

## GPUS Annual Meeting A Success

**DURHAM NC** - The Green Party of the United States (GPUS) held its 2009 Annual National Meeting July 23-26 on the campus of North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham NC. More than 100 delegates, party leaders, candidates, officeholders, and observers attended, representing at least 33 state Green Parties and caucuses.

Hillary Kane, Chair of the Green Party of Pennsylvania, served as Co-Chair of the Annual National Meeting Committee. "We were very impressed and grateful for the hospitality of our hosts in Durham," she said afterwards.

"NCCU was the perfect choice for us; everyone was so gracious and accommodating, from the facilities staff to the cafeteria."

"As an organizer, I was of course pleased with the turnout, and the fact that the event didn't lose money," said Hillary. "It was very much a team effort - the North Carolina Greens, and Tamar Yeager in the national office, really deserve much of the credit." Hillary also cited the showing of *Coal Country*, ([www.coalcountrythemovie.com](http://www.coalcountrythemovie.com)) a new documentary on the tragedy of mountaintop removal in West Virginia, as a personal highlight.

Vivek Anathan of Philadelphia, Ian Samways of Pittsburgh, and Carl Romanelli of Wilkes-Barre also attended the ANM as GPPA delegates "I feel Greens have really started working," enthused Vivek. "We can only look forward and upward in the future. Deeds, not only words!" Ian was also pleased with his experience. "I can't say enough about what an excellent meeting Hillary helped shepherd and put together. Many more people showed up than expected, and the setup helped ensure that participants could mingle and exchange ideas at all times of the day. NCCU was a great venue - the delegates were well-fed, and thus in constant good spirits!"

A forum on health care reform and the need for national single-payer health care featured Carl Romanelli, GPPA candidate for US Senate in 2006 and NEPA Coordinator for Healthcare4All PA ([www.healthcare4allpa.org](http://www.healthcare4allpa.org)), along with Dr. Jonathan Kotch (senior faculty member at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health), Dr. Justine McCabe (former co-chair of the Green Party of Connecticut), and Pat LaMarche (2004 Green VP nominee and 2006 candidate for Governor of Maine).

In a live-streamed speech, Cynthia McKinney, former Member of Congress and the Green Party's presidential nominee in 2008, discussed her recent efforts with the Free Gaza Movement ([www.freegaza.org](http://www.freegaza.org)), and Viva Palestina ([www.vivapalestina.org](http://www.vivapalestina.org)) to bring medical and other humanitarian supplies to Gaza in the wake of Israel's recent invasion. Ms. McKinney and other Free Gaza activists were detained when the vessel "Spirit of Humanity" was seized by Israeli gunboats on June 30. She was soon released, and a convoy from Viva Palestina later succeeded in delivering supplies.

The GPUS Black Caucus hosted N'COBRA, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America ([www.ncobra.com](http://www.ncobra.com)) for a workshop on advancing the Green Party's support for Reparations. The workshop addressed the value of the single-payer plan in eliminating racial disparities in access to health care. Other workshops covered such topics as campaign skills, fundraising, democratizing the Electoral College, the boycott-divestment-sanction movement to end Israel's human rights violations, ballot access, candidate recruitment, high speed rail, and Green economics. Videos of some of the workshops have also been placed online.

In a workshop on messaging, participants zoomed in on three areas for Greens to concentrate efforts: FOOD/WATER/ENERGY, SINGLE-PAYER HEALTHCARE, and HUMAN RIGHTS.

More information can be found at [www.ncgreenparty.org/2009-ANM.html](http://www.ncgreenparty.org/2009-ANM.html). Video highlights are available at the GPUS web site ([www.gp.org/video/durham.shtml](http://www.gp.org/video/durham.shtml)) and at LiveStream.com ([www.livestream.com/greenpartyus](http://www.livestream.com/greenpartyus)). Audio highlights are available at [www.blogtalkradio.com/Gregg-Jocoy](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/Gregg-Jocoy).

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### **Greens Organize Against Marcellus Shale Drilling in NE PA**

*Jay Sweeney, Wyoming County Greens*

Drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale poses a serious environmental threat to NEPA and most of the rest of the state. Extracting gas from this shale deposit was considered prohibitively expensive until Halliburton devised the hydrofracturing ("fracking") process. This process forces water, sand and a number of carcinogenic chemicals down wells under pressure to crush the shale and release the gas. In the process, the water resources used are turned into industrial waste without any available treatment facility to handle it.

The Green Party of Pennsylvania has called for the resignation of acting DEP Secretary John Hanger for his comments that the benefits of drilling for natural gas "outweigh" the environmental harm, and his failure to prohibit the injection of carcinogens and endocrine disruptors into our water supplies.

On July 14, Ben Price of the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund ([www.celdf.org](http://www.celdf.org)) spoke to about 30 people in Brooklyn, Pa. The group included several folks from the southern tier of New York. Ben's presentation was titled "Gas Drilling and Hydrofracturing: You Have a Right to Say 'No!'" Ben laid out a rights-based strategy that circumvents the regulatory process, and prohibits the undesired activity by ordinance at the Township level. It is a great strategy and we hope we could implement it in our area in the near future. Ben's presentation was sponsored by the Green Party of Pennsylvania and Citizens for Clean Water.

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### **In This Issue**

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**From the Editors:** Green action takes many forms, all of them important. It's important to envision the world we want as both your PA State Committee and the GPUS National Committee have been doing; and it's equally important to get your hands dirty cleaning up a stream like the Cumberland County folks, or like Lehigh Valley's Greta Browne to wear out your shoes to call attention to climate change, or to help a community organize against harmful oil & gas drilling. Let us know your dreams of a Greener world, & the practical actions you're taking to get there by writing us: [greenstar@gpofpa.org](mailto:greenstar@gpofpa.org).  
- *The GPPA Communications Committee*



# Green Party of Pennsylvania

## Contact Information

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## Mark your calendars!

Join your fellow Greens at the following important events!

*MAREA Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival*  
[www.paenergyfest.com](http://www.paenergyfest.com)  
Sept. 18-20, Kempton PA

*G20 Actions – People's Summit and Mass March*  
[www.gpoac.org/node/95](http://www.gpoac.org/node/95)  
Sept. 19-25, Pittsburgh PA

Next State Committee meeting  
[www.gpofpa.org](http://www.gpofpa.org)  
Oct. 11, Hazleton

# State Committee meets, strategizes

By Skip Mendler



Delegates from GPPA chapters across the state met at Highland Farm in York County on July 19 for a strategic “retreat” session, hosted by the York Greens. Facilitator Paula Bronstein of Delaware County, assisted by Philadelphia Green Charles Sherrouse, led delegates through a systematic and wide-ranging discussion of our present strengths, weaknesses, and future potential.

“Paula outlined a concise and logical path for discussion on growing the party. I am re-energized,” said Steve Baker. Improved communications and outreach efforts, more inclusive organizing, greater cooperation with like-minded groups, and increased involvement in our communities were some of the positive actions identified.

## Green Local News

### NE PA

The Public Utilities Commission held a couple of hearings in Lackawanna County about a proposed 500 KV transmission line from Berwick, Pa to Roseland, New Jersey. PPL plans to run a 101 mile transmission line through some of the most populous areas of the region.

The vast majority spoke out against the transmission line which will not benefit PA as the power will be transmitted directly to New Jersey. Pennsylvania will have the “benefit” of an expanded nuclear site and a new nuclear reactor.

Greta Browne passed through NEPA on her Walk for the Climate from New Orleans to the Canadian border. (See next page for more about Greta's walk. --Ed.) She was joined by her husband Guy Gray from Wilkes-Barre to Scranton. Jay Sweeney joined her from South Abington Township to La Plume. Reporter Nathan Urie interviewed Greta for a story in the Abington Journal. Vera Scroggins hosted Greta and walked with her in Susquehanna County. – Jay Sweeney, Wyoming County Greens

### Cumberland County

On Saturday July 18 the Cumberland County Green Party (CCGP) teamed up with the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association (CCWA) to clean a short portion of the Conodoguinet Creek, near Mechanicsburg, PA. CCWA cleans a different section of the stream every third Saturday of the month in the warm seasons, water level and turbidity permitting.



Blyden Potts and Rolfe Bowers (other folks in background) reloading a canoe that sunk under the weight of trash

We had intended to clean about a mile but the amount of trash in the river overflowed the capacity of the boats we had brought to collect it in when we were only a bit over half a mile through, so we will work on the other half mile in August, and perhaps bring an extra boat.

The amount of trash in just ½ mile of the creek was astounding: about a dozen tires, a ladder, wood planks, and 8'x4' shingled plywood roof that may have come from a hunting blind, a large piece of foam rubber, a plastic frog, broken lawn chairs, a car axle, dozens of old bottles – some that appear to be decades old and might be prized by collectors – casings from spent shotgun shells, and many, many other small items.

We saw some large carp, a big catfish, a great many trout of various sizes, and lots of crayfish and other invertebrates. It was good work, a fun time, a very useful project, and gave the two groups a chance to learn about each other.

The Cumberland County Green Party also used the occasion to have an annual picnic at the nearby Willow Mill Park after the cleanup. As it happened the July 18 date was also the date for CCWA's annual picnic, so the two groups held a joint potluck picnic with lots of good food.

This was the first time that CCGP assisted CCWA, but we are already planning future joint efforts, starting with the August 15 cleanup. – Blyden Potts, Cumberland County Green Party

**What's happening in your county? Send reports of local Green Party activity to:**  
[greenstar@gpofpa.org](mailto:greenstar@gpofpa.org)

Local Organizing

## Greta Browne: "Walking for All the Grandchildren"



Greta Browne is one of the co-founders, with her husband Guy Gray, of the Lehigh Valley Greens, and has been a Green activist since before there was a Green Party. This text is adapted from her "Climate Walk – For All the Grandchildren" webpage at [climatewalk.homestead.com](http://climatewalk.homestead.com).

In late October 2008 I became profoundly disturbed by what I was learning about Global Warming and its potential threats to life on this planet. I needed to do something radical in response, something that would alter my own life, because it seemed absurd to go on as usual.

As a result, I am taking a long walk. I see it as a meditation, a prayer, and an action that will call attention to the issues of climate change and challenge people along the way to enact changes that will make them part of the solution instead of the problem.

I am dedicating my walk to my three grandchildren and to all the world's children, because their lives will feel the impact of what we accomplish or fail to accomplish in the next 3 to 5 years.

I started my walk from New Orleans to Rouses Point, NY, along Route 11, on March 14. On March 8, after visits to the Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Galveston, Texas, I started out for New Orleans in my gypsy wagon - a small 1982 TranStar motor home - and on Saturday, March 14, I took my first steps on Route 11.

You can read about my Climate Walk and see photographs that I took along the way, on my blog:

[forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com](http://forallthegrandchildren.blogspot.com).

I also have a blog page specifically intended for children:

[climatechangechildren.blogspot.com/](http://climatechangechildren.blogspot.com/)

I would welcome people to walk with me at any point of the WALK, for a day, a week, or a month. And I could really use a driver for the gypsy wagon - someone, an artist, writer or graduate student, who had her own project to work on would be ideal because the driving will be only 15 miles or so a day. Call me in the evening at 832-971-6658 if you're interested.

Some people have kindly offered to support this walk with their contributions. I have set up a PayPal account on the "Sponsors/Donations" page of the website.



*Greta walking past the towers of the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in Berwick PA (photo Guy Gray)*

**Track Greta's progress on Google Maps:**  
[tinyurl.com/gretasprogress](http://tinyurl.com/gretasprogress)

## Support the Green Party of Pennsylvania!

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### Donation Tips & Instructions

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- Please include all contact information
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- Individuals may only donate \$2000 in a given year
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