

DCEC Newsletter

Environmental News for Door County



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door county environmental council
p.o. box 114 - fish creek, wi 54212
(920)743-6003 fax: (920)743-6727
www.dcec-wi.org
email: info@dcec-wi.org

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DCEC Celebrates 40 Years!



It seems like only yesterday that a group of concerned Fish Creek area residents started talking about the need to protect Door County from unrestricted development and environmental degradation. That was in 1969.

In 1970 the group incorporated as a tax-exempt 501c 3 non-profit organization calling themselves the Door County Environmental Council, DCEC for short. They could see the looming threats to the county's waters, bays, wild shores, bluffs, sand dunes, woodlands, wetlands, farms, orchards and fields.

These threats still have not gone away, and neither has DCEC.

Over the course of the last 40 years, we've many times been the only force that stands between our environment and its enemies. While we haven't won them all, we've won enough to know that the fight has been worth it. You might not know, for example, that DCEC:

- continues to be involved with national organizations to secure the habitat of the Hines Emerald Dragonfly, which would keep over 38 square miles of Door County under federal habitat protection.
- promoted, in the early 1970's, the successful DNR purchase of several wilderness areas.
- created the Door County Land Trust to carry on this work.
- helped to successfully drive back *two attempts* to build a coal-fired power plant at the Sturgeon Bay Utilities "canal" property.
- participated in numerous legal actions to protect our county's wild lands and water resources.

This is a very *short list* of some of the important work we've done over the last 40 years. Many more of our battles are outlined on the "history" page of our website, and we hope you'll visit www.dcec-wi.org/history_dcec.html to read about them.

Do you suppose our original 1969 founders thought we'd still have to be fighting the good fight to preserve our lands, waters and quality of life in 2010? *Surely, 40 years would be certainly enough time to finish the job...* wouldn't it? ~RV

Protecting Your Water, Thursday, Feb 25, at Crossroads

While Wisconsin seems to have plentiful water resources, never has there been greater concern over that resource.

Door and Kewaunee Counties are faced with significant challenges when trying to protect ground and surface water, because of the karst topography underlying our communities and countryside. This unique bedrock structure, and this area's shallow soil layer, create significant hazards to the health and

livelihoods of our citizens and businesses.

The League of Women Voters of Door & Kewaunee Counties, Door County Environmental Council and Sustain Door are co-sponsoring a program to explore the nature of this risk to water quality in Northeast Wisconsin. A proposed legislative tool-kit is also available to counties to help protect their water supply.

Please see "Water" page three



DCEC Incorporated in 1970 under the laws of Wisconsin as a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation

FOCUS ON: Sealant Doesn't Stay Put on Pavement!

CHEMICALS FOUND IN a cancer-causing substance used to seal pavement, parking lots and driveways across the U.S. are showing up at alarming levels as dust in homes. A new study shows this is prompting concerns about the potential health effects of long-term exposure.

The substance is coal tar sealant; a waste product of steel manufacturing used to protect pavement and asphalt against cracking and water damage, and to impart a nice dark sheen. It is applied most heavily east of the Rockies, but is used in all 50 states.



Scientists with the *U.S. Geological Survey* say the sealant—**one of two types commonly used in the US**—doesn't stay put. It slowly wears off and is tracked into homes on shoes of residents. The USGS study, which found high levels of chemicals used in the sealant in household dust, marks the first time researchers have raised alarms about potential health effects for humans—especially young children—from the parking-lot coatings.

Scientists say, taken with previous studies indicating that the chemicals contaminate waterways, where they have been shown to harm insects and tadpoles, the finding raises serious questions about the advisability of using coal tar as a sealant.

The scientists' published their research recently in the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*. The research, which examined both parking lot dust and dust tracked into homes, focused on a class of chemicals known as *polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons*, or PAHs, which are a significant component of coal tar.

A known carcinogen

Coal tar is known to cause cancer in humans. That finding dates to the 1770s, when chimney sweeps in London were found to have high levels of scrotal cancer. Late the next century, it was associated with skin cancers among creosote workers. PAHs themselves are listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a probable human carcinogen, based on laboratory studies in which they caused cancer in animals.

Emerging evidence also suggests that babies exposed to PAHs while in the womb, may be more prone to asthma and other ailments and may have lowered IQs.

The new USGS study compared house dust from 23 ground-floor apartments in Austin—11 with coal tar-sealed parking lots, and 12 coated with other substances or not sealed at all. The study found that dust in the apartments next to the coal-tar-sealed lots had PAH pollution levels 25 times higher, on average, than the dust in other apartments.

More than half the apartments with the coal tar-sealed lots contained dust with levels of PAHs that would increase the risk of cancer if ingested by preschoolers, researchers said. They came to this conclusion by comparing their results to a 2008 study that estimated risks based on lab tests on animals. The increased risk means one additional child in 10,000 would develop cancer if exposed to that level of toxins over a lifetime.

Components of coal tar escape parking lots and driveways—

not from most public roads—and get into the environment, causing stunted growth in creatures that live in streams, scientists have shown. Research also reveals that the chemicals in coal tar kill tadpoles, cause tumors on fish and eliminate entire species of tiny aquatic creatures near the base of the food chain.

Not only was the toxic house dust found in apartment units surrounded by paved parking lots, but USGS researchers also measured contamination in dust from apartment house parking lots and the driveways of a few single-family homes. The most dangerous coal tar component — a PAH chemical called *benzo [a] pyrene* — was found in driveway dust at two suburban single family homes at thousands of times the level that would trigger a cleanup at a toxic-waste site.

The United States has no standard for benzo [a] pyrene in house dust, but Germany has an official guideline of 10 parts of the chemical for every 1 million parts of dust, which it says is necessary “to avoid adverse health effects.” In the USGS tests of apartments near coal-tar lots, a third of the apartments showed levels of the toxic chemical exceeding that standard.

Local governments in Austin, Texas, Washington, D.C., and the county that includes Madison, Wis., have banned pavement sealants containing coal tar after findings of PAHs in local waterways. ***In its place, they rely on the second main type of sealant used in the U.S., which is asphalt based.*** Asphalt based sealants also used commonly in Wisconsin and other states **do not pose a known threat to humans.**

Condensed from *MSNBC Investigate West Report*

~JMV

AUTOMOTIVE TRENDS

US automobile numbers are down dramatically indicating that a traditional trend may be reversing!

Americans' infatuation with their cars has endured through booms and busts, but last year something rare happened in the United States: The number of automobiles actually fell.

The size of the U.S. car fleet dropped by a hefty four million vehicles to 246 million, the only large decline since the U.S. Department of Transportation began modern record keeping in 1960. Americans bought only 10 million cars — and sent 14 million to the scrap yard.

The decline in sales from previous years came despite 2009's cash-for-clunkers program, in which the U.S. government gave Americans up to \$4,500 to trade in their gas-guzzlers for new, more fuel-efficient cars — a program that saw nearly 700,000 vehicles scrapped.

And the overall drop in car ownership has prompted speculation that the long American love affair with the car is fading. Analysts cite such diverse factors as high gas prices, the expansion of many municipal transit systems, and the popularity of networking websites among teenagers replacing cars as a way of socializing.

“We've reached a sort of saturation point in this country” when it comes to cars, said Lester Brown, president of the Earth Policy Institute, an environmental think tank based in Washington.

The institute issued an analysis that contends the drop in 2009 isn't a one-time fluke caused by the recession, and that U.S. car ownership is likely to be entering a longer-term decline that will see the fleet drop by another 25 million by 2020. In previous recessions, car ownership either reached a plateau for a couple of years, or, as occurred in 1991, the only other time it actually fell, declined by a modest one million before resuming an up-trend.

Please turn to AUTOS—page six

Plastic Waste May Be in Your Diet!

Recent research has the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) concerned that the huge quantities of metal, plastic, paint chips and other man-made debris floating at sea, hundreds and even thousands of miles from land, may be working their way into the American diet.

NOAA, part of the Commerce Department, largely exists to track weather patterns and hurricanes. Its entry into the public health sphere serves as an indication of how severe the problem has become. It is not too much to suggest that millions of seafood lovers might be ingesting the very chemicals that land-based health and safety regulations are designed to keep out of reach.

The world's increasingly famous mountains of waterborne garbage are out of sight, but for the international community of ocean-watchers they're hardly out of mind. The five so-called pollution gyres—massive fields of waste collected by wind and ocean currents in the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, North Pacific, South Pacific and Indian Oceans—are already known to kill birds and sea life on a frightening scale.

In 2002, a minke whale shocked the scientific world by washing up on a British beach, unable to eat because of plastic bags found in its stomach. Kenneth Weiss won a Pulitzer Prize in 2007 for his multi-part series in the Los Angeles Times explaining, among other things, how bottle caps, toy soldiers, toothbrushes and spray nozzles are choking hundreds of thousands of albatrosses to death on Midway Atoll, about 1,000 miles from the nearest city.

In-depth research on the scale and composition of these gyres is still in its infancy. What is known, however, is already troubling. The best understood of the five, the North Pacific gyre—sometimes referred to as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—is itself divided into eastern and western halves, connected by a 6,000-mile-long current called the Subtropical Convergence Zone.

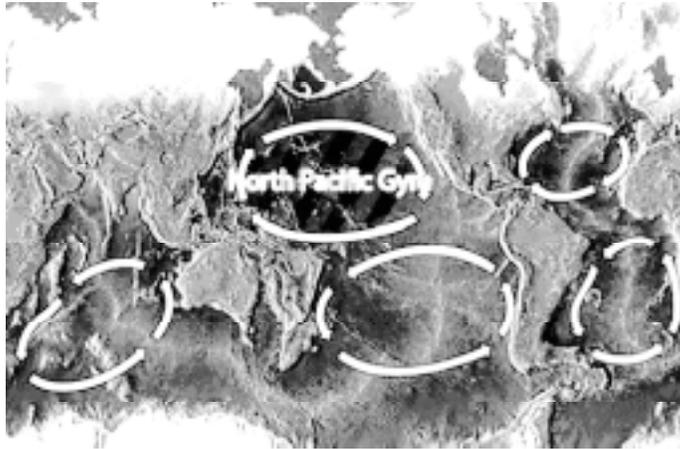
The eastern half, although largely invisible from the ocean surface, is thought to be twice the size of Texas, a mostly submerged continent of solid waste, old fishing lines and suspended plastic bits off the coast of California that is known to kill jellyfish, sea turtles, birds, sea lions, fish and other animals by choking them or snaring them in rope.

The western patch, off the eastern coast of Japan, is a prime source of Hawaiian beach litter, much of it decades old.

Although there is precious little hard information on the gyres' sizes or exact composition, the risks to underwater and airborne wildlife are fairly well understood. What has received less attention, until now, is the potential for the gyres not only to kill ocean-dwellers but to send the chemicals in much of that garbage back up the food chain, ending in your stomach.

While NOAA predicted the existence of pollution gyres as far back as 1988 based on scattered data, there has been little concerted effort to measure their impacts on human health.

The potential dangers are very real, not least because plastic is proliferating at an astounding pace. According to a recent issue of the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, the volume of plastic produced in the first decade of the 21st century approaches all plastic



production during the previous hundred years.

Floating plastic not only contains its own chemicals but readily absorbs others, such as from paints, coolants and metals, known to be harmful to humans. Small plastic bits, including pellets often referred to as nurdles, which form the raw materials of many plastic products of all types worldwide, are essentially toxic sponges, and they exist in the oceans (and on beaches) in uncountable numbers thanks to shipping spills, accidental releases at factories and a variety of other

hazards.

By the time small animals consume them they may have accumulated any number of toxic hitchhikers. Earlier this decade, research by Hideshige Takada and a team of Japanese experts found that plastic pellets can contain toxin levels up to a million times higher than that in the surrounding water.

This is sobering when considered alongside recent research by a biologist at the United Kingdom's University of Plymouth, showed that zooplankton and other creatures at the bottom of the ocean's food chain are definitely consuming nurdles and other small plastic pieces from the gyres.

The fact that fish then eat those small creatures is well known. The last link in the chain is if and when the chemicals in the plastic enter the fishes' systems, what researchers call "bioavailability." If that is shown to be the case, then fish living in the vicinity of the gyres—which together cover vast swathes of the world's oceans—are likely a conduit for toxic substances to humans.

Condensed from DC Bureau (Natural Resources) ~ JMV

WATER—from Page One

Crossroads at Big Creek, 2041 Michigan Street, Sturgeon Bay, is the location for a three part program. At 6:30 PM, student volunteers with the Niagara Escarpment Awareness Team (NEAT) will demonstrate how the local karst topography affects the water quality in our wells.

At 7:00 PM, the program moves into the John & Helen Collins Learning Center where guest speakers Melissa Malott, Water Program Director for Clean Wisconsin, Inc. and Denny Caneff, Executive Director of the Wisconsin River Alliance, will explain what can be done to create a special management zone in Northeast Wisconsin to address these risks. A question and answer period will follow.

Following the presentations and question/answer period, everyone is invited to interact with the speakers, local county conservationists, and the sponsors. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of Crossroads. The expenses for this event are underwritten by the sponsors and there is no charge to the public. For more information, please contact Barb Graul at 920-743-6843.

WE WANT YOU to be alert when it comes to renewable Energy. It's easy!

Did you know that your Renewable Energy Task Force regularly sends out *Renewable Energy Alerts* via email.

We do!

Some of them are just terrific!

Starting waaaay back in 2008, these alerts have been going out on a monthly basis. That's over 22 to date! Why aren't you getting yours?

These alerts cover a myriad of topics: From the Vatican going solar to, would you believe, people trying to make the case for nuclear energy as a renewable resource?

All you need to do is contact us and sign up to receive them. Did we happen to mention that the cost is really reasonable, too? They're FREE!

And this is not a limited time offer, unless you want it to be. We'll keep sending you useful information until you tell us to stop.

Did we happen to mention that these alerts are



FREE? That's worth mentioning twice!

If you aren't already receiving the alerts, isn't it time you started? If you were already signed up, you would have recently received Alert #23, which would have given you two great links to *Re-*

power America and to an article in the *Green Bay Press Gazette* about a controversy over Wind Turbines!

So, don't put this off. Drop us an email or give us a call and get these alerts coming your way.

Keep yourself on the well-informed edge of saving the world!

www.RenewableDoorCounty.com

email infoRETF@dcec-wi.org

or phone Don Pardonner at 920-839-1182.

Be a Big Help!

Wisconsin's Clean Energy Jobs Act is in danger. "Big Business" is out to kill its passage. Send a message to your legislators supporting the Act via:

<http://www.wisconsinenvironment.org/action/email/clean-jobs-bill?id4=ES>

Thank You!

DCEC Mourns Passing of Dr. David Boyd, 1st Vice President

DCEC Vice-president, J. David Boyd, died on January 7, 2010 at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. He was surrounded by his loving and grateful family,

David was born January 2, 1937 in Highland Park, Illinois, and he married Nancy Nichols on June 25, 1960. Educated at Harvard, David received his medical degree from the University of Illinois and completed a residency in Psychiatry at the University of Colorado Medical Center in 1968. He served in the US Army at Ft. Gordon, Georgia from 1968 until 1970.

In 1970 David moved with his family to Boulder, Colorado, where he maintained a private practice and served as Medical Director of Psychiatric Services at Wardenburg Student Health Center, University of Colorado. In 1992 David moved to Minneapolis to become Medical Director for United Behavioral Health in Minnesota. He joined the Mayo Clinic Psychiatric staff in Rochester, Minnesota and retired in 2002. In 2003 he was elected Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Long-time summer residents of Fish Creek, Wisconsin, David and Nancy made it their permanent home in 2002. David continued seeing patients on a part-time basis as well as serving as a board member for Door County Community Programs, Sunshine House, JAK's Place, and Door County Environmental Council. He also was a member of the Gibraltar Township Planning Commission. In retirement, he enjoyed many outdoor



activities with friends and family. In addition to his wife, David is survived by daughters, Liz Hoswell, Westminster, Colorado and Katie McGlenn, Madison, Wisconsin; son, Douglas Boyd, Denver, Colorado; sister, Ann Boyd, Boulder, Colorado; grandchildren, Madeline and Sam Hoswell, Boyd, Maggie, and Tess McGlenn; sons-in-law, Michael Hoswell and Deven McGlenn; and sister's partner, Suzanne Kincaid.

A celebration of David Boyd's life will be held this summer in Fish Creek, Wisconsin. Please share your stories and memories of David Boyd at <http://rememberingj davidboyd.blogspot.com/>. Memorials may be directed to Sunshine House, 55 West Yew Street, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 <http://www.sunshine>

[houseinc.org/index.html](http://www.sunshinehouseinc.org/index.html); or the Door County Environmental Council, PO Box 114, Fish Creek WI 54212 <http://www.dcec-wi.org/>; or JAK's Place 820 Egg Harbor Road, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 <http://www.jaks-place.com/>.

We all miss David very much and his absence will be felt each time there is a board meeting or a work session, as David would have been there. Undoubtedly, someone will comment about his dedication and then we will all remember him for being such a loyal and sincere person. Our sympathy is extended to the family of David Boyd, our good friend and supporter.

Condensed from Door County Advocate

~JMV

What You Can Do for Our Earth

I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS an appalling statistic. We Americans waste 14% of the food we buy. Wow! All that energy to grow, transport, package, refrigerate and cook our food squandered because of our poor planning.

Planning menus is the key to not overbuying in the first place and then finding ways to use leftovers ensures having little waste. I know it's especially hard to use restraint when faced with the gorgeous bounty of the local farmers' markets! Here are some ideas for food that's reaching the end of its shelf life:

Fruit

Bananas, berries and pineapple can be thrown into a blender with yogurt or ice cream to make smoothies, or frozen for baking at a later date. Oranges, lemons or limes can be squeezed for juice to drink or to use in baking. Apples, pears and peaches can be peeled, sliced and frozen for baking or used fresh on top of pancakes or ice cream.

Vegetables

Zucchini, onions, carrots, mushrooms, broccoli, cauliflower, celery, peppers and others can be cut into bite-sized pieces, tossed in olive oil and roasted @ 450° for 40 minutes. Delish! Or how about a stir fry? Or you can cut them up and freeze them for soup.

Cheese

Shred and freeze to melt into an omelet, quiche, soup or casserole.

Bread

Dry it out and cube for stuffing or croutons; or crush for breadcrumbs for meatballs or casseroles.



Tomatoes

Core, oil and stuff with seasoned breadcrumbs. Then broil them.

Leftover Meat

Cut into pieces and freeze for omelets, quiche, stir-fry, casserole or soup.

Leftover Rice

Freeze for soup or stir-fry, or cook with milk, sugar and raisins for rice pudding.

Open jars of salsa, bbq sauce, taco sauce or ketchup

Add to spaghetti, chili, meatballs or casseroles for extra flavor.

Leftover mashed potatoes

Flatten, season and fry for breakfast patties, or use to top a Shepherd's pie or meatloaf.

Leftover baked potatoes

Shred for potato pancakes or hash browns or you could make my friend Lenore's Totally Bewitching Soup:

Peeled and cubed leftover baked potatoes.

Half Milk, half water to cover the potatoes.

Add cooked and diced celery and onions.

Vegetable soup base.

Heat through and add leftover shredded cheese and leftover sour cream before serving.

That will warm you up on a cold winter's day! Eliminating food waste will not only save you money, but saves the earth's resources, too.

Sileen Andera DCEC President

YUCCA Mountain Site Losing Favor

With a federal plan to handle nuclear waste in deadlocked disarray, an advisory panel that has spent 20 years studying a proposed repository at Yucca Mountain turned to discussing ways of reusing the fuel instead. But the meeting of the panel, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, made evident that such reuse was uncertain, along with the future of Yucca Mountain, in Nevada, about 100 miles from Las Vegas.

The board heard presentations from three major nuclear companies on strategies for sorting out the components of nuclear waste: burying some, recovering others for use as fuel and putting some in reactors to be transformed into materials that are easier to handle. Developing such plans would take decades, experts said, and deciding which path to follow would depend in part on the kind of rock chosen for burial.

Yucca Mountain, a ridge of volcanic rock, has been the main focus of a federal program that has spent \$10.4 billion seeking a repository for nuclear waste. Opposition to such a repository has been fierce in Nevada, and President Obama spoke out against the project during his campaign. In February, he released a proposed budget cutting off most of the money for Yucca Mountain and promised to appoint a commission to look

into alternatives.

B. John Garrick, the chairman of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, established by Congress in 1987, said the White House had announced plans for a panel to review NASA about the same time it pledged to form the blue-ribbon commission on nuclear waste. The space flight board has already been appointed, done its work and announced its findings, he said. Some experts on the nuclear industry have speculated that elected officials might prefer a report that comes after the midterm elections in 2010, because the commission could recommend proceeding with Yucca Mountain.

Meanwhile, the government is continuing to pursue an operating license for Yucca, although the proposed financing for that work was slashed at the behest of the Senate majority leader. Apart from disagreement about how and where the nation's nuclear waste should be disposed of, the basic financing for the program is now in question.

In the early 1980s, the federal government signed contracts with all the nuclear utilities, agreeing to have the Energy Department begin taking the waste in 1998 with the utilities paying a tenth of a cent per kilowatt-hour made in their nuclear

Please turn to "YUCCA"—page six

Lawn Care Practices Damage Our Air, Land and Water Resources

As is true nationally, lawn care has become a big deal for most Door County homeowners and certainly an even bigger deal for large residential developments and golf courses. This is not surprising since most of us find freshly mowed, green lawns to be both functional and visually pleasing. But according to Safelawns (a national non-profit dedicated to promoting natural lawn care) those good looking lawns reflect significant negative impacts. They estimate that summer irrigation of an average private lawn accounts for over 40% of a residence's water consumption and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claims that mowing those lawns amounts to about 10% of our air pollution!

All of this is not good but the chemical impacts are even more troubling. The EPA has found that synthetic lawn care products negatively impact healthy soil, are toxic to beneficial insects, birds, children and pets. Numerous studies by the National Academy of Sciences link lawn chemicals to various cancers, genetic defects and developmental/behavioral disorders. Obviously the caution signs posted on treated lawns are there for a reason.

Additionally, most lawns are routinely over-fertilized with synthetics that are inappropriately formulated. The EPA estimates that just 35% of that fertilizer reaches the grass plant. The remainder is volatilized into the air, seeps to ground water or runs off into surface water. Door County's ongoing battle with ground water contamination and excesses of cladophora and milfoil in surface waters bear witness to that statistic.

The good news: Much of the useable and visual pleasure of lawns is still possible without the impacts of standard synthetic lawn care. The book *Organic Lawn Care Manual* by Paul Tukey and the website www.safelawns.com are good sources of environmentally friendly lawn care

information. For starters DCEC recommends that we:

- Reduce our mowing area(s) which will help preserve natural spaces, reduce resource use and limit green house gas emissions.
- Consider manual or electric mowers and/or choose lawn care providers that do not use chemicals or gas mowers.
- Mow high and leave the clippings lay. They are good fertilizers.
- Go natural and practice sustainable lawn care using natural products. They are readily available, work, cost about the same as synthetics and help promote healthy soil. One caveat: Not all organic lawn products are environmentally friendly. A few can be more damaging than corresponding synthetics. Be cautious when shopping. A good resource that addresses this concern is: *The Truth About Organic Gardening*, by Jeff Gillman.
- Identify and become knowledgeable about lawn fertility needs and care problems before jumping to quick fix solutions, thus avoiding misdiagnosis and mistreatment.
- Use synthetic lawn care products only as a last resort. Use spot applications and avoid nonselective broadcast treatments.

The DCEC Board encourages all of us to consider the above recommendations this spring and into the future when planning our lawn care activities and let's encourage our families and friends to do the same. If we rent, own a condo or frequent a golf course, let's petition the proprietors to evaluate their lawn care practices as well.

If we each help carry the load we can go a long way toward protecting Door County's vital resources while assuring healthy soil, clean drinking water, and clean surface water, in addition to reducing our carbon footprint. What a deal!
~BM

AUTOS—from page three

Of course, such a turnaround could happen again. And no one's saying that the massive U.S. highway system will suddenly become obsolete, that traffic jams will be nothing but a jangling memory, that teens won't still steer junkers to football games and lovers' lanes and a shiny new car in the drive won't still warm parents' hearts. Americans' romance with the car is too deep-seated to just disappear.

One factor suggesting auto ownership numbers can go into permanent reverse is the sheer size of the U.S. car fleet relative to the number of drivers. Currently, there are 117 motor vehicles for every 100 people with licenses, and it is difficult for Mr. Brown to see why people would continue to accumulate more cars than they can use. That's a definition of saturation, when the number of vehicles exceeds the number of licensed drivers.

The high debt load from purchasing cars and other automobile-related costs will lead some three-car families to cut back to two cars, and those with two cars to trade down to one or none. Better transit systems and the influx of residents into downtown areas of some U.S. cities are also cutting down on car usage.

Even that familiar teenage rite of passage – getting a driver's license – appears to be diminishing, an inauspicious trend for cars. Although the U.S. teen population is the highest on record, the number with driver's licenses is less than 10 million, well below the peak of 12 million in the late 1970s, according to figures compiled by the Earth Policy Institute. Many teens aren't using cars to socialize, as they would have a generation ago, and instead are using the Internet and smart phones.

Worries over a downward trend in car ownership are on the radar screens of automotive analysts, too. The drop in ownership is arguably one of the absolute most serious downside threats to the North American auto industry.

Ownership levels in Canada and the U.S. are markedly different. There are about 75 cars on the road in Canada for every 100 people of driving age, including both those with and without licenses. In the U.S., the comparable figure is 100 cars for 100 people of driving age. If Americans became like Canadians in car ownership, it would be devastating for the industry, because six to eight million fewer cars would be needed annually.

Condensed from Toronto Globe and Mail feature by Martin Mittelstaedt

~JMV

YUCCA—from page five

reactors. Without Yucca Mountain, the government is unlikely to start taking the waste for many years, and in July, some utilities told the government they wanted to stop paying. Some state utility regulators sided with the utilities.

The nuclear waste fund now amounts to about \$22 billion, and some nuclear companies want that money diverted to research on new technologies for processing waste.

That leaves unclear whether the mountain's suitability as a waste repository will ever be determined. The Technical Review Board, which holds public meetings about three times a year, is now focusing on alternative strategies like building a new class of reactors that could accept the "spent" fuel from existing reactors. These new reactors would derive some energy from the wastes and break down the most difficult, long-lived materials into elements that are easier to handle.

But the basic premise of reuse is open to question, said Ernest J. Moniz, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a former deputy secretary of energy. He told the group that most of the thinking on reusing the fuel dated from decades ago, when uranium was thought to be scarce. But now, "roughly speaking, we've got uranium coming out of our ears, for a long, long time," Professor Moniz said.

Rodney Ewing, a professor of geology at the University of Michigan, said that the nuclear waste problem should be resolved promptly so the industry could play a role in fighting global warming, but that the selection process should be scientific and not political like the decision on Yucca. While Yucca Mountain is isolated and in a desert, experts say that chemical conditions there and water flowage conditions present major problems.

Condensed from New York Times

~JMV

Give a
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 to DCEC
 This Year.

Help Keep Us
 40 Years
 Strong!

dcec membership application

() \$25 Individual () \$35 Family () \$50 Sustaining
 () \$100 Donor () \$_____ Other () \$15 Student/Limited

This amount would really help! Thanks!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Door County voter? () yes () no

Township or Municipality: _____

Email: _____ Please email me DCEC alerts:

Summer mailing address, if different:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail to: DCEC, P.O. Box 114, Fish Creek, WI 54212



Annual Memberships Renew Soon!

REMINDER: Your membership in DCEC runs with the calendar year with renewals starting each November. *Renewal reminders* go out in early February. If you haven't renewed yet, please do, and at as high a membership category that you can afford. Thank you for your support. You are DCEC!

DCEC'S Leadership

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Eileen Andera, Sturgeon Bay

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

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Membership Coordinator

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Your Elected Officials

GOVERNOR James Doyle

115 East State Capitol, Madison WI 53702

(608) 266-1212 • governor@wisconsin.gov



STATE SENATOR Alan Lasee

130 South State Capitol, Madison WI 53702

(608) 266-3512 • Sen.lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov

STATE ASSEMBLY Garey Bies

125 West State Capitol, Madison WI 53708

(608) 266-5350 • Rep.bies@legis.wisconsin.gov

US SENATOR Russ Feingold

505 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington DC 20510-4904

(202) 224-5323 • russell_feingold@feingold.senate.gov

US SENATOR Herb Kohl

330 Hart Senate Bldg., Washington DC 20510-4903

(202) 224-5653 • http://kohl.senate.gov/gen_contact

US CONGRESSMAN Steve Kagen

1232 Longworth House Office Building

Washington DC 20515-4908

(202) 225-5665

http://kagen.house.gov/IMA/issue_subscribe.htm

[Note: visit <http://www.vote-smart.org> if you don't vote in Door County. Just enter your zip code and they'll display all of your elected representatives with links to detailed fact sheets and contact information about every one]



door county
environmental council, inc.
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DCEC Celebrates Forty Years!

0109



Outstanding Environmental Film Available for Showing

BILL MOYERS SAID “You cannot walk away unmoved,” from “A Sense of Wonder” —a film about the life of author/activist Rachel Carson.

Her 1962 book “Silent Spring” alerted the world to the dangers of chemical pesticides and created havoc with the chemical industry causing Rachel to be referred to as “that hysterical woman” which only succeeded in making her battles more intense.

Carson’s work and legacy lives on in “A Sense of Wonder,” a documentary-style film of a play written by and starring Kaiulani Lee, *Obie* award-winning actress from New York.

DCEC has secured the exclusive exhibition rights to this film for northeast Wisconsin and is making “A Sense of Wonder” available, in turn, to all of the High Schools in Door County at the discretion of school staff.

Other non-profit groups may use the presentation free for public use by request. A small donation fee is requested from for-profit groups. This wonderful presentation tells the frustration and challenges facing a great environmental leader as she endures the last big adventure of her life.

For availability and details, contact the DCEC office at 920-743-6003.

DCEC Endowment Fund

THE DCEC ENDOWMENT FUND exists so that the future of Door County’s wild spaces and family farms can be ensured far into the future.

Every year, the fund grows. Every year that it grows, is one year sooner that DCEC can devote our efforts exclusively to protecting our county’s beautiful environment.

You can help this important fund grow even faster by remembering DCEC in your estate. Each bequest, through your wills and estate plans, helps to bring us one step closer to financial independence, allowing us to take tough, sometimes unpopular, positions that protect our county for our future generations.

So, whether you can contribute now or later, please make a point of supporting *DCEC Endowment Fund*.

Legacies, memorials and direct gifts are all deeply appreciated. Please call, or have your advisor call, Jerry Viste at (920) 743-6003 for further information.

...and, after you read this newsletter, please pass it along to a friend.