

CHINA BANS IVORY TRADE

China, the world's largest consumer of elephant ivory, has announced it will shut down its legal ivory trade by the end of 2017. Natural Resources Defense Council has been working with the Chinese government over the past two years to advance this breakthrough, which offers a bright glimmer of hope that we can pull elephants back from the brink of extinction.



[from: NRDC *Nature's Voice*, Spring 2017]

Solar Energy & Empowerment Of Women

Empowering women while bringing solar power to underserved regions of the Middle East is the objective of several NGOs working in the area. In southern Lebanon, a group of female entrepreneurs worked with Greenpeace to install a solar microgrid in their town. The electricity it provides allows the women to operate a cooperative that makes rosewater, apple vinegar, orange sauce, apricot jam, crackers, and tomato paste without artificial preservatives.

Palestinian villages in the area are not connected to a reliable electrical grid and struggle to make do with about 3 hours a day of electricity supplied by diesel generators donated by various aid organizations after Israel dismantled a solar microgrid in 2009.

The women were assisted by volunteers from Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria. Daad Ismail, president of the women's cooperative, says, "Electricity shortages have hurt our productivity, our working hours, and our personal lives. We know that solar energy will not only help us to cut bills, generate more income, and improve our lives, it will also broaden our horizons with new opportunities."

[from: cleantechnica.com/2017/07/03/israel-seizes-solar-panels-provided-palestinian-village-netherlands/]

Recent good news for our health and safety:

On Sept. 20th, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) directed its staff to begin the rulemaking process to ban the sale of certain consumer products if they contain any flame retardant chemicals known as organohalogens.

Kudos to the Coalition of Immokalee Workers

In its September/October 2017 issue, the *Harvard Business Review* recognized the Coalition of Immokalee Worker's Fair Food Program as one of the "most important social-impact stories of the past century" – placing the Fair Food Program in the company of 14 other extraordinary efforts, including the Anti-Apartheid movement, the fight for marriage equality, Sesame Street, and the eradication of polio. These 15 very different efforts, and their success, have hinged on what HBR calls an "Audacious Philanthropy" approach demanding "disruptive, catalytic, systemic change."

[from: Alliance for Fair Food e-mail, Sept. 5, 2017]

Hurricanes Also Effect Wildlife

Birds and other wildlife and their native habitats are resilient in the face of natural disasters, but human activity clearly compounds the negative impacts. Florida Audubon science and research staff recently reported on 140 sites that it manages:

- Many birds were displaced by the storm. Birds from the Atlantic and Caribbean were carried to our shores by Hurricane Irma;
- The upland habitats of Southeast Florida and the Keys were stripped bare of foliage in some places and toppled in others. These areas are usually a crucial food source for the Atlantic Flyway's fall bird migrants, who rest and feed here en route to the Caribbean and Latin America;
- Water levels in America's Everglades are dangerously high and a massive seagrass die-off has been spotted in Florida Bay;
- Erosion and windfalls damaged tree islands and mature hammocks in some places;
- Wastewater systems overwhelmed by the storm resulted in sewage spills in some communities, and some waterways and beaches are closed;
- Polluted water entering Lake Okechobee from the north and the south is quickly raising lake levels dangerously high. To reduce lake levels, some of this polluted water is being discharged to coastal estuaries on the east coast of the state; and
- Most coastal nesting birds had already fledged their chicks, but it's likely some flightless baby birds drowned with the extreme storm surge.

[from: Audubon Florida e-mail, Sept. 18, 2017]

Good for you, Orlando!

The Orlando City Commission on August 9, 2017, unanimously approved a resolution establishing a goal to move Orlando to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2050. Orlando is now the largest city in Florida to make such a commitment and joins a growing movement of more than three dozen cities nationwide that have committed to a 100% clean energy future.

[from: www.sierraclubfloridanews.org/2017/08/orlando-becomes-largest-florida-city-to.html]

The World's Biggest Tuna Company Commits to Clean Up Its Act!

Thai Union's efforts would double the number of more sustainably caught products on store shelves in just two and a half years, ensure workers are treated as human beings rather than a captive workforce,



and help reduce the number of sharks, turtles, and seabirds that are needlessly killed by fishing

vessels. Thai Union has agreed to independent audits and public scrutiny to ensure its seafood supply chains are moving in a better direction. Chicken of the Sea and Genova are its brands.

[from: www.greenpeace.org/usa/compass/fall-2017/?utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=170829_fallemag-inc&utm_content=thai_union&d=i#content-6
by Amy Moas]

Two Victories Against Water Privatization!

Yet another community in the Pacific Northwest has successfully blocked Nestlé from taking over their public water to bottle for private profit. [Read more about how Goldendale, Washington said "No" to Nestlé's water bottling operation.](#)

In July F&WW helped stop New Jersey Governor Chris Christie from stealing Atlantic City's water, in a community-led campaign against big business in the Garden State! [Read more about this big victory to keep Atlantic City's water public.](#)

[from: Food & Water Watch e-mail, August 24, 2017]

Tell this corporation: Don't pollute our fruit!

Toxic oil drilling wastewater from companies like Chevron is being used to grow some food in California -- food that is sold in grocery stores across the country! The wastewater contains chemicals used in fossil fuel extraction, including some that are linked to cancer and reproductive harm, such as ethylbenzene and toluene.

This practice threatens the safety of our children and the adults who eat this food, the farm workers who irrigate and pick the crops, and the environment. Popular food companies that market their brands as "healthy" are involved in this practice, including The Wonderful Company, known for brands such as POM Wonderful, Wonderful Pistachios, and Halos mandarins.

Tell The Wonderful Company: I won't buy your products until you and California Governor Jerry Brown put an end to this dangerous practice.

[from: actionnetwork.org/petitions/tell-these-corporations-stop-growing-crops-with-toxic-oil-waste?source=OilWaste_20170822_FWW]

BOOK REVIEW by Laura Castle

The Hidden Life of Trees - What they Feel, How they Communicate by Peter Wohlleben

Most of us know how comforting trees are to our souls. Anyone who has ever stared at a tree in wonder will be amazed at renowned forester Peter Wohlleben's convincing case that trees are social beings who communicate with and nurture one another, warn each other of impending danger from predators who feed on them, such as deer, and provide nutrients to weaker members of their species.

Trees also possess an amazing ability to nurture humans. On page 223, Wohlleben describes a scientific study conducted on older women as they walked through forests and urban areas. He states, "When the women were walking in the forest, their blood pressure, their lung capacity, and the elasticity of their nerves improved, whereas an excursion into town shows none of these changes."

Wohlleben does not spend a great deal of time describing how trees are affected by climate change and what this can mean to the ecological balance of our planet. More importantly, he gives us an intimate look at what we may lose if we barrel ahead with progress and neglect these beautiful life forms.