramatic climate change and global warming is piling up at such a rapid rate that denial is no longer rationally possible. When I started working for our district as *Creation Care Advocate* in 2008 denial that climate change and its twin, global warming, even existed, was a huge controversy. Today, as I pick up that work once again, denial of both is almost non-existent. The hot topic now is, "What is causing it?" Typical of "original sin" many people deny any involvement with climate change like Adam and Eve denied any involvement in the sin of choosing to eat the apple (Genesis 3).

3. The conspiracies involved in the fossil fuel industries resistance to climate science is rapidly being exposed and investigated. The publication of *The Climate Deception Dossiers, July 2015, by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)*, is an exposé showing how fossil fuel companies have intentionally spread disinformation about climate science for decades. The companies' own internal memos tell the story, including documents brought to light as recently as 2015. "There are 350 pages of documents assembled which prove that companies such as Chevron and ExxonMobil knew their products were contributing to global warming yet funded campaigns to distort the science, deny the harm, and block action with tactics including:

*Secretly funding purportedly independent scientists;

*Creating phony grassroots consumer groups; and

*Forging letters to Congress from prominent nonprofit organizations." -UCS 2015 Record of Accomplishments, page 3.

The New York Attorney General is looking into these allegations and the U.S. Justice Department is considering whether or not to get involved during this disruptive political year. Regardless of what will happen, as the result of these exposés, the shadowy record is now public and that pressure will speed our interest, development, and investment in renewal energy sources. Hopefully it will also force the fossil fuel industries literally to clean up their act.

I am amazed by what I read in the Dossiers and am sadly reminded of how far we humans will go to "protect" our income sources, money, political power, and established institutions. It is all too easy for us to set aside the "common good" and the "good earth" in the name of profit and power by inventing fiction. #For another example of the corporation/doubt relationship check the NFL Brain Injury denial saga. ✨



"To drive to extinction something God has created is wrong. God has a purpose for everything... We Christians have a responsibility to take the lead in caring for the earth."

Billy Graham, in an interview with the *Free Press*.



Is Van Wert the Wind Capital of Ohio?

The wind turbines reach to the skies to catch the best winds high above the soybean and cornfields of the flatlands of north-western Ohio.



Each turbine rises 328 feet from the bases to the hubs where three blades, each 148 feet long, attach. With the blades upright, the turbine's height reaches 476 feet. That's 14 feet higher than the tallest building in Akron, Ohio. Each turbine has 8,000 parts. The turbines dot the landscape along U.S. 30 near the city of Van Wert. Each one costs about \$2 million and can supply enough energy to power 500 typical Ohio homes. There are over 200 turbines installed with at least 550 more of them planned for.

According to the *Ohio Power Siting Board* the capacity of Ohio's approved and pending turbines is about 1,835 megawatts. In comparison, the aging Besse nuclear power plant near Toledo produces about 905 megawatts. We must remember that Nuclear Power is an extraordinarily elaborate, dangerous, and expensive way to boil water, to make steam, to run generators, to make electricity!

The winds in the area at 328 feet, were determined to be about 14 miles per hour and are very consistent. The turbines begin generating electricity when the winds hit 8 or 9 miles per hour. Electricity production increases up to 18 miles per hour, but higher winds than that do not produce more power.

The state of Ohio imposed 61 conditions on the development of wind farms including a setback requiring turbines to be a least 900 feet from the nearest homes. The current setback from homes averages about 1,600 feet. The swooshing sound from the turbines is about 50 decibels. In comparison, normal background noises are generally 30 to 50 decibels, working in an office is 60 to 70 decibels and riding in a car is 80 to 90 decibels. Currently each turbine pays \$18,000 in local taxes providing a real boon to local economies. *Van Wert Area Chamber of Commerce* president and CEO Susan Munroe said: "...we want people to know how important (wind) investments are to rural Ohio communities...our county was struggling before wind energy came to our community."

Wind power is a growing source of renewable energy throughout the world and makes a significant contribution to our energy needs. It is not a perfect answer, but it is another puzzle piece that fits into the total renewable energy picture.

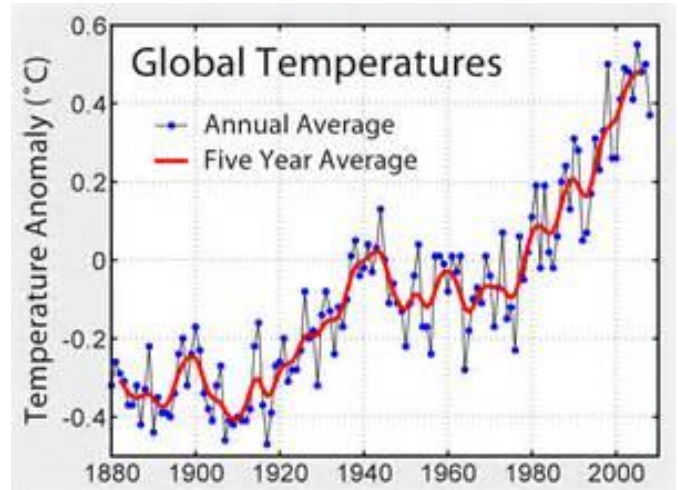


For the Record, Are we getting Warmer?

The answer is "Yes." The following chart records the actual Global Temperatures since modern records

have been kept beginning in 1880. One exception to this time-frame

is NASA's, recent discovery of authentic climate records in the Mediterranean region that go back 900 years!

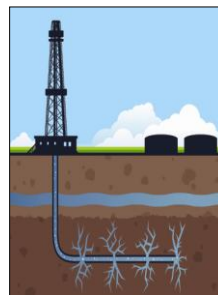


When there are no man made records

you look to the records that nature keeps.

Palaeoclimatology is the study of climate changes recorded in the Earth's natural materials. It includes deciphering the evidences preserved on and within such things as rocks, sediments, ice sheets, tree rings, corals, shells, and microfossils. As a student in High School Biology class I was taught to determine the age of a downed tree by counting its "growth" rings and the wet and dry spells it experienced during its lifetime by measuring the differences in the width between each ring. Such is the work of the Palaeoclimatologist. It may be just an "educated guess," but at least it is educated, which is better than most of us can do. After all, "educated" is better than "ignored!"

P.S. The contiguous U.S. experienced its warmest winter on record in 2015-16, with average temperatures 4.6 degrees F. above the 20th century average, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Alaska recorded its second warmest winter.



Shake, Rattle, and Roll in Oklahoma!

The good news and the bad news. Fracking is a technique which has allowed the fossil fuel industry to reach oil and gas that was once unreachable, thus increasing supplies, lowering consumer prices, and providing jobs and tax income for local jurisdictions. Using a toxic blend of liquids, sand, and pressure the oil shale is fractured allowing access to spaces filled with the "black and gaseous gold." It can take 2 to 9 million gallons of water mixed with a slurry of sand and chemicals to frack a single well. Fracking in America generated 280bn gallons of toxic waste water last year – enough to flood all of Washington DC beneath a 22ft deep toxic lagoon. The toxic wastewater must be "safely" disposed of somewhere. Mansfield, Ohio successfully fought to prevent the storage of fracking water from Pennsylvania to be dumped in deep wells just outside of the

city. Fracking can cause water table contamination and, of all things, earthquakes! Both are now well established facts and individuals are beginning to win damage claims in the courts. Oklahoma is the Fracking Capitol of the U.S.A. Twenty percent of the jobs in Oklahoma are related to the oil and gas industries. A feature article in the 3-21-16 issue of *Time* magazine, by Josh Sanburn, highlights the quake problem in Oklahoma. According to the *Time* article the Oklahoma faults were last active 300 million years ago until this recent outbreak where the state now has more three-plus magnitude earthquakes than California, the quake capitol of the U.S.A. Earthquakes linked to drillers' injection of wastewater deep underground have risen from a few dozen annually in the mid-2000s to more than 6,000 last year!

Oklahoma has hundreds of fracking toxic wastewater wells across the state. What will the long term effect of all these wells be to the future? Will all of this seismic activity continue to build up until a major quake does devastating damage? No one really knows because "man made" quakes send us into new and untested territory. In an attempt to save fresh water and reduce the amount of toxic wastewater storage the *Oklahoma Corporation Commission* will now require drillers to cut the amount of water used in fracking by 40%. Worried industrial and civil leaders are trying to keep their eyes on things but this is a nervous time for everyone involved.

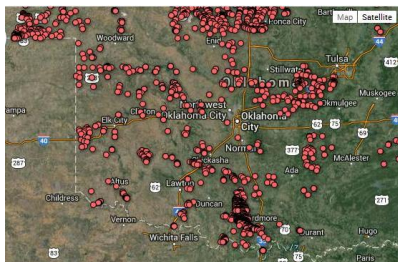


Image: preservethebeartoothfront.com



Statement of Purpose

From the beginning of time our relationship to the earth has been defined in terms of giving and receiving, privilege and responsibility (*Genesis 1:26-30, 2:15*). God, the creator, is the owner (*Psalms 24:1*) and we are sharecroppers (*Leviticus 27:30-33*). Living "under God" we have two fundamental responsibilities - to fulfill the "Creation Commission" (*Genesis 2:15*) and the "Great Commission" (*Matthew 28:19, 20*). To this end our District has provided both structure and leadership in both areas.

The *Creation Care* newsletter is the basic educational and promotional tool that we use to help us understand our "Creation Commission" by providing relevant articles on Biblical, economic, political and social impacts and their consequences on God's Creation. Clyde C. Fry is the Creation Stewardship Advocate for our District and is available to assist our congregations. -CCFy, 2-7-12, cceseven@embarqmail.com



Emotions are the least reliable part of being Human

Much of what we believe is not connected to logic, reason or facts. It is connected to the complex functions of the brain and the way it stores and processes the input that our physical and spiritual senses transmit to it.

There are also some things that are innate; apparently a part of us from birth.

In one of my workshops I point out that the "*Spirit Moves and the Mind Plots*" because that is the way God created us. Through God's Spirit we receive the vision and with the Mind that God gave us the vision is given flesh. Mind and Spirit are not enemies, they are two sides of the same coin! It is when we disconnect the two from each other that the trouble starts. The scriptures tell us to "*test the spirits*" (1 John 4:1-6) and understand the true nature of "*wisdom*" (1 Corinthians 1:20, 2:6), but God must be experienced and testified to with both the human spirit and the human mind, which is also true of so many, many other things.

In the issues of our day, the distance between facts and feelings becomes a battle field because of our failure to keep the marriage of Mind and Spirit in balance. When emotions make us boil, our minds shut down, we close our ears, and build the walls of hardened "*positions*." The result is deadlock and ill will. Pulitzer prize winning conservative columnist and author, George Will said: "*You cannot reason people out of a position that they have not been reasoned into.*"

In material issues like climate change the goal is always, "*What is going on, why did it happen, and what can we do about it?*" Our patience is tested because it always takes time for the necessary information to accumulate and the truth to become known. The burden in fact-finding lies on the side of the mind, but the motivation to do something about what is found by changing what needs to be changed, lies on the side of the spirit, both ours and God's.

For followers of Jesus Climate Change is dominated by the understanding that this is God's earth and creation (*Psalms 24:1*) and we are sharecroppers (*Leviticus 27:30-33*) and caregivers (*Genesis 1:26-30, 2:15*). Our keen interest is to live on this earth as God intended and to fulfill our responsibility to the Lord of Heaven and Earth. It is not a matter of politics or economics, it is a matter of stewardship. Politics and economics must be remolded to meet the demands of that stewardship; for God holds us accountable.



"The maternal sea is polluted, the heavens are rent, the forests are being destroyed and the desert areas are increasing. We must protect creation. Better yet, we must embellish it, render it spiritual, transfigure it.

But nothing will be done unless there is a general conversion of men's minds and hearts."



These are the words of an Arab Christian who was born and died in Syria. His birth name was Habib Haxim (1920-2012). He became "*Patriarch Ignatius of Antioch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All The East,*" serving from 1979 to 2012.

Picture: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ignatius_IV.jpg#/media/File:Ignatius_IV.jpg



"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

--Dietrich Bonhoeffer, martyr--

