



Dragonfly Award Honorees: Norma Grier, Rep. Rush Holt and Theo Colborn

Honorees and presenters at Beyond Pesticides 25th Anniversary Gala

Beyond Pesticides Pays Tribute to Pesticide Reformers with Dragonfly Awards

Beyond Pesticides Holds 25th Anniversary Gala to Honor Leaders in Community-Based Activism, Scientific Inquiry and Protective Policy

The following are excerpts from Beyond Pesticides' Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Gala, which took place in Washington, DC, on May 18, 2006, at the Josephine Butler Parks Center. The Gala, attended by 200 members and friends of Beyond Pesticides, honored three very special people for community-based activism, scientific inquiry and protective policy: Norma Grier, executive director of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides; Theo Colborn, Ph.D., president of The Endocrine

Disruption Exchange; and, U.S. Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ), sponsor of the School Environment Protection Act. Each honoree was presented with Beyond Pesticides' highest honor, its Dragonfly Award "in honor and appreciation of [the honoree] for tireless dedication advancing knowledge and action to protect health and the environment." The evening was hosted by actor Bruno Kirby (see appreciation on page 22 of this issue).

Honoring 25 Years of Beyond Pesticides

Bruno Kirby

(Both an actor and a person committed to social causes, Bruno Kirby is perhaps best remembered as Pete Clemenza in "The Godfather" movies, the humorless Lt. Hawk in "Good Morning, Vietnam," or as Jess, the best friend of Billy Crystal's character, in "When Harry Met Sally." Bruno also appeared in "City Slickers," "The Basketball Diaries," and "Donnie Brasco.")

I'd like to welcome you to Beyond Pesticides' 25th Anniversary Awards Gala. We have an exciting evening in store for you and we are glad that you could join with us in this wonderful celebration. Now, for those of you expecting Ed Begley Jr., he is truly sorry he couldn't be here tonight; but I'm not. Because now I get a chance to do a little something for an incredible organization.

Let me give you a little background on how I ended up here tonight. A few weeks ago, my phone rang and it was Ed Begley, Jr. And I didn't take the call. That's the reason why I have call waiting – after 30 years of his friendship,

I decided to put in call waiting. My wife Lynn said, you better take it because it might be something important. So, I got on the phone and he went on and on about Beyond Pesticides and its great work. He said he couldn't make it and asked if I could do it? I said OK Ed, but let me just speak to somebody. And he said OK, OK, look – call Jay Feldman and you talk to him about this.

So I called up Jay Feldman and I said, listen Jay, uh, I'd like to help but I'm not like Ed Begley, Jr. You know he's a celebrity in terms of ecology and all of these different things with pesticides – he knows a lot about this. And Jay said, listen Bruno, you come to Washington and we'll teach you.

So Lynn and I flew in yesterday [a cell phone rings and it is answered with someone speaking loudly] and Jay thought it would be a good idea to get together. He said, "All the board of directors will be at my house and you and Lynn



Gala Host, actor Bruno Kirby

should show up and we'll all talk and you'll get to know what Beyond Pesticides is all about." So I said OK.

Lynn and I got there and it was wonderful. We got this great Greek food and we all went into this room and sat around and, as we're eating, one after another, each member of the board would get up and tell their story. Some of the stories were very emotional, some funny. We were having a wonderful time and all of a sudden the evening took a turn – took this very funny left turn. I don't know how it happened because I was reaching for a drink at the time. Audrey Thier, president of the Beyond Pesticides' board of directors, felt compelled to tell us that as a young girl, she decided to take guitar lessons because she figured out if she could play guitar, she could then meet Bob Dylan. Upon meeting him, he would ask her to marry him. And

tion quickly embraced the notion that pesticide use represented more and more unnecessary risks. That is, these poisons are not necessary to achieve the pest management goals that we associate with adequate food supply and quality of life. Beyond Pesticides has worked with grassroots people and organizations to help build the recognition and demand for poison-free approaches to living and food production. The idea of organic has spread from gardening to food production to home lawns, to school, golf course and park management. These changes are not occurring by themselves. Beyond Pesticides has helped to lead the way.

I would like to introduce to you the executive director and president of Beyond Pesticides, Jay Feldman and Audrey Thier.

Introducing the Gala and Beyond Pesticides' Stalwarts

Audrey Thier

*(Audrey Thier is president of the Beyond Pesticides' board of directors. From Williamstown, MA, Audrey previously worked with Environmental Advocates, a statewide research and advocacy organization based in Albany, NY, authored *Plagued by Pesticides: An Analysis of New York State's 1997 Pesticide Use and Sales Data* and state pesticide legislation, and worked as an environmental legislative aide in the NY State Assembly.)*

Good evening. *(I'd just want to assure you that my passion for Bob Dylan was not discussed apropos of nothing. There was a segway.)* On behalf of the board, I'd also like to welcome everybody here to say how proud we are to celebrate all our honorees and the longevity of Be-

yond Pesticides. Speaking of longevity, I'd like to note I'm standing next to Jay Feldman here at the 25th Anniversary Gala, and five years ago at the 20th anniversary the board president was standing here next to Jay and at the 15th, at the 10th, at the 5th and at the inception. Jay has been unflagging, tireless, a leader of Beyond Pesticides for 25 years.

Like so many others, I've relied upon him for hours upon hours of advice, strategizing, the odd dose of therapy in the middle of a crisis – and there have been many, many crises. And I am only one of countless people who have received that kind of unstinting support from him. So we

want to thank you, Jay, from everybody on the board. And we want to thank Jay's family for sharing him with us.

Of course he doesn't do it alone. We get exactly that kind of support from all the staff at Beyond Pesticides, in spite of the fact that they have a full plate of their own work to accomplish, not the least of which is this incredible Gala that they put on from square one for us.

I wanted to ask the present staff to stand up, past staff, present board, past board, please all stand up. So here we have it: One common thread for 25 years [*motions to Jay and those standing*], our present staff, our past staff, our present board, our past board members, and all of you incredible supporters. Thank you to everybody. Thank you especially to Beyond Pesticides and Jay for everything you've



Audrey Thier and Jay Feldman (at podium)

accomplished for all of us and for your mind-boggling perseverance over 25 years.

An Appreciation for Supporters, Family, and Community

Jay Feldman

(Jay Feldman is a founder of Beyond Pesticides, originally National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, in 1981 and has served as the organization's executive director since that time.)

Thank you. Thanks guys – now you know why the room is so full. I really want to thank everybody for being here. You know the expression “it takes a village,” and this is my village. You are my village and community, and that's why we're making the headway that we're making. You know, obviously we have a lot more to do. I, of course, need to thank my family. Thank you to my wife and children. [*Jay asks his family to stand.*] Nobody stays in a job for 25 years without their mother saying this is a good thing. I would like to acknowledge and thank my mother. [*Jay asks his mother to stand.*]

The truth of the matter is this is a community. This is what we're about and we will win because we are a community, and because we believe in what we're doing. The breadth and depth of this social justice movement is growing everyday, whether we're talking with farmers or farm workers, or consumers, we are joining together to make a difference. Congress, for the moment, may want to ignore us. But we have people like Rep. Rush Holt, who is being

honored tonight, standing up for us. We will continue to persevere. We know that change is really happening at the community level. Whether we're talking about taking pesticides out of schools or parks or hospitals, or off of the farms, we're seeing incredible progress.

So thank you all for being here. You are our support, our rock, our nourishment, and we really appreciate your presence here tonight. Thank you so much.

Beyond Pesticides thinks of the grassroots activists when they look at their political analysis, when the policy alternatives are looked at, when lawsuits are considered, when their strategies are considered. Beyond Pesticides thinks about what would be good for the activists in their communities, in front of their school boards, in front of their city councils – what do they need to do a good job?

- Norma Grier, Executive Director, NCAP

Introducing the Awards Ceremony and Presenter Kaiulani Lee

Bruno Kirby

You've done a lot, and I'm so happy you haven't become a wedding planner. Let's start slowly moving toward the awards. Beyond Pesticides and all the great people associated with it want to recognize that change does not occur without those who are willing to take a stand, speak out, and sometimes work against the conventional wisdom of the day. They have done this through legislative, science, and community activism. Tonight we honor three people with Beyond Pesticides' *Dragonfly Award*. Beyond Pesticides is using the dragonfly as its logo to symbolize the important role it plays in maintaining ecological balance as part of the delicate ecosystem in which we live. The *Dragonfly Award* symbolizes the importance that our honorees play in protecting the environment and all that depend on it for life. It is a sign of the richness of this movement that we have such people here tonight to serve as presenters of the *Dragonfly Award*. Each one has and continues to make incredible contributions to the environmental and public health movement and we can honor each one of them tonight with our applause when they come up here to make their presentation.

Now, this evening's first presenter, who I'd like to tell you a little about, is Kaiulani Lee. Kaiulani Lee has inspired us with her one-woman play *A Sense of Wonder*, which conveys the spirit of Rachel Carson. She brings to writing and acting more than 30 years of experience in theatre, film and television. She has been nominated for the Drama Desk Award on Broadway and has won the Obie Award for outstanding achievement off-Broadway. Kaiulani is a professor at both George Mason University and New York University. She has devoted years of her life to bringing quality theatre to communities across the country, and is the recipient of the honorary doctorate from Bowdoin College for her contribution to and excellence in the performing arts. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming an incredibly talented and giving person, Kaiulani Lee.

Honoring Norma Grier

Kaiulani Lee

Thank you. It is the greatest of honors for me to introduce you to Norma Grier. I think that a certain number of factual things should be said, if you don't all know Norma. She has been a leader in the grassroots environmental movement for over 30 years and she has been the head of NCAP, the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, since 1983. She's been NCAP's executive director for over 20 years. She's amazing – it's the only organization that I give to every year, whether I make money or not.

Some of the major battles and victories she fought over the years include the following. She started with forestry and working against spraying Agent Orange, as most of us know, in the late 70's and early 80's. When I met Norma, she was working on school pesticide reduction and pesticide-free parks, which she continues to work on. She works on sustainable agriculture, clean water for salmon, and inert ingredient disclosure. She's leading the battle on full disclosure of hazardous, so-called inert or secret ingredients in pesticides, and it is a battle that has been won in one court decision and is continuing.

NCAP has an information hotline that disseminates in-



Actress, Kaiulani Lee

formation on pesticides four or five hours everyday and hundreds of people call this line – it's terribly important. And they have a magnificent magazine that comes out quarterly called the *Journal of Pesticide Reform* that is edited by Caroline Cox, who's here. It's such an important magazine.



Guests enjoy organic food at Beyond Pesticides' 25th Anniversary Gala

All of this happens in Eugene, Oregon, and when we're here in Washington or New York or San Francisco, Eugene, Oregon, seems really grassroots. But they make enormous changes for the rest of us all over the country. Every time I do a performance of *A Sense of Wonder* I mention NCAP's name because they are the strongest and the best grassroots organization I have encountered in now 14 years of traveling back and forth across this country with this play – the very best, bar none.

So these are some of Norma's credits – and I may have missed some. I'm sure I did. They're impressive, but what really impresses me about Norma is Norma. Norma is totally dedicated and incredibly knowledgeable. I know a lot of people who are dedicated but don't know much,

and I know a lot of people who know a lot but don't do much with it. But Norma quietly and steadily does the work that needs to be done, and she inspires and empowers all around her to do the same. She radiates common sense and warmth and fun. She really likes to laugh. She is completely loyal to the public good. Norma's style, the way she operates, is *with* people. She is the ultimate colleague.

But the two most unusual characteristics of this divine human being are, I think, her insight and then her courage to act on what she knows is right and her endurance. Norma keeps on keeping on in the face of enormous odds. Norma not only has shown us that we can do this work for a very long time, but that we can get better at it and that we can continue to be motivated. That's one.

Number two is shorter. This is the most amazing thing about Norma. Norma has no idea that she's so unusual. She thinks we're all like her and she looks at us like we're all special. She has no idea that who she is and what she does is absolutely unimaginable. She's a role model for me.

Rachel Carson answered every letter from every young writer who wrote her until the last several months of her life, and then she had someone else helping her write responses. She wrote sometimes 17 letters a day and if Norma had ever written her, she would have loved you, Norma. I wish Rachel Carson could give you this award. I think that's why Jay asked me to present your award. I'm not Rachel Carson, but Rachel Carson would have adored you and thanked you for everything you have done for all of us. Thank you, Miss Norma Grier.

Appreciating Special People and Beyond Pesticides

Norma Grier

(Norma Grier is the executive director of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), an organization that she founded with others in 1977. For more than three decades she has been a grassroots leader in reducing and eliminating unnecessary pesticide use. Ms. Grier also serves on the board of directors for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and was a longtime board member of Beyond Pesticides.)

Thank you very much. I just have to point out a few special people who are here tonight. I want you all to know that my husband, Dahinda Meda, has joined me tonight. My 96-year-old mother-in-law, Bobby Lerch, is here. My niece, Barb Lerch, is here. Thank you, Barb.

Becky Casstevens came from New York City and I have to tell you a little bit about Becky. In 1977, I lived in rural Douglas County, Oregon, which is timber county, and there was an organization called Citizens Against Toxic Sprays (CATS) in the Oregon coast range. That organization mentored a lot of organizations that formed in the Pacific Northwest and became the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides.

In the spring of 1977, two representatives from CATS came to our community group when we founded the Healthy Environment Action League, which was one of the founding organizations of our coalition. Becky Casstevens was one of those people who came to our community when we formed our organization. So, I've really grown up in this



Norma Grier (left) is presented the Dragonfly Award by Kaiulani Lee

movement. Thank you, Becky, for coming.

I wanted to mention Caroline Cox is also here. Our organization has benefited tremendously from the help and the leadership and the expertise of Caroline for almost 20 years. And NCAP is losing Caroline to the Center for Environmental Health in Oakland, CA, in about a month. But we owe a great tribute to Caroline and I honor her.

The third thing – it's the glue that keeps me together – are the contacts we all make with each other. I think a lot of us have gotten entangled in each others' lives and our friendships really help all of us hang in there for the long-term. I'm grateful to each of you for being a friend. I look forward to making a lot more friends at Beyond Pesticides in the years to come and you mean a whole lot to me. Thank you very much. Thank you for this award.

For me, there are three reasons Beyond Pesticides is such a special organization. The first reason is that Beyond Pesticides thinks of the grassroots activists when they look at their political analysis, when the policy alternatives are looked at, when lawsuits are considered, when their strategies are considered. Beyond Pesticides thinks about what would be good for the activists in their communities, in front of their school boards, in front of their city councils – what do they need to do a good job? I really appreciate all the support we've gotten from Beyond Pesticides for 25 years now.

The second thing that Beyond Pesticides does is it helps grassroots activists get introduced to the best science. When I think about the important scientific concepts that have been integral to my organization's success, it's because I met those scientists at Beyond Pesticides' conference over the years. And that's made a huge difference to us. Thank you Beyond Pesticides for making it possible.

Introducing Sandra Steingraber

Bruno Kirby

Ecologist, author, and cancer survivor, Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D., is an internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health. She received her doctorate in biology from the University of Michigan and master's degree in English from Illinois State University. She's the author of *Living Down Stream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*, the highly acclaimed book that presents cancer as a human rights issue, and *Having Faith: An Ecologist's Journey to Motherhood*, that explores the intimate ecology of motherhood. *Having Faith* reveals the alarming extent to which environmental hazards now threaten each crucial stage of infant development. In the eyes of the ecologists, the mother's body is the first environment for human life. Formerly on the faculty at Cornell University, Sandra is currently distinguished visiting scholar at Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York. She is married to sculptor Jeff de Castro and they are proud parents of five-year-old Faith and two-year-old Elijah.

Please join me in welcoming the inspirational Sandra Steingraber.

Honoring Theo Colborn

Sandra Steingraber

Well, what a privilege to be part of a celebration that honors Theo Colborn, Ph.D., one of my biggest heroes. First of all, I want to apologize for my voice. I'm a mother of two small children and when I'm not with them, I'm on an airplane somewhere, which means I am forever catching a cold. As annoying as this is to me, contracting a respiratory infection can have potentially dire consequences for our honoree, who suffers from a progressive pulmonary disease. Indeed, last August when Theo and I keynoted a conference near Seattle, I lost my opportunity to ride back to the airport with her in the same car because I had caught yet another fresh cold on the way there. Thus, you are going to see me vacate this space well before Dr. Colborn approaches the podium. As much as I might wish to throw my arms around her, I'll be admiring her from a distance for the rest of the evening. Theo, we all wish your lungs were as strong and powerful as your intellect and magnanimous spirit – qualities to which I shall now testify.

I want to begin on a personal note. Exactly ten years ago in the spring of 1996, I was beginning a post-doctoral fellowship in public health at the University of Illinois in Chicago, having just finished up a similar tenure at Northeastern in Boston and, before that, at Harvard. All these fellowships were supporting the research and writing of my book project called *Living Down Stream*, which sought to explicate the environmental links to cancer. I spent my work weeks sifting through thousands of published studies, cancer registry data, the toxics release inventory, and pesticide spraying records. At the time, I was childless and single. My closest relationship was with my dog and the FedEx guy, who arrived every afternoon with more stacks of data for me to analyze – and that was the sexiest moment of my days.

One rainy afternoon, the FedEx guy brought me the galley proofs of Theo's soon-to-be-released book, *Our Stolen Future*, co-authored with biologist Pete Myers and journalist Dianne Dumanoski, which sought to explicate the environmental links to endocrine disruption. Now, I was already familiar with Theo's work as the editor of the monograph *Chemical-*

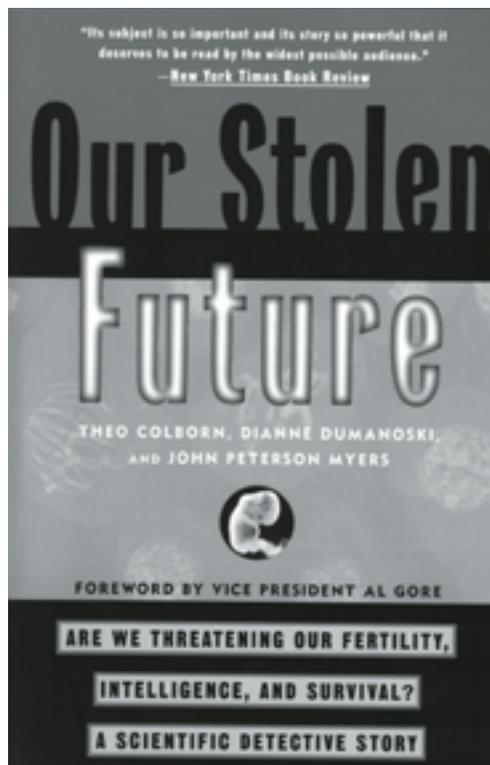


Sandra Steingraber delivering appreciation to Theo Colborn

ly *Induced Alterations in the Sexual and Functional Development: The Wildlife/Human Connection*, which was published in 1992. Indeed, my own work was predicated upon that work because one of the routes to cancer is via the pathway of interfering with the body's elaborate call-and-response mechanism that is our hormone system.

But I wasn't ready for what I found in *Our Stolen Future*. I only meant to flip through it before going back to work, but instead I sat at my desk enthralled and I read it from cover to cover without looking up again for five hours. I looked up and it was dark, I had missed dinner, and the faithful dog had missed her walk and had peed on the carpet. But I knew that this book was going to make the world a different place, which it has done. There are only two other books I have read that have the same effect on me. One was Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* and the other was Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*.

There are three characteristics of Theo's mind that I'd like to highlight here tonight. The first one is her incredible multi-disciplinarity. I use this word deliberately instead of the more popular interdisciplinary, because most of you in this room know that I have advanced degrees in both biology and poetry. So, I get called interdisciplinary a lot. But actually, exploring the landscape between



Our Stolen Future, Dr. Colborn's groundbreaking book on Endocrine Disruption, co-authored by Dianne Dumanoski and John Peterson Myers

two disciplines is a pretty easy thing to do. For example, right now on college campuses it is very trendy to major in something called environmental literature. I actually suspect that few devotees of that study really understand how Newton's second law of thermodynamics governs the flow of energy through aquatic ecosystems or have they actually read Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* in the original Middle English. And I think you have to do both before you get to be called interdisciplinary. So mastering more than one discipline and then exploring how the insights of one field help explore and explain another is a far harder task. This is the one Theo has mastered.

You know Darwin himself was not just a biologist. He was also a geologist, who authored a book on the formation of the Andes Mountains. He had gone to divinity school. He had studied in medical school. He collected beetles.

Theodora Emily Colborn, who was born in 1927 and is now a professor of Zoology, was once a senior scientist at the World Wildlife Fund. But she was once a rancher and thus knows veterinary medicine. Her first degree from Rutgers is in pharmacy, so she also understands how a bioactive substance can cycle through the human body and switch various molecular switches. Her master's degree from Western State College in Colorado is in fresh water ecology, which means she understands how bioactive substances cycle through aquatic ecosystems and affect the survival and reproduction of species there. She knows plenty about how Newton's laws of thermodynamics influence the food chain.

Her Ph.D., which she received at the age of 57, is in Zoology, with distributed minors in epidemiology, toxicology, and water chemistry. This means she understands, more than just about any other human being, the exquisite communion between our bodies and the environments, which we inhabit. So yes, she is interdisciplinary, but she is also a master of many disciplines. So when she goes mucking about in the terrain between the identified areas of study, she brings with her a detailed map of many, many other landscapes.

Furthermore, she shares her multidisciplinary vision with the rest of us and encourages all of us to find the connections between one line of scientific inquiry and another. She's not a squirrely, anti-social, lab-bench researcher who doesn't like to talk to other people, in other words.

In 1991, she brought together almost two dozen scientists in a meeting that became famous because it resulted in an amazing paradigm of a document, the *Wingspread Statement*. That document, in brief, showed us how the old toxicological idea that dose makes the poison is really being supplanted by our new knowledge that it is the timing

that makes the poison as much as the dose. Indeed, just very, very low dose exposures at certain key points of human or wildlife development can have disproportionate effects of harm far in disproportion to dose. That idea, that it's the timing that's as important as the dose, and low-dose exposures are important, challenged the entire regulatory system upon which we govern the flow of poisons in our food supply and in our water and in our air.

But just as importantly, that statement, the *Wingspread Statement*, created a new process for scientists to work within. Just the other day, I was looking through the *Vallombrosa Consensus Statement* of 2005, which is modeled on the 1991 *Wingspread Statement*

in that it brought together researchers, physicians, epidemiologists and toxicologists who are all dealing with infertility and pregnancy loss and how that may be related to low-dose chemical exposures. It used the same framework that Theo created for the 1991 *Wingspread Statement*. Things like: This is what we know for sure, these are things we have concerns about, this is what's likely, this is what's possible. The very language of that 1991 *Wingspread Statement* goes on and is actually altering the scientific process itself as scientists come together.

Today, Theo is president of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, which continues to forge connections between researchers who otherwise might not know of each other's work. So when I think of Theo, I imagine someone assembling a giant, 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Each little piece



The Dragonfly Award: Beyond Pesticides is using the dragonfly as its logo to symbolize the important role it plays in maintaining ecological balance as part of the delicate ecosystem. The Dragonfly Award symbolizes the importance that the honorees play in protecting the environment and all that depend on it for life.

is one study that some researcher at the lab bench toiled mightily to get, and probably got tenure because of it. In isolation, it doesn't necessarily show you a lot. But when Theo assembles all of the puzzle pieces, a startling picture begins to emerge, and it's one, she tells us, that we ignore at our peril.

The second quality I'd like to praise in Theo's life is her civic mindedness. This is where the comparison with Rachel Carson I think is really useful. You know, Carson did not just publish *Silent Spring* and consider her work done. She testified in front of Congress, debated chemical industry representatives on television, and worked for change in the legislative and executive branches of government.

Similarly, Dr. Colborn does the same. She has served on numerous advisory panels, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board, the Ecosystem Health Committee of the International Joint Commission of the United States and Canada, the Science Management Committee of the Toxic Substances Research Initiative of Canada, and the U.S. EPA Endocrine Disruption Screening and Testing Advisory Committee, as well as EPA's Endocrine Disruption Methods and Validation Subcommittee. In so doing, she sat across conference tables from not only public servants in government, but representatives from industry, who seek to discredit her. She has engaged them in dialogue and conversation. Like Carson before her, Colborn treats good science as necessary but not sufficient work. The sufficiency for both Carson and Colborn comes only when that science informs good policy. Now that may sound obvious for a room full of activists, but I can tell you it is pretty rare to find that combination in the scientific community.

Just last week I was reviewing a forthcoming book about what's now being called the environmental breast cancer movement and there was a scene in that book in which a very good researcher was explaining to a room full of breast cancer activists his new discoveries about breast cancer and the environment. The revelation of that was pretty damning for certain kinds of chemicals. So the question came up about the political changes that this kind of evidence really called for, and the researcher got very defensive and said, "You know, it's all I can do to work at the lab bench. I don't have time to get political." There was a silence that fell over the room but he did not recognize, says the author, the irony of that silence. Because who he was talking to were women on chemotherapy and undergoing radiation treatment, who had small children, mortgages and full-time jobs, and they had the time to be political.



Theo Colborn accepting her Dragonfly Award

Here we see a scientist like Theo Colborn who not only does this incredible visionary, multidisciplinary science, but finds the time to come to Washington, to sit down and do all the grueling work of policy making.

But there's more. The third quality about Theo that I'd like to spotlight for you is her grassroots activism. As if inspiring new laws and new policies were not enough, Theo also tirelessly works in her own town of Paonia, Colorado, to make it safer for children and pregnant women through her ongoing opposition to malathion spraying. She's a community organizer in addition to doing all that. And I have to say that's something that really inspires me because at the end of my day, when I'm doing all my writing and my research, and I go on to check my email and there are 20 messages from somebody from a community that's being sprayed and they're asking for my help – sometimes I just want to push the delete button and say, you know, I wrote a couple books about this. Isn't that enough for you? But it's not, and Theo shows me that it's not. So in honor of her, I'm going to say one of my latest emails is from somebody in Squam Lake, New Hampshire, who's trying to stop the spraying of 2,4-D on milfoil, which is an aquatic weed. If anybody in this room knows how to help them, tell me, because I'm going to help on this grassroots fight because if Theo can do the malathion in Colorado, I can take on milfoil (and 2,4-D) in New Hampshire.

If it turns out that *Our Stolen Future* has not had the impact *Silent Spring* has, it's only because of the occupants in the White House right now. When that changes, this book and the work that it has inspired will inspire the kind of policies that we all want to see. I feel very certain of that.

After the following sentence, feel free to leap to your feet in wild applause. Ladies and gentlemen, members of Congress, I present to you a national treasure and my hero, Dr. Theo Colborn.

Where the Dragonflies Swarmed

Theo Colborn

(Dr. Colborn is the president of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, a professor at the University of Florida, and a former senior scientist at the World Wildlife Fund. Her research on endocrine disruptors led to co-authorship of the landmark book *Our Stolen Future*. This book shocked the public, providing evidence suggesting that human-made chemicals in the environment, including pesticides, disrupt the endocrine system and lead to serious health impacts.)

Well, let me say one thing. You don't know how difficult it is for me to get up here and accept this award when I really feel the woman who deserves this award is the woman who just introduced me. Can we have a hand for Sandra.

To those of you who chose to give me this gift, I will do my best not to let you down. But just remember, I have always been fortunate to have wonderful staff members, many in the scientific community, foundations, supporters, numerous friends and my family behind me, without whom I would not be standing here tonight. And I accept that award for them as well.

When I found out the name of the award I was to get was the *Dragonfly Award*, my mind immediately flashed back to when I was five years old and played along the banks of the Passaic River in the Watchung Mountains of New Jersey, where the dragonflies swarmed by the millions on the hot, sunny, steamy, summer days. It was like another world down there by the river. And I loved it. I knew them as darned needles in those days and thought they were very mysterious and rather fearsome. I was often spanked and sent to my room for sneaking down to the river. My mother was not only worried about me drown-



ing, but she knew even then, 75 years ago, that the Passaic River was polluted.

Then my mind flashed to 50 years later, and I kept thinking about the dragonflies, order Odonata, suborder Anisoptera – something that I had to memorize when I was working on my masters' degree in the high altitude watersheds of western Colorado. My degree was to be in fresh water ecology and my thesis committee assigned me Robert W. Pennak's *Freshwater Invertebrates of North America* as my textbook – 803 pages of the Keys to the Genera of each order of insects who spend some part of their lives in water. At that time, I was using the larval stages of the aquatic insects that live submerged under the rocks in creek bottoms to measure toxic trace metals in their exoskeletons as indicators of water quality, above and below mining activity near Crested Butte. I worked a lot with the dragonflies' relatives in those days, the mayflies and stoneflies, who, like the dragonflies, are disappearing across the countryside as humankind encroaches on them in many ways.

I even spent some time working with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program looking for rare or endangered dragonflies as a tool to protect a very unique acid bog that was the home of the rare, carnivorous sundew plant in the vicinity of my research and a large molybdenum mine.

Well, I do not know how many of you have ever seen the nymphal or larval forms of the dragonflies. They beat out all other insects in that they have as many as 10 to 11 instar stages or molts before they emerge. Most are grotesque and ugly. But when they emerge they are among the most beautiful and spectacularly lovely insects in flight.

When I was little I remember the *whisper*-like noise when the darned needles swarmed and darted around erratically over my head. Today, I wonder if the dragonflies, the mayflies, the stoneflies, and even the mosquitoes are not out there whispering to each other . . . "Just give them a little more time – we will get Beyond Humans."



Theo Colborn speaking at the 25th Anniversary Gala

Introducing Jane Nogaki Bruno Kirby

And now for our final award. I'd like to tell you a little about Jane Nogaki. She's with the New Jersey Environmental Federation. She's a long-time grassroots activist who has moved real change at a local level. So ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming a true friend to Beyond Pesticides, Jane Nogaki.

Honoring U.S. Representative Rush Holt Jane Nogaki

Thank you all – thanks for that great introduction. I don't know how many years I've been coming to Beyond Pesticides, but the very first time that I came was probably the first or second forum. We were fighting gypsy moth spraying in New Jersey, and then there were the chlordane contamination cases. Then there were the ChemLawn trucks riding up and down the highways, hosing down lawns. It was just one pesticide issue after another that kept me coming back.

To the credit of the organization, always the cutting-edge activists and the cutting-edge scientists – it was at a Beyond Pesticides' conference that I first heard Theo Colborn speak, that I heard Sandra Steingraber speak, Lou Guilette – always the scientists and activists here together. It's really a marvelous, marvelous collaboration.

But we couldn't get beyond grassroots efforts into chang-

ing statewide and national policy if we didn't have elected officials who took up the charge and took our voices to the legislature. We're fortunate tonight to have such a person with us.

Originally, Senator Lautenberg was going to be here to introduce Rep. Rush Holt from New Jersey but the Senator is still on the Hill. I'm standing in for him. Senator Lautenberg is also a leader on community right-to-know and Superfund legislation. Senator Lautenberg has been a phenomenal leader. Since he was elected, I think there was one time we were hesitant. He came from the business community. We didn't know whether he would be an environmentalist or not? He early recognized in New Jersey, with the most Superfund sites in the nation, the most congested streets, the highest density of population, and yet a highly educated, progressive and vocal population, that he had to make environment an issue and he has.

Congressman Rush Holt is definitely following in that legacy. The wonderful thing about Congressman Rush Holt is that he is a scientist. He comes from Princeton University and the bumper sticker you often see in Princeton, which is his home, his district, says, "My Congressman is a rocket scientist."

Congressman Holt also has taken up the charge of protecting children's environmental health. And so he agreed to be the lead sponsor in the House on the *School Environmental Protection Act*. He announced his leadership in introducing that act last year. We had a press conference locally in New Jersey, in Lawrenceville in his district, and it was great. We had participation from Beyond Pesticides. We had the director of the Children's Environmental Health Caucus, George Lambert, M.D., who works in childhood autism, and Rush was there.

We had a wonderful press conference, and, as always, you know, something happens at a press



Jane Nogaki presents the Dragonfly Award to Rep. Rush Holt

conference that makes you start to turn a little. We were standing outdoors in front of this elementary school and there was a grate in the lawn and some yellow jackets were bubbling out of this – swirling around. We're all standing there. It's a warm August day and you know what the instinct of the school official would be when yellow jackets appear – 'get the spray,' right? Here I'm talking about school environment protection, not using pesticides. Meanwhile, the reporters are there and everybody's nervously watching these wasps and everyone was just cool with it. Rush acknowledged that, yes, sometimes we have pest problems [*pretends to dodge wasps*]. Afterwards, I said to the school official, "What do you do about that?" And he said, "Well nobody ever goes near that area. You know, you were having a press conference there, but the kids are never there, so we don't do anything about it." I said that's great.

We appreciate the leadership of elected officials who are willing to step out. Rep. Holt co-chairs a scientific Children's Environmental Health Caucus, which is a really important thing for Congress people to hear about. They

do biannual briefings on the Hill for legislators on issues of importance to children's health. They've done one on autism, and one on pesticides. This is a way to elevate and educate the level of those elected officials.

Very recently, in fact today, Rush provided some leadership on the Hill. The Environmental Federation of New Jersey is part of Clean Water Action and there was an important *Clean Water Act* amendment today that passed with help from Rush – an important thing that affects the drinking water for over 110 million people, protection of small streams that EPA was trying to not protect. But this House amendment overturned that, so we're appreciative.

Since 1998, Rush has been in Congress protecting the environment. It's never a question of will he do it. It's always that we can count on him to do the right thing and it's very gratifying to have someone that you don't have to teach about the issues. He immediately gets it. So it gives me great pleasure to present this award to Congressman Rush Holt.

A Call for Federal Legislation To Protect Children

U.S. Representative Rush Holt

(Representative Holt was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998. He has been a tireless advocate for children's environmental health and an original sponsor of the School

Environment Protection Act. He also focuses his energy on sustainable development, medical research, farmland protection, human rights and more. Prior to serving as a Member of Congress, he was assistant director of the Princeton University's Plasma Physics Laboratory.)



Rush Holt addresses the Gala crowd

Well, thank you for inviting me here tonight. Thank you for the award. But mostly, thank you for what you do with Beyond Pesticides. It really shows a vision grounded in science, active in the community and with an eye toward the future. I'm delighted to be here with Jay, Michele Roberts, Audrey Thier, board members. I'm particularly honored to be introduced by Jane Nogaki, who is a real leader in New Jersey on a range of issues like this. Robert Nogaki, Jane's husband, is here also.

I am particularly pleased to share the podium with Theo Colborn. I know something about the Passaic River and Watchung Mountains and am delighted to learn about Theo's New Jersey connection. I didn't realize that. We will extol another wonderful product of New Jersey.

You know, Beyond Pesticides has really been an invaluable resource for me, and a partner, re-

ally, as I've worked to protect children. I had never been to a Beyond Pesticides dinner before. I know the science, I know the activism of the organization, but I'm learning that it really is something of a family. And I guess I shouldn't really be surprised because it is about protecting families and I've worked to protect children from the health effects of toxic exposures and educate my col-



Beyond Pesticides supporters know how to party

leagues on the subject. No one, except maybe Jane Nogaki, has been more helpful to me on this than the Beyond Pesticides organization. And your work really is noted on Capitol Hill, promoting the recently released agricultural health study. Again solid science, good, detailed work, but directed toward practical understanding, practical application and real improvement in the future.

Your partnerships with the National Institutes of Health Sciences, the National Cancer Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency have produced really very good work about the exposure to applicators, and their spouses and children. The connections between pesticide use and cancer, diseases of the nervous and respiratory systems, and reproductive problems are dramatic.

It's, in a way, amazing, that Beyond Pesticides is still necessary. But a lot of people still have not, for whatever reason, recognized the dramatic evidence. So I thank you for what you do.

It was in large part due to your tireless advocacy and expertise that I was able to introduce the *School Environmental Protection Act* that Jane referred to. It's modeled after a successful New Jersey law. It's not longstanding yet and we'll see how well it works into the future. But the New Jersey law is working and I think it is worthy of application all around the country. So, we have a federal version of it now that I am very hopeful about.

The challenges facing us with regard to children's health are really stark. The incidence of childhood cancer, of autism, of asthma continue to rise at truly alarming rates. Children we know are more susceptible, not just because their metabolism is different, but for other, well, yet unrecognized reasons. There are various scientific studies that have shown some of

the links. Organizations as diverse as the National Parent Teacher Association, the National Education Association, and others have recommended protecting children from hazardous pesticides, herbicides, and so forth. The EPA has further recommended the use of integrated pest management, which would emphasize nonchemical ways of reducing pests, of improving sanitation and maintenance, and well, in some cases, learning to live in harmony. I'm proud that my home state of New Jersey acted on its own to mandate this more modern vision of pest management in the schools. But that's not enough. We do need, I believe, federal legislation.

I also appreciate your recognition of the Children's Environmental Health Caucus, which Jim Saxton, another U.S. Representative from New Jersey, and I formed several years ago. We created the Caucus to provide a forum for the members of Congress and their staffs to learn about specific environmental factors that are affecting the health of children in New Jersey and across the country. As Jane said, we have sponsored

briefings on school environment, on autism, and on a variety of other things. In fact, we welcome input from you for ideas of what we might do in the future, education that you think my colleagues and I need in Congress.

The Agricultural Health Study is a great illustration of the need to protect funding for the NIH, the NCI, and

You, collectively, and many of you, individually, have been great partners to me and others who are fighting for the environment, not just for the sake of beautiful vistas, but also for the health of our children into the future. I thank you for that.

- U.S. Representative Rush Holt

other government agencies. But unfortunately, the House passed a budget yesterday that does not live up to this. Congress gave a few years ago a collective sigh of relief when it completed a doubling of NIH budget over a period of years and then proceeded to give flat funding to NIH, not even keeping up with the costs of research inflation. Today, we are on the verge of passing the annual interior appropriations bill which greatly under-funds environmental programs and environmental agencies.

We did have a few, I think significant, wins on amend-

ments today, but some of those amendments are just trying to prevent severe damage being done to some aspects of the environment. So, there is a lot we have to do in Congress.

You, collectively, and many of you, individually, have been great partners to me and others who are fighting for the environment, not just for the sake of beautiful vistas, but also for the health of our children into the future. I thank you for that. I am honored to be here with all of you tonight, especially Theo. Thank you.

In Closing

Bruno Kirby

That's our final award for the evening. First of all, on a personal note, I would like to thank all of you. I've never really done anything like this before. You were really just wonderful to me. There is someone I want to thank. When I first came up here, I was incredibly nervous. I was so nervous that I literally, as I was reading, didn't know who I was. Then, there was somebody on the side of the room on a cell phone who said quite loudly, "Yes, I'm listening to Bruno Kirby. Bruno Kirby is speaking." And I'd like to thank that gentleman because he brought me back to reality.

Seriously, I'd like to say have a good time tonight. All of you people really, really deserve it because of the work you do.

25th Anniversary Gala and National Pesticide Forum Videos/DVDs

Presentations made at Beyond Pesticides' 25th Anniversary Gala and the 24th National Pesticide Forum are available for purchase on VHS or DVD format. A list of available presentations is available on the Forum webpage at www.beyondpesticides.org/forum.

To order, send \$20 per video or DVD made payable to CICN to P.O. Box 2885, Missoula, MT 59806. You may also order by calling Will Snodgrass at 406-543-7210 or 406-543-4357.

In Appreciation: Bruno Kirby, 1949 - 2006



It came as a shock to the Beyond Pesticides family that Bruno Kirby fell ill suddenly and died on August 14, 2006. He was 57. He hosted Beyond Pesticides' 25th Anniversary Gala in May and those in attendance came to know him as a funny, sensitive, and caring person. While he was not connected to the environmental community prior to the Gala, he left that evening with a deep appreciation of pesticide poisoning and contamination issues facing people and communities and the viability of nonchemical approaches. He did not know it at the time that he hosted the Gala, but Bruno had leukemia, which was not diagnosed until several weeks before his death. He died from complications related to the disease in Los Angeles where he lived. The board of directors and staff of Beyond Pesticides spent an evening with Bruno and his wife before the Gala and they immediately connected with the people and the mission of the organization. As Bruno explained in his opening remarks to the Gala, he agreed to host the event at the request of Ed Begley, Jr., renowned actor and environmental activist, because of a last minute scheduling problem. We feel fortunate that we were able to know this generous man who gave his time for the important cause of Beyond Pesticides.