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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.

– The GPPA Communications Committee
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 Condoguinet 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.

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
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.

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.

I also have a blog page specifically intended for children: 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.

Track Greta's progress on Google Maps: tinyurl.com/gretasprogress

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