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The future of the Earth is in our Hands.

CACC NEWS

JOHN AND CARRIE WALES
Center for Environmental and Social Justice

www.caccmi.org

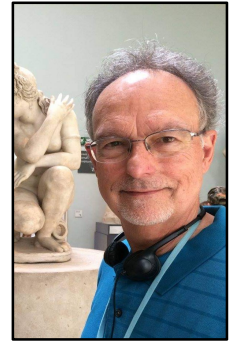
LONE TREE'S TERRY MILLER TO BE FEATURED SPEAKER AT CACC'S 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

CACC's annual meeting June 4 at the Pere Marquette Library in Clare will feature Terry Miller, founding member and Chairman of the Lone Tree Council, Bay City. His presentation **Michigan Water: The Good, The Bad, The Worst**, will draw on his more than 40 years' experience in environmental activism.

Terry, a native of Bay County, taught in the Saginaw City Public Schools for 30 years and has served as an adjunct professor of history at Delta College for the past 20 years. He served two terms as a Monitor Township Trustee and on its Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

In 1978, he and five other residents of Bay City founded the Lone Tree Council, a non-profit environmental group, to oppose the Midland Nuclear Power plant. With the plant's cancellation, the group continued to promote cleanup of watershed contamination, defend both coastal and inland wetlands, and, most recently, educate on global climate change.

Lone Tree Council's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) first publicized the extent of dioxin contamination in the Tittabawassee River and floodplain, and today he serves on the leadership team of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) that oversees the Dow/US EPA/State cleanup. He is also on the board of directors of BaySail, Inc., a Bay City-based non-profit that conducts environmental education on its two schooners.



WHEATLAND 2022 LOOKS LIKE A GO!

From all indications, it looks like the Wheatland Festival will happen this September! Volunteers will be needed to staff shifts, both returning crews and new crew members. Laura Sanderson, our Volunteer Coordinator, will start compiling shifts in June, so mark your calendar. For details, check the CACC webpage: www.caccmi.org on the Wheatland tab!

GYPSY MOTH NO LONGER

The Entomological Society of America announced March 2 that the invasive insect *lymantria dispar* has been renamed the spongy moth after their tan egg masses. Commonly known as the gypsy moth, they first appeared in Michigan in the 1950s but outbreaks were first noticed in the late 1970s. During their larval stage, the caterpillars feed on oaks, aspen, and other species. In 1978, CACC was formed to counter efforts by the Michigan Department of Agriculture to aerially spray a large swath of central Michigan in an attempt to "eradicate" the moths. Our lawsuit against the state resulted in a change in approach, including using a biological insecticide instead of Dimilin and Sevin, prior notice to homeowners in advance of spraying, the ability to exempt properties and establishing buffer zones. <https://tinyurl.com/mpsr36b>

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WATER WATCH – SPRING 2022

Michigan advisory on Lake Superior rainbow smelt – Due to unexpected widespread levels of PFAS in rainbow smelt, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has issued warnings to anglers and diners to limit their consumption of the popular fish. One serving (two to three smelt) per month is the recommended limit. High levels of PFAS in western Lake Superior are linked to toxic discharges concentrated near the Apostle Islands, although the primary source has not been identified.

Kelly House, Michigan Environment Watch, 03/21/2022
<https://tinyurl.com/y6645ufj>

Michigan site added to Superfund list – The US EPA added a former metal plating facility in Jackson to its list of the most contaminated sites in the country. Michner Plating on Mechanic Street is located in a mixed-use neighborhood adjacent to the Grand River. Floor drains, which discharge into the river, soil or groundwater, were found to be contaminated with arsenic, hexavalent chromium, and other solvents and metals. To suppress toxic fumes in the plant, the air was misted with oil which was subsequently found to be a source of PFAS contamination. More than 65,000 people obtain drinking water from private wells within a four-mile radius of the site. By 2016, the EPA had removed approximately 1,100 drums and hundreds of 55-gallon totes from the site but buried drums remain under the building.

Carol Thompson, The Detroit News, 03/18/2022
<https://tinyurl.com/4ku7t338>

Minnesota DNR releases details of Line 2 breaches – The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has released details of groundwater leaks caused by the construction of Enbridge Line 2 in 2021. In all three incidents, groundwater aquifers were breached by crews installing the replacement pipeline. In one instance, the aquifer was under pressure and the leak continued nearly a year, releasing at least 50 million gallons of water before being stopped. The leak at the Fond du Lac reservation resulted in over 220 million gallons of groundwater being released, potentially affecting nearby Dead Fish Lake, important wild rice water for the Band. That leak has been slowed, but not stopped.

Kristi Marohn, MPR (Minnesota Public Radio) News, 03/21/2022
<https://tinyurl.com/2edmbuum>

Lake Superior Facts

- Lake Superior is not a lake at all, but an inland sea
- All of the four other Great Lakes, plus three more the size of Lake Erie, would fit inside of Lake Superior
- Isle Royale is a massive island surrounded by Lake Superior. Within this island are several lakes. Yes, that's lakes in a lake!
- Despite its massive size, Lake Superior is an extremely young formation by Earth's standards (only 10,000 years old)
- There is enough water in Lake Superior to submerge all of North and South America in 1 foot of water

<https://tinyurl.com/567d5aca>

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS 29 MICHIGAN CHEMICAL SITES

Sites including a plastics manufacturer in Wyandotte, a sewage treatment plant in Jackson, an ice-cream maker in Ludington and a petroleum fuel terminal in St. Clair all share two common threats: all are in the pathway of worsening floods driven by a changing planet and use hazardous chemicals. All are required to plan for such potential emergencies and file their plans with the federal government.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has mapped 10,400 sites nationwide that make, use or store extremely hazardous chemicals, and found that almost a third of these sites are in an area vulnerable to wildfires, storm surges, floods, or other natural hazards exacerbated by climate change.

Luckily, Michigan is less vulnerable to many of these natural disasters but, as flooding from the last two summers demonstrates, water is the most likely threat. Michelle Hurd-Riddick knows well the risks that emerge when high velocity flood waters combine with hazardous chemical sites. Hurd-Riddick, a member of the Lone Tree Council, spent decades sparring with Midland-based chemical manufacturer Dow Chemical over how best to clean up the company's toxic legacy in the Tittabawassee and Saginaw river basins. Catastrophic flooding in mid-Michigan in May, 2020, caused by heavy rains and the failures of two earthen dams upstream of the city, flooded Dow's containment ponds. Although it appears that the containment ponds weren't breached due to heavy investments in flood controls, there are landfills, abandoned industrial sites, foundries, and junkyards that all contributed their toxic ingredients to the flood waters. Although EPA advises industries to consider natural disasters in their plans for preventing chemical releases, it's not a requirement, and there are no directives for anticipating climate change.

Compounding the potential disasters, the risks primarily fall unevenly on the poor and minorities who are more likely to live within a mile of such facilities. Industrial areas like River Rouge, south of Detroit, are already burdened with air and water pollution. Flooding is a huge risk, since there is a lack of porous soils and vegetation, and an abundance of asphalt. In addition, sewer systems were designed for 20th Century requirements, not 21st Century rainfall.

Kelly House, Michigan Environment Watch, [Bridge Michigan](#), 03.16.2022 <https://tinyurl.com/39szwyhf>

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRESHWATER FUTURE HEROES

Kay Cumbow

I had the honor to witness the 2021 Freshwater Future Hero Awards held online on March 22nd. Those individuals and organizations recognized are truly deserving of this annual award, which acknowledges their "hard work, persistence, dedication [and] Herculean effort" for their work to protect the health of our fresh waters. As active CACC members well know, this critical work robs time and money from self and families and is done for the health of all Great Lakes communities and ecosystems. CACC congratulates all of the recipients and in particular: Families Reclaiming Our Environment. FROE, led by Venessa Davis, received funding from Freshwater Future in 2021. CACC was honored to act as their fiscal agent. Listen to their remarkable stories here: "2021 Freshwater Hero Awards" <https://tinyurl.com/2jswea9u>

*2022 recipients are: Ruth O'Gawa, Great Lakes Advocate, MI and CA * Friends of Black River Forest, WI * Maria Maybee, Water Walker * Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, Ontario * Families Reclaiming Our Environment (FROE) * Reverend Edward Pinkney, Benton Harbor Water Council * Melanie Napoleon Welch, Freshwater Future Board * Thomas Knott, Freshwater Future Board * Adam Parker, Freshwater Future Board * In Memory of Bev Dale.*



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