

CACC



NEWS

The Future of the Earth is in our Hands

<http://caccmi.org>

Volunteers Needed for CACC's Wheatland Festival Kitchen

Are you coming to the Wheatland Music Festival this year? If you love good music, good food, making new friends and having fun, the CACC Kitchen is the place to be! Please consider helping us in our own CACC Kitchen at Wheatland.

No experience necessary, just an appetite for cooking, serving and sharing great food with our hungry festival goers.

Get your Wheatland ticket at a discounted worker rate. We have many positions to offer such as food preparation, cooking, baking, serving, cashier and dishwashing. We still have openings for many shifts. Shifts are six hours each.

CACC's volunteer coordinator Laura Sanderson is waiting for calls and emails from potential volunteers. Many shifts remain available. Worker tickets are available through CACC for \$85 regular entry, \$60 for seniors 60 and over. Volunteers can purchase their ticket through CACC or Wheatland.

Volunteers will be reimbursed up to \$60 for regular entry, \$35 for seniors. You'll eat free during your shift and half price on most items at the CACC Kitchen for the rest of the Festival. Some shifts include early entry or the ability to stay over Sunday night.

Come join your friends and make new ones while helping CACC raise needed funds for the coming year – call Laura at 989-529-1495 or email her at: sandershaw@gmail.com.



Janet Schester and Josiah Freeman, breakfast dish room crew - smiling even though doing dishes!



Front line breakfast servers, Meadow Hunt and Nancy McDermott

Please check CACC's online calendar at:
<http://caccmi.org>

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2018-2019

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CACC is a proud member of Earth Share of Michigan, Michigan Environmental Council, the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health, and Beyond Nuclear.

40th Annual Celebration Brings Changes, Issues, Solutions

By Ann Hunt, CACC Director



CACC Board of Directors, 2018-2019
Note: Stanley Yascolt is missing in this photo.

CACC's annual general membership meeting featured a talk by David Dempsey, policy analyst for FLOW (For Love of Water) which addressed current issues and potential solutions. Although FLOW is only eight years old, it has quickly attained a pivotal position in bringing to light, organizing around, and addressing many of the issues affecting the Great Lakes. FLOW bases its philosophy on the concept of the Public Trust Doctrine – protect the commons for humanity and the ecosystem, knowing that some resources, by their nature, cannot be privately owned. Michigan has a key responsibility in protecting the Great Lakes from degradation and withdrawals given its boundaries. The State has more land (38,000 square miles) under the Great Lakes than many states have land above water!

Several of FLOW's primary concerns have been raised in this newsletter in the past – the Line 5 easement through the Straits of Mackinaw and across both Peninsulas, the granting of permits to Nestle to pump groundwater from central Michigan wells and springs and sell it for a profit across the country, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) which are addressed in this issue, and fish factory farming in the Great Lakes.



Victor McManemy at CACC's GMM

Dave noted that every major environmental and conservation reform in Michigan dating back to 1885 came as a result of citizen outrage. That first outrage led to the establishment of game wardens to protect the state's wildlife from unlimited hunting and fishing. Michigan's environmental history is characterized as periods of ruin followed by recovery, from the clear cutting of the state's forests with handsaws and teams of oxen, to the degradation of water quality and urban sprawl.

Potential solutions to these and other issues are the return to the commissions which considered and decided

on permits in an open meeting, the creation of a water agenda that can focus attention on critical issues, continued education on the public trust doctrine, and legislative action to fund severely degraded water infrastructure.

In other actions, the CACC Board of Directors welcomes new members Chance Hunt of Farwell (who served out a vacancy), Murry DeSanto from Essexville, and Chambre Beauvais from Bath. Recognition was paid to long time (almost founding) member Karen Freel-Locey of Gladwin for her vision, activism and support.



Dave Dempsey, of FLOW, speaking at CACC's GMM



Karen Freel-Locey receiving award from CACC



CAFOs and How They Impact Our Well Being

By Monica King, CACC Director

It seems that Michigan is the new up and coming place to be for “factory farms”. These Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, or CAFOs, are invading our state because of our poor economy and valuable farmland. However, these farms have devastating effects to our health, well-being and the



Photo credit: Sierra Club

environment of our great state.

Imagine owning property and enjoying the great outdoors for years. The pristine waterways, fresh well water, and the clean air. Then a CAFO moves in across the street, or a mile or two away. The stench of the animals’ waste is so strong that you can’t go outside without your nose burning. You can’t hang your clothes on the line on a hot day or they will smell like manure and have to be rewashed. All of your windows have to be kept shut year round to try and keep the odors from penetrating your living environment. Everything you own smells of manure no matter how far away you go. And the kicker is that you are powerless to do anything about it.

Land in Michigan is being bought up by factory farms. These farms operate within the guidelines of the Farm Act and get the required DEQ permits. These guidelines and permits don’t protect the public from their consequences. Wells are being contaminated. Air is being polluted. Lakes and streams are polluted. Small farms are being bankrupted. Property values are decreasing 25-80%. Watersheds are

being impacted. These CAFOs have a tremendous amount of waste to dispose of. During the spring and summer, however, they spread tremendous amounts on farm fields. The runoff pollutes our lakes, streams, and waterways while saturating the ground so much that wells are being polluted. We are seeing the effects of this as algae blooms in our Great Lakes.

My family has owned 40 acres in northern Michigan for approximately 20 years. It’s always been a great place to get away from the city and enjoy the great outdoors. Fields of hay, forest, fresh well water, clean air. Last year two hog CAFOs were built. One is 1 mile south and the other is 2 miles southwest. Each of these CAFOs consists of 2 barns with 2,500 pigs each. They are totally automated. The pigs come in as piglets and leave to be butchered. The farmer is paid based on the weight of the pigs. They never see the light of day and they never leave the barns. This is not humane nor is it a healthy environment. The pigs stand on a slotted concrete floor that allows waste to fall below into an eight-foot-deep storage pit. That waste is then transferred via pipes to a storage lagoon, where it eventually becomes fertilizer to be spread on fields or shipped to another farmer’s field ... to grow the crops to feed more pigs.

When I walked out my door this spring, the smell was putrid. This is a mile away...and there is nothing I can do. *(cont. on page 5)*



Photo credit: John Klein/Ed Steinman

(CAFOs and How They Impact Our Well Being, cont. from page 4) The neighbors who live next door are powerless. The amount of feces a pig produces is 10x that of a human. 5,000 pigs produce as much waste as a city of 50,000 people. Be aware! They can and may very well move in near you!

I have spent my summers being raised on a farm. I'm aware of using manure from the livestock on the fields and the smells that come with farming. CAFOs are far from ordinary farms. They have to dispose of their waste because there is so much. Ordinary farms use the waste as fertilizer on their crops. CAFOs are spraying the fields to dispose of the waste far above the point of saturation.

There are 272 large scale livestock operations in our state now. Check out: A Watershed Moment which is an interactive map of all the factory farms <http://www.sierraclub.org/Michigan/michigan-cafo-mapping-report>

Our first line of defense is to know where your food is coming from. Spend your dollars on meat that is raised humanely. Support local farmers. Protect our waters and our environment! Take baseline water samples now, before a CAFO moves in. (Your local health department has low cost water testing options available). Be vigilant and keep your neighbors aware of what's coming near you. We must be proactive and not accept the status quo. Just because you're not affected now doesn't mean you or your family won't be in the future....

<https://mercyforanimals.org/there-are-almost-the-same-number-of-pigs>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/ct-price-pork-hogs-pigs-farms-containments-edit-0812-20160811-story.html>

Factory Farms and Lake Erie Algae https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4XD_wtePNI

Images from Sierra Club: <https://tinyurl.com/yblt3ks3>



Help Create Monarch Waystations everywhere!

Monarch butterflies are in dire straits. An important pollinator, the Monarch Butterfly has an amazing life migration story that covers several generations of butterflies and thousands of miles. In just a few decades, Monarchs have lost 80% of their population. This is due to climate change, pesticide and herbicide use, loss of habitat and mono-cropping.

We can help Monarch Butterflies survive! Raise your crops or garden organically! Create a Monarch Waystation at your home or school! - Plant milkweed - Monarchs need this plant for their lifecycle. Collect milkweed seeds for Monarch Watch or to grow in your own community! Learn more at Monarch Watch: Monarch Waystation Program - <https://monarchwatch.org/waystations/>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

August 4 - 5

Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival,

Bay City State Recreation Area

Volunteer at CACC's booth, contact Laura at: sandershaw@gmail.com or call her at 989-529-1495.

September 7-9

Wheatland Music Festival,

Remus, Michigan

Volunteer with CACC's Kitchen!

(See the article on Wheatland on page 1.) - To volunteer, email Laura at: sandershaw@gmail.com or call her at 989-529-1495.



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Support CACC! Be part of the solution! Support healthy, sustainable communities and watersheds!

I would like to make an additional tax-deductible gift of \$_____

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