



www.ccc-wis.com

[Take a look at the air quality monitoring going on at several sites in Chippewa Co! Leave a comment.](#)

The Frac Sand Times-April 27, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/STHA will be Sunday, May 6, at Charlie's Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend! Call my number for directions. Coffee and treats will be available. Bring something to share in terms of your latest findings.

The frac sand industry is enlarging so quickly that it is difficult to keep up with all the written literature on the topic! There may be something in each reference that may help set standards in your city, town, county, or region. Frac Sand mining in Western Wisconsin continues to take over Wisconsin lands and hills, ridges, and bluffs. This newsletter is an amalgamation of information providing insight on a complex topic.

"Only after the last tree has been cut down, Only after the last river has been poisoned, Only after the last fish has been caught, Only then will you find money cannot be eaten. ~ Cree Prophecy."

We would like to encourage small groups of people to show "Gasland" at GASLAND PARTIES in homes and have some opportunity to talk about how the mining of silica sand connects with the gas/oil/mining initiatives in hydraulic fracturing activities. It can not be shown to large groups in public places without paying a screening fee.

Please report any blatant violations directly to the DNR, the Sheriff's Dept., the County Highway Commissioner, the Health Department or the Land Conservation Office if you can; I can help you out with names to call, etc. It is important that information is conveyed to the proper enforcers if we know who they are. The biggest question we still have is WHO IS RESPONSIBLE? Unsafe,unhealthy conditions must be reported! It appears there are some very concerning incidents that are being overlooked.

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Here's a bit of doggerel from our "The Price of Sand" Facebook page, that might give you a laugh....

Advice for Travelers

**There's a place in Wisconsin
not too far from here
Post office and a couple of bars
cheese curds and five kinds of beer**

**Generally, folks are friendly
if you need a hand
But things can quickly get ugly
If you talk about sand.**

**Big companies from out of state
came here a few years ago
Quietly bought up tracts of land
greased a few palms, spread some dough**

**Now mines are sprouting everywhere
and eighteen wheelers rule the roads
they're hauling sand day and night
they've hit the mother lode**

**The money trickles down, they say
seven times for every dollar
Just look around and you'll see
good jobs, honest work, blue collar**

**But not everyone appreciates
the change that's taking place
Some don't like a busy mine
where there was just empty space**

**There's silica dust in the air
and wells are going bad
If you did not sell your farm
you'll definitely wish you had**

**So if you're in backwoods Wisconsin
way out in the sticks
Talk about football, weather or fishing
but don't mention frac sand or politics.
Jim Tittle, Nice Pictures (612) 991-6423 jimtittle@nicepix.biz**

Kiss It Goodbye

**A hill is a hump is a lump is a mound
It's a simple old pile of dirt
If you dig it up or take it down,
there's nothing much you're going to hurt**

**And water is free for the taking
There's no law that you'd be breaking
take all you like, for the love of Mike
There's still plenty for wood ducks and pike.**

Birds fly through the air with the greatest of ease

And we breath it all day, fresh winds or a breeze
It's not bought or sold--plenty for all, I'm told
Common stuff, not precious like silver or gold.

So don't think twice about silly tree huggers
or impractical artists or lovers
Act now while the price is high
Dig it, load it and kiss it goodbye! Jim Tittle

From the Religious Community

Friends,

Advocacy is on the road! Through our blog, [Voices for Change](#), the advocacy ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) travel to a different state each month to explore how Lutheran advocates and congregations lift up issues concerning their communities and our larger nation.

This month we invite you to Pennsylvania, where ELCA Lutherans are discussing issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in their state. Fracking is a means of extracting oil and natural gas from deep rock formations using a high pressure stream of water, sand and chemicals to break apart underground rock formations so that natural gas or oil can flow to the surface. The technique has been fairly common for decades — what is new are technologies that allow drilling to go into deeper rock formations and allow for horizontal drilling from a single wellhead over many acres.

The spread of fracking has greatly increased domestic supplies of natural gas and has brought jobs and economic development to rural communities that have suffered job and population losses in recent decades. However, it has also raised concerns of water contamination from fracking fluids and air pollution from smog-forming chemicals released along with natural gas. Fracking also comes with social costs for local economies and communities, including raised housing costs and strains on infrastructure.

Currently fracking is occurring in a number of other states, including Wyoming, Arkansas, Texas, Ohio, and North Dakota. The practice is unique in each region, and each state responds to fracking's effects differently. This month, the ELCA "Advocating on the Road" series is focusing on Lutheran voices in Pennsylvania, and exploring the complexities surrounding fracking within Pennsylvania's borders.

Join us as we learn more about the practice of fracking and how it's affecting Pennsylvanians. Check out the first post [here](#), or visit <http://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/post/fracking-in-the-keystone-state-12>. To subscribe to the blog and be notified when there is a new piece, click [here](#) or sign up at <http://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/>.

[Fracking in the Keystone State](#)

See you in Pennsylvania,

Your Friends in the ELCA Washington Office

Fracking: The New Global Water Crisis

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/factsheet/fracking-the-new-global-water-crisis-europe/>

Fracking: Corruption a part of Pennsylvanias Heritage

<http://truth-out.org/news/item/8051-fracking-fracking-corruption-a-part-of-pennsylvanias-heritage#.T2zzarTidIs.email>

Posted: 12 Apr 2012 07:48 AM Unimin—Monroe County –Jamie and family are surrounded by mines!!!
PDT



About That Dimock Fracking Study: Result Summaries Show Methane and Hazardous Chemicals

Christine Shearer, Truthout: "Although the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 issued a statement last week that its preliminary tests of water samples near drilling and fracking sites in the Pennsylvania town of Dimock showed no health concerns, the group Water Defense and 'Gasland' director Josh Fox went to Dimock to look at the EPA summaries themselves, which they say do report high levels of explosive methane, heavy metals and hazardous chemicals."

[Read the Article](#)



Do YOU own the Mineral Rights on your own Property? Please find out for sure!

Read this article: <http://www.savethewatersedge.com/bayfield-county-mineral-rig.html>
“*Bayfield County Mineral Rights*” – This information applies to ALL Wisconsin counties!

- Does the County own your mineral rights?
- Does someone else own them?
- Did you know that whoever owns the mineral rights can mine whether or not you want them to mine?

<http://www.resourceinsights.blogspot.com/2012/04/my-gasland-tis-of-thee.html>

SUNDAY, APRIL 01, 2012

My 'Gasland' 'Tis of Thee

It is one thing to read about the fight over the environmental effects of [hydraulic fracturing](#) or fracking that are associated with natural gas drilling in deep shale formations. It's quite another to see that fight captured on film. The documentary film [Gasland](#) provides a compelling, if one-sided, portrait of the devastation visited on the lives of those who live closest to the drilling. Read more by clicking on the link. Note the many parallels between frac sand mining and hydraulic fracturing!!!

Resource Depletion

<http://www.wpr.org/ideas/programnotes.cfm?dteDate=4/3/2012>

**3:00
PM** [At Issue with Ben Merens](#) - 04/03K

What happens as demand for critical natural resources surpasses the supply? After three, Ben and his guest discuss global resource depletion, and what can be done about it.

Guest: Michael Klare, Professor of Peace and World Security Studies, Hampshire College. Author of several books about energy and natural resources, including his latest, "The Race for What's Left: The Scramble for the World's Last Resources."

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[America's Sandbox - The Water Pt 3 - Minnesota's Perspective - 3/23/12](#)

This is Dave Carlson's Northland Adventures Show featuring John Tittle and Jim McIlrath discussing the sand mine issues. There are more on Frac Sand called America's Sandbox parts 1,2 and 4 on his website at www.wqow.com.



Is it better to use water for growing food crops or to use it to get more Oil and Gas?

http://www.denverpost.com/environment/ci_20299962/colorado-farms-planning-dry-spell-losing-auction-bids

Colorado farms planning for dry spell losing auction bids for water to fracking projects

By Bruce Finley The Denver Post

POSTED: 04/01/2012 01:00:00 AM MDT UPDATED: 04/01/2012 01:15:58 AM MDT

[THE PRICE OF SAND](#), a documentary about frac sand mining in the Midwest, is sponsoring a song contest. **Write and record your original song about frac sand mining for a chance to win \$100 and have your song in our film!** If you want to know more about frac sand mining and its effects, look at the video clips on our [website](#) and [follow us on Facebook](#) and [twitter](#) for updates.

If you've got even a grain of sand's worth of talent, you can do this! Music and film are among the many ways to spread the word about this crucial issue, and we need to pull out all the stops before it's too late.

SONG CONTEST RULES

Entries must be received by **May 17, 2012**.

Both the melody and the lyrics of your entry must be original – all yours.

Content that is slanderous, obscene or illegal is prohibited.

Judges' decision is final.

Acceptance of the \$100 prize constitutes permission for the song to be used in the film. Winning entry will be considered for inclusion in the film, but the film's director will have the option to use it or not, at his discretion. All entries may be considered for inclusion in the film. If a non-winning entry is used, the artist agrees to grant permission for use. In this case, a \$50 honorarium will be paid.

JUDGES

Our judges are:

[Adam Gregory Pergament](#):

An accomplished poet and musician, Adam is the leader of [The Venice Gas House Trolley](#) in Madison, WI. He was a finalist for

the title of 2010 National/International Urban Griot along with Leonard Cohen and Saul Williams. Adam's music and poetry embraces many different styles and sounds.

Quillan Roe:

Quillan is the leader of the Minneapolis-based [Roe Family Singers](#), performers of traditional and original Americana music. They were recently awarded a McKnight Fellowship for Performing Musicians and won the "World's Best Jug Band" competition for the second year in a row.

TWO WAYSTO ENTER

1. Email a file to us (MP3, WAV, etc): bestsandsong@gmail.com
2. Send us a CD or a cassette. Be sure to include your name and contact information!

Midwest Pictures – 2500 University Ave West, E4 – St. Paul, MN 55114

All entries will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

DEADLINE IS THURSDAY, MAY 17.

**GET OUT YOUR GUITAR, BANJO, TROMBONE, KAZOO,
OR WHATEVER YOU'VE GOT!**

We look forward to hearing from you!



Commentary on a few statements from one of our readers:

http://chippewa.com/news/local/mining-firms-we-re-keeping-things-safe/article_7ffb2dd6-7da2-11e1-af06-0019bb2963f4.html

Preferred Sands of Minnesota, LLC already operates a 225-acre sand mine in the Town of Cooks Valley. It is proposing what would be the largest mine in Chippewa County on a 1,224-acre site in Auburn.

The 225 acres mine started out as a 13 acre LaGessee mine.

And Red Flint Sand and Gravel of Eau Claire is planning the 35-acre Taylor Creek Transit mine.

But they have leased or bought the mineral rights on ~1400 acres !!

“Preferred installs groundwater monitoring systems around its plant production activities to collect valuable information to support industry perspective that these type of mining activities have no negative impact to the water supply,” wrote Paul McLean, vice president of corporate development of Preferred Sands.

Excuse me. What kind of science determines before collecting samples that their purpose is to support a pre-determined conclusion of “no negative impacts?” What do they do with samples that don't support this conclusion?

“The only chemical used in the process to settle out solids is polyacrylamide flocculant, which attaches itself to the clay, does not migrate and thus has no risk of reaching the groundwater,” McLean wrote.

SEE: http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/~linda%20chalker-scott/horticultural%20myths_files/myths/hydrogels.pdf

Polyacrylamide breaks down after about 5 years – releasing acrylamide! Fertilizer salts speed up the breakdown process. Let's hope the County monitoring program doesn't stop before five years are up.

Red Flint's proposed sand mine will not have a wash plant on site, meaning it will not need high-capacity wells.

...meaning they will be hauling UNWASHED sand containing higher levels of dust!

Thanks so much for adding me to your good list and for all you are doing in WI. Quoth my father who fought Hitler as an 18 year old and was fond of reciting Churchill's speeches to me:
Never give up!

I have a column coming out now any day in Orion Magazine on sand mining in Aldo Leopold country and will send it to you.

Meanwhile, here is the latest from me on the health effects of fracking.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sandra-steingraber/cancer-in-the-ransom-note_b_1369459.html

abiding gratitude, Sandra

And here is the article..... A subscriber to *Orion* magazine found it in his mailbox yesterday. It had [this](#) brief but awesome article about Wisconsin's sand mining boom by award-winning anti-Fracking activist and environmental toxicologist Sandra Steingraber. Well worth a read.

Sand County, the Sequel Bringing the phrase "world of wounds" to new depths BY SANDRA STEINGRABER Published in the [May/June 2012](#) issue of *Orion* magazine

A Letter to the Editor:

http://www.leadertelegram.com/opinions/letters_to_editor/article_f28817e5-7bff-5882-a748-bdc77b592bf4.html

WANT TO SEE THE LATEST IN LAND TRANSFERS TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY OPERATIONS BEING PLANNED? Here is a website for research:

Simply enter your township and run a search. Run descending to see the latest land transfers.

<https://propertyinfo.revenue.wi.gov/iasWorld/Search/GenericSearch.aspx?mode=0WNER>

There is a sand mining article and a flier on the issues in the Town of Menomomie and other towns in Dunn County on Uppity Wisconsin. If you'd like to read the article and see the flyer you can download it from <http://www.uppitywis.org/blogarticle/sand-mines>

Frac sand the focus of job fair

Posted: Apr 24, 2012 10:52 PM CDT Tuesday, April 24, 2012 11:52 PM EST

By Jerry Gallagher - [bio](#) | [email](#)

New Auburn (WQOW) - A frac sand company puts out the help wanted sign with a number that will get a lot of attention. Chieftain Sand wants to fill 60 to 70 jobs that will pay anywhere from \$17/hour to \$100/hour.

The company has plans for a facility in New Auburn. Among the jobs it wants to fill: truck drivers, engineers, finance and HR personnel. There will be a job fair at the New Auburn school on Saturday, May 5th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/22/your-money/family-men-go-it-alone-in-north-dakotas-oil-fields.html?_r=1&nl=your-money&emc=edit_my_20120423&pagewanted=all

Williston-and those workers' housing- look like a giant oil prison to me.

And when the oil is gone, will the buffalo roam, dining on benzene grass?...sez Mary!

Blanding's Turtle is proposed for de-listing on WI Endangered Species list, despite declining numbers: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/documents/Species-Proposed_Delist_chart.pdf

Proposed for LISTING: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/documents/Species-Proposed_E-T_chart.pdf

Hearing/Public Comment: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/news/hearmeet.html>

May 7 & 9 - The Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources will hold two public open house meetings on recommendations to [revise the state's endangered and threatened species list](#). The Endangered Resources Program policy recommends that the list should be reviewed every five years or earlier, as needed, based on changes in species population condition. In 2010, a comprehensive list review began that resulted in 16 species being recommended for delisting and eight species for listing. For more information contact Rebecca Schroeder, DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources - 608-266-5244. Both open houses will be held from 5 to 7:15 p.m., with a presentation and question and answer period from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on:

- **May 7, Wausau** - Rooms E101-102, North Central Tech College, 1000 W. Campus Drive.

- **May 9, Fitchburg** - DNR South Central Region Headquarters and service center, Glacier Edge and Gathering Waters rooms, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road. This presentation will also be broadcast over the Internet through Live Meeting to allow for remote participation.
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And there is more!

2900 acre underground sand mine in Pierce County

<http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/44777/>

From the New York Gas Coalition Group:

“The Fleased Gas Lease Workshop at the Sidney Firehouse today was a great success. It was also a heartening experience. Every chair in the enormous room was taken and some people were sitting on tables. After the meeting I counted 190 chairs. **A show of hands showed that almost everyone in the house was a landowner who had leased land and wanted advice on how to get out of a lease.** And so they gave up a beautiful Sunday afternoon to come to the Sidney Firehouse. The addresses on the sign-in sheets were from all over our area: Deposit, Franklin, Guilford, Sanford, Hancock, Voorheesville, Harpursfield, Tompkins, W. Winfield, Gilbertsville, Unadilla, East Branch, Bainbridge, Sidney Center, Laurens, Otego, Mt. Vision, S. Plymouth, Masonville, Afton, Oneonta, Cooperstown, S. New Berlin, Smithville Flats, McDonough, Oxford, Newfield, Coventry, Greene, Decatur, Norwich, Sidney, Walton, Friendship-PA and Starrucca-PA.

Ellen Harrison, the environmental scientist who founded FLEASSED! and Joe Heath, the attorney for the Onondaga Nation, were the speakers and the audience were people who had always worked hard with their hands. More men than women. They listened to every word. A lot of nodding heads. **No coalition hecklers.**

This is one more in a series of recent encounters and events that have lead me to believe that the real cost of fracking is now out there and is causing deep concern everywhere. Articles in the papers and news stories on TV have been doing their job but also the gas industry has shown itself to be arrogant and unprincipled and untrustworthy. I do not think we have to prove anything any more. I think we have to organize.”

Netroots Wisconsin 2012 Comes to the Chippewa Valley

Netroots Wisconsin, the Wisconsin regional conference of Netroots Nation, is coming to the Chippewa Valley on May 20.

A particular focus of this conference will be the issue of sand mining in Western Wisconsin. Sand mining has suddenly become a very contentious issue in the state. Western Wisconsin is ground zero for the frac sand mining industry. There will be workshops intended to educate the attendees on sand mining issues and to work together on effective tools to create sensible regulation of the over 100 sand mines that will change the landscape of Wisconsin forever.

Wisconsin has been home to many protests, discussions, and arguments over the past 18 months. Netroots Wisconsin will be held at the Avalon Conference Center in Chippewa Falls the day after FightingBobFest North. Attendees can spend the weekend in Chippewa Falls listening to rousing speeches, going to breakout sessions, and visiting other progressive organizations, followed by a day of workshops, panels and organizing right down the road.

Contact:

Steve Hanson – shanson@netrootswisconsin.org

Web site for Netroots Wisconsin for session proposals, registration, and further information:

<http://netrootswisconsin.org>

Web site for FightingBobFest North:

<http://fightingbobfestnorth.org>

May 20, 2012 - Avalon Conference Center, 1009 West Park Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

An Editorial: it is time for some intergovernmental cooperation and open meetings that allow for communication among many stakeholders affected by the silica mining industry and processing factories popping up in many areas of the state. One town is affecting the other; cities are impacting rural areas and cities downstream from them. Why does any one city, town or county or part of the state have the right to impact the other with heavy industrial products without making some accommodations, creating some limitations, and demanding that the mining companies follow through by tightening their own regulations? The citizenry deserve better. Are YOU going to call your local representatives or others to give ideas? HOPE lies in everyone responding and working together. Many great responses from groups and individuals from outside the Chippewa Co. area with actions they are taking are rolling in. Is Chippewa Co. going to be an "island" without careful consideration of its own residents as well as those outside of it? WE are already deeply involved into transporting our hills, ridges and bluffs to the national and international scene and while we are doing that we are allowing air pollution with heavy use of fuels, emissions, along with dangerous use of our drinking water supplies to wash sand. I can try to spread useful information but it is up to each of the readers of this message to undertake the responsibility to express your views. Call your town board, county board or city council representatives.

DONATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, ARE NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN THE SAVE THE HILLS ALLIANCE, INC. WE NEED A STRONG COALITION MORE THAN EVER. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECKS OF ANY SIZE TO The Save the Hills Alliance, Inc. Ken Lestrud, Treasurer, N 7225 690th, Menomonie, WI 54751 Donations are not deductible at this time. If you would rather give gifts "in-kind", we could use stamps, 8 1/2x11 copy paper and/or colored copy paper, and a supply of legal envelopes. Many thanks to those who have been making contributions!

EXCELLENT WEBSITES FOR ALL OF YOU TO BOOKMARK!

<http://fracsandfrisbee.com/2012/02/19/why-we-need-a-moratorium-a-one-page-handout/> (Great 1 page handout!)

If you haven't seen it, check out Houston Co/Winona frac sand site, <http://www.sandpointtimes.com/> Really easy to read and simple graphics.

Save the Hills Alliance: www.ccc-wis.com Check out the air monitors at work plus lots of new additions.

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