Pesticides and You

News from Beyond Pesticides, formerly the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides

Volume 26, Number 3 Fall 2006

Beyond Pesticides Pays Tribute to Pesticide Reformers

Dragonfly Awards Honor Community-Based Activism, Scientific Inquiry and Protective Policy

Letter from Washington

Beyond Pesticides

Building the Grassroots Movement for Reform

"To recall [history] is to remind people of what the Establishment would like them to forget –the enormous capacity of apparently helpless people to resist, of apparently contented people to demand change," writes Howard Zinn in The People's History of the United States. This has been Beyond Pesticides role historically –to work with grassroots people and organizations, bridging science and policy, to incite change for the protection of public health and the environment. We have done this for 25 years, recognizing the power of the chemical industry, which often works in concert with federal and state agencies, state legislatures and the U.S. Congress. Since Beyond Pesticides' inception, we have seen extraordinary changes in public awareness, cultural practices, market demand, and local government policies. And, we see the opportunity for more dramatic change on the horizon. As we move ahead, Beyond Pesticides stands committed to the following:

Core Principles

Pesticides are poisons and hazardous to all living things. The dispersal of poisons is inherently a human rights issue. No one has the right to poison others. Everyone has the right to live in a poison-free environment.

All species have a role in maintaining ecological balance. The use of poisons for human convenience disrupts this balance, often in unknowable ways. Human needs cannot be balanced against the needs of the biosphere because we require a healthy biosphere in order to survive.

In the absence of definitive knowledge, we should always act in a protective rather than destructive way.

Government, regulators, producers and users must be held accountable for the adverse effects of toxic chemical use.

People have the right to know when poisons are used, and about their documented adverse effects, because the power to effect change lies primarily in the collective action such knowledge makes possible.

Poisons are unnecessary. We can meet our needs and most of our wants without the use of poisons.

Democratic Values

Our history shows that we succeed when we empower people to act. Our action requires a healthy democracy in which we are able to advocate and act to protect ourselves. We must defend:

- **Democratic process** – that empowers people to protect community health and safety by making local decisions that offer the greatest protection deemed appropriate, exceeding standards set by state or federal government;
- **Truthful language and full disclosure** – that educates about ecological balance, precaution and prevention rather than uses fear to advocate the killing of poorly defined "pests" at any cost;
- **Clear and equal protective safety standards** – that define hazards as unacceptable and apply standards equally to all people, rejecting fraudulent risk assessments and decisions that inflict disproportionate harm on people-of-color;
- **Access to the courts** – that ensures government accountability and protection from harmful products;
- **Broad coalitions** – that build broad and deep alliances for change; and,
- **Green markets** – that embrace the development of ecological products that integrate with sustainable practices.

The board of directors and membership of Beyond Pesticides have always ensured that the organization is accountable to the people it serves, supporting difficult decisions that may run contrary to the conventional wisdom at the time and influential industry interests. In this issue of *Pesticides and You*, on Beyond Pesticides 25th Anniversary, we bring you the exciting Anniversary Gala and give you a sense of that extraordinary evening in May. Our publications, research, reports and daily news service empower effective advocacy and serve as tools for change. Our continued success in the future hinges on our ability to nurture the public's persistent desire for a sustainable environment that supports life.

- Jay Feldman is executive director of Beyond Pesticides

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Tips on Introducing a School Pest Management Plan

I recently saw some yellow flags outside my children's elementary school. I spoke with the principal while I was picking them up, and she told me they will be spraying both inside and outside the school this year (as I think they have been doing for some time). My oldest has asthma, and I am concerned about what is being sprayed, and how it will affect him – and honestly, for all of their safety, I would just prefer they be exposed to as few chemicals as possible. How would you suggest I go about approaching their school? I'm a little overwhelmed, trying to tackle it as just one parent.

Thanks,
Every Parent
Springfield, USA

Hello Mr. and Ms. Parent,

First, let me thank you for your concern about the use of pesticides in schools. It's an extremely common practice, and is a great opportunity for parents and neighbors to change how a big part of their community uses chemicals. Getting involved with your child's school as it develops a pest-management plan will be much easier if you approach administrators with as much information – and support – as possible.

To begin with, find out as much as possible about what your school's current practices are. What chemicals or products are used? How often? When and where are children exposed to them? Are parents notified beforehand (or afterwards)? Also, check with your child's teacher to see what products he or she uses in the classroom, in addition to school-wide pest control.

Once you know some or all of these details, it's best to know your state's school pesticide laws. Does your state require notification? Is your school required to post signs for indoor or outdoor sprayings? To see your state's law, visit the "State Pages" link under "Info Services" on the Beyond Pesticides website's main menu. Select your state from the map, and then click on the "Pesticide policies" link on the left column of your state's page. Some states list other local school pesticide programs at the bottom of the page. If your school is not complying with state law, that should be the first point you bring up with its administration. Another thing to note in your state's policy is your access to information. Most states require schools to provide the product names and Material Safety Data Sheets for them (but keep in mind that state laws only apply to public schools!). Once you know what chemicals are being used, you can look up their Pesticide Fact Sheets, under the "Info Services" menu tab on our Web site.

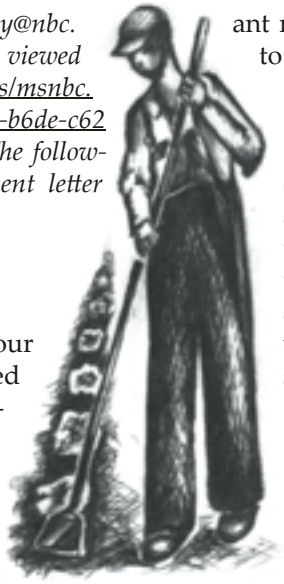
Your PTA is a good place to begin building support for a school IPM plan. When approaching other parents and teachers, make sure you have as much information as possible. In addition to fact sheets for the chemicals used in your school, our Asthma, Children and Pesticides brochure and Safer Schools report are also helpful background in the health risks pesticides pose for young children. For more good publications on pesticides in schools, visit our "Children and Schools" page under the "Issues" tab of the Web site. On the left-hand side, click on the "Publications" link.

Once you have some support among your fellow parents, approaching your administration to create a pest-management plan will have more weight. A petition may help, or have parents send in "For My Child's Health" postcards from Beyond Pesticides with their children, asking the school to stop spraying. For more information on the postcard, visit: www.beyondpesticides.org/schools/alerts/asthma.htm. For model policies, articles and additional resources, visit the other sections of the "Children and Schools" page of our website – and always remember to keep in touch with us, whether with questions or success stories!

Response to NBC's "How Fresh is Organic Food?" Segment

On December 4, 2006, NBC's Today Show *ran a segment on the "health risks" of organic food, namely, a greater abundance of bacteria on organics than chemically-treated food. Beyond Pesticides responded with a letter to NBC requesting a follow-up story on the dangers of pesticide, antibiotic, and hormone use on conventionally produced food, and issued an Action Alert for others to do the*

same by writing to Today@nbc.com. The segment can be viewed at http://video.msn.com/v/us/msnbc.htm?g=18cf1bd8-4c53-4cee-b6de-c625b114d0ce&f=05&fg=rss. The following is a particularly eloquent letter from one of our members:



Dear NBC Today:

I have always admired your commitment to balanced journalism and appreciated your attention to organic food in your December 4, 2006 segment "How Fresh Is Organic Food?," however I am deeply troubled by the serious lack of focus on the hazards of chemical-intensive agriculture and food commodities, especially the risks they pose to young children and the developing fetus. This is not journalistic balance; it glosses over key organic issues and leaves viewers with the impression that chemically-treated food is safer. Nothing could be further from the truth. As a disappointed viewer and concerned consumer, I am writing to ask you to do a follow-up story, giving equal time and consideration to the value of organics. As a parent I do not want endocrine disruptors sprayed on my or my children's food. Please consider the following points:

1. Your piece does not clearly explain the hazards of pesticides and the importance of curtailing their use. The key issues for concern are pesticide residues in and on food commodities and agricultural practices that hurt the environment and those working on farms. Pesticides (which include herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides) found in and on food are known to cause cancer, birth defects, learning disabilities and damage to neurological and reproductive systems as well as other serious health effects. Are you not aware that clusters of eyeless babies have been born where expectant mothers have been exposed to fungicides such as Benomyl and Benlate?

2. Creating a false choice between chemically-treated food with less bacteria and organic. Because of the hazards of pesticides, the Today Show piece created a false choice between what you characterized as safer chemically-grown food and more dangerous organic food. Instead, the choice is to stop the contamination of groundwater resources with E. coli, adopt adequate cleaning practices, and recognize the important role that bacteria plays in the creation of good foods such as yoghurt and cheese, in digestion and the ecological networks in the environment. Soil health itself is largely a function of the health of the bacterial populations there - populations that are crippled and depleted by conventional agriculture.

3. Additionally, no mention was given to other health concerns resulting from conventional agriculture, such as use of antibiotics in animal production. Antibiotic use in animal production has been linked to antibiotic resistance in bacteria. Also, trace amounts of pesticides have been shown to suppress immune system function just as strongly as drugs administered for organ transplants. This means the general population and immune compromised individuals and children can be rendered even more vulnerable to opportunistic infections by pesticides in their diets and environment.

4. In examining this issue, I am surprised you did not deal with the risks that concentrated animal feedlot operations (CAFO's) pose to our food through the contamination of ground water with E. coli. Why blame an honest and wholesome organic farmer, when the root of the contamination comes in the irrigation water from upstream?

5. Your piece glosses over other vital issues when it comes to the freshness of organic. People increasingly want fresh food, rather than food preserved by chemicals for lengthy periods. Buying organic and local is increasingly an option consumers are turning to, and in turn, are supporting their local economy. Buying organic and buying local is more than just important, it is ESSENTIAL and the only way we have of coping with the large economic dislocations that can be expected with peak oil and global warming. Our local agricultural systems cannot recover instantly. We must give them time to get up and running so they are ready when we need them. Please do your part and stop frightening your viewers with false and misleading choices. Help our nation move along in the right direction and overcome the lack of planning at state and federal levels.

Very sincerely,
Helen Jones MSc., EdD
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

Write Us!

Whether you love us, disagree with us or just want to speak your mind, we want to hear from you. All mail must have a daytime phone and verifiable address. Space is limited so some mail may not be printed. Mail that is printed will be edited for length and clarity. Please address your mail to:

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Groups Say DDT Use for Malaria Control Threatens Public Health

As the World Health Organization (WHO) announced its new policy encouraging the indoor application of DDT for malaria control in developing countries on September 15, 2006, environmental and public health advocates warn that good intentions are in this case misguided. Many groups in the U.S. and Africa believe that advocating a reliance on pesticides, especially DDT, as a silver bullet solution for malaria protection is extremely dangerous. When the underlying causes of pest problems, including impoverished living conditions, are not adequately addressed, then a sustained dependence on toxic pesticides like DDT causes greater long-term problems than those that are being addressed in the short-term, according to Beyond Pesticides. At a September 15, 2006 press conference, WHO panelists repeatedly called DDT use inside homes "safe," and stated that the science shows that it will not cause harm to people, even though it is classified as a class B "probable human carcinogen" by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Numerous studies have shown other adverse effects, such as endocrine disruption. The speakers also attempted to create a rift in the environmental/public health movements by suggesting that those who were against DDT were concerned with nature, but not African babies.

Many environmental and public health advocates in malaria hot spots are opposed to DDT use. On June 6, 2006, Jamidu Katima, the co-chair of the International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network who resides in Tanzania, responded to a May 29 article in the *Los Angeles Times* entitled, "Malaria's Toll Fuels the Case for DDT Use in Africa." Mr. Katima's letter said the following: *Malaria is a devastating health problem in Africa that is finally getting the international attention it deserves. Unfortunately, some want to bring back widespread use of DDT for malaria control -- a "silver bullet" approach that saved lives in the 1950s and '60s but stopped working as mosquitoes became resistant to the pesticide. Like most Africans, I do not want a toxic chemical known to cause cancer and low birth weights sprayed on my walls and contaminating the home where my children play. Those promoting DDT are putting current and future generations of Africans at risk. There are better ways to control malaria without risking our health. The new U.S. promotion of DDT for malaria control directly undermines the Stockholm Convention, a global treaty with 123 participating countries, which allows short-term use of DDT in countries where it is needed but calls for its eventual elimination.*

EPA Completes Most Required Pesticide Reviews, Enviros Say System Is Broken

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was busy on August 3, 2006 declaring the success of its near-completion of the congressionally-mandated review of thousands of pesticides, environmental and health groups call the agency's process a public health and environmental failure. The *Food Quality Protection Act* (FQPA) of 1996 required EPA to review and rereg-ister food use pesticides and reassess tolerances (the amount of residues that are allowed on food) with children's unique vulnerability in mind. On the tenth anniversary of FQPA enactment, EPA reported that it completed 99% or 9,637 of the 9,721 tolerance reassessment decisions. The next day, however, EPA's Office of Inspector General (IG) issued an evaluation report of the Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), entitled *Measuring the Impact of the Food Quality Protection Act: Challenges and Opportunities*, stating that EPA has "made progress" in implementing the requirements of FQPA, but that OPP has primarily measured its success by adherence to its registration schedule rather than by reductions in risk to children's health.

Environmentalists believe that the problems with the current system go even deeper, and say that a new process for evaluating the safety and need of pesticide products based on the precautionary principle must be adopted to protect public health. Beyond Pesticides identifies the following as a partial list of deficiencies in

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In Appreciation: John Bell Clark, 1937 - 2006

Stop Dignifying the Myth of Pesticide Benefits

I met John not long after Beyond Pesticides (back then National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides, NCAMP) was formed in 1981. He and Merrill, his wife, came to one of the early annual National Pesticide Forums to make sure that our fledgling organization was clear and unequivocal on the need for and purity of organic agriculture as the basis for fighting chemical agriculture. In those years, mainstream agriculture and food processors questioned the commercial viability of organic.

John wanted to ensure that there was a national organization, with a social conscience and integrity, that provided a strong, clear voice. So, he came to Washington, DC armed with the facts about his and Merrill's experience since 1978 on their 1800-acre farm in Cassopolis, Michigan, the southwest part of the state. That was my introduction to Roseland Organic Farms, an organic beef farm, where in-season vegetables are also cultivated and sold. John was emphatic that on his family farm there would be no parasiticides, antibiotics, hormones or growth regulators, insecticides or herbicides and 100% certified organic feed would be fed to the animals.

Those who knew John know that he did not mince his words. And he was not shy about his views. At our meetings, he would lean over in his chair or sometimes stand in the back of the room, listen intently to the conversation or speaker, collect his thoughts, and then have at it. In that style, John brought to Beyond Pesticides in the early years the notion that pesticides are not necessary. He did not believe the organization should tinker with acceptable risk calculations of chemicals that were not needed. He brought this message to us at a time when regulators, Congress, academics, and even some of our environmental friends questioned the "credibility" of that position. But, John hammered away and brought his own experience to the table, armed with his Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of California. John wrote, "The results are almost always the same: Yields get better as organic practices are continued, and pest problems virtually disappear. Natural pest controls, which are suppressed in chemical farming, get healthier and more effective every year. Plant and livestock health improves; soil tilth improves every year, and so does soil moisture retention."

John continued, "There are no secrets or surprises, only simple, economical management practices: long-term crop rotation; leguminous and nonleguminous green manure incorporation; mechanical cultivation; clipped forages and allelopathic crops in rotation; preservation of habitat for beneficial insects and other natural control organisms. It all really does work! The compelling conclusion to this experiment and its repeatable results in the organic community is that the highly touted benefits for pesticide and fertilizer input are nonexistent. These "benefits" are measured wrongly." And this is quintessential John: "We need to stop dignifying the myth of the benefits of pesticides, and we need to stop pretending that there can ever be "safe"---or even effective-poisons. There are too many thousands of species of insects for this ever to apply. "'Close" only counts in horseshoes. Pesticide-free farming has to be just that --totally free of pesticides."

John convinced Beyond Pesticides to research and then write the landmark report *Unnecessary Risks: The Benefit Side of the Pesticide Risk-Benefit Equation* in the early 1990's. The acknowledgments state," A special thanks to biochemist/farmer Dr. John Clark, for encouraging the NCAMP board and staff of the need for this study and for sharing conclusions based on his scientific and agricultural experiences." John was a board member of Beyond Pesticides from 1987 to 1990.

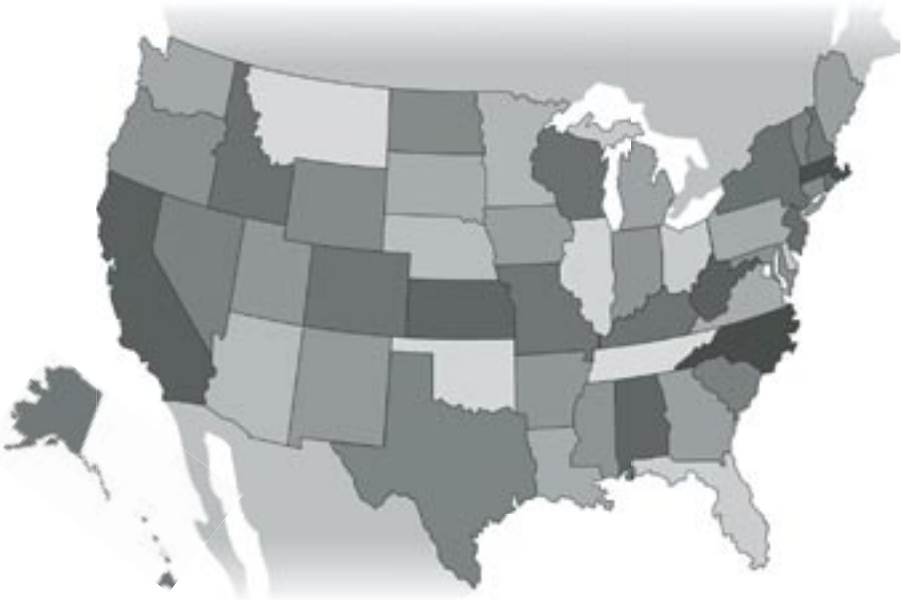
Unnecessary Risks, inspired by John, has served as the guiding light for the organization. The report documents the bias and failure of EPA's pesticide regulatory system that "keeps pesticides on the market despite the availability of alternative pest management practices that are viable, productive and profitable – in some cases more so than chemical approaches."

John never wanted us to accept the arguments of those who attribute benefits to pesticides, and a regulatory system that assumes pesticide benefits in the marketplace, and a risk assessment approach that accepts allowable but unnecessary hazards or risks -- expressly because pesticides are not necessary.

John, we appreciate the knowledge, dedication, outrage, time, and love that you gave to our organization. We will miss you. Your words, thoughts, perseverance, and inspiration will be carried on.

--Jay Feldman, executive director, Beyond Pesticides

Roseland Farms raises cattle and calves only on Roseland pasture, hay and a mix of the farm's own grains, including oats, sunflower, milo and buckwheat, and ships nationwide, 269-445-5817, www.roselandorganicfarms.com. Contributions in John's memory may be made to the Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance, PO Box 36880, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 or to Merrill Clark, 27427 M-60 West, Cassopolis, MI 49031.



Problems Created By Increased Use of Pesticide Synergists

Synergists are the steroids of the pesticide world…and their use is dramatically on the rise. According to Don Weston, Ph.D., an adjunct professor of ecotoxicology at the University of California, Berkeley, the reduction in residential organophosphate insecticide uses in the early 2000's has led to an increase in pesticides formulated with the synergist piperonyl butoxide (PBO), a chemical added to increase the potency and stability of natural pyrethrum and synthetic pyrethroid insecticides. The concern is that PBO will react with pesticide residues, pesticide drift and runoff already present in the environment, increasing the toxicity and stability of these chemicals. New research by Dr. Weston, Ph.D., "Aquatic Effects of Aerial Spraying for Mosquito Control over an Urban Area," published September 15, 2006 in the *Journal of Environmental Science and Technology* (Vol. 40, No. 18), examines how PBO increases the toxicity of these insecticides that are bound up in stream sediments. Dr. Weston found widespread occurrence of PBO at concentrations of up to four ppb. Further research shows that this concentration of PBO doubles the mortality rate of hyalella, a small bottom-dwelling crustacean. ES&T reported that Dr. Weston's coauthor, Michael Lydy, Ph.D., an associate professor of zoology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, believes the problem of pesticide synergists may be widespread. "We know that DDT is still at high concentrations in sediments. It may also synergize as well," said Dr. Lydy.

As a result of concern regarding these recent findings, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is sending notices to the manufactures of approximately 600 pyrethroid products, informing them that the state is reevaluating their use. This process is expected to culminate in new regulations, and possibly even bans of some pesticide products in California. According to an article in the *Los Angeles Times*, Mary-Ann Warmerdam, director of CA DPR, stated, "We've got the caution flag out…This is a shot across the bow to the manufacturers that we found a reason for concern and you need to provide us with data to either eliminate the concern, reformulate your products or consider taking them off the market."

Take Action: *Write to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson (Johnson.Stephen@epa.gov or Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460) and encourage EPA to take a serious look at the potential impacts of PBO and other pesticide synergists. Let the agency know about your concerns posed by the potential interaction of PBO and pesticide residues in the environment. Indicate that the agency's risk assessment is flawed as a result of ignoring this critical information related to registered pesticide product uses.*

Toxic Insecticide AZM To Remain In Use Until 2012

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final decision on the phase-out of azinphos-methyl (AZM) shows once again that the agency is in no hurry to protect farmworker health. Its decison, released November 16, calls for the gradual elimination of AZM on agricultural products by September 30, 2012. The announced period is two years longer than the decision proposed by EPA in May, when it responded to a lawsuit, *United Farm Workers v. Johnson*, brought by labor and environmental groups, including Beyond Pesticides. AZM, an organophosphate insecticide, causes neurological damage to workers and their families, exposed through "take-home" contamination on clothing, cars, and drift.

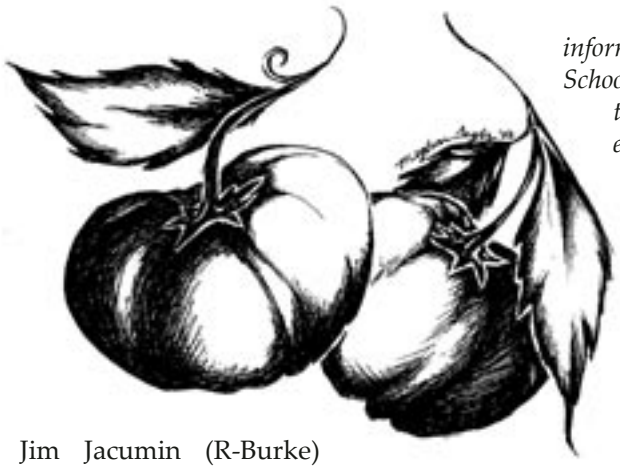
EPA explained its gradual approach to the elimination of AZM, saying, "Many new alternatives have been registered since the Agency's previous benefits (grower impact) assessment in 2001 [when growers were granted four years to phase-out the chemical, due to higher cost of alternatives]. The new chemistry is more

costly and generally requires more precise application. Crop experts point out the importance of adopting these innovations gradually, so that growers learn appropriate application techniques and gain confidence in the efficacy of the new pesticides." This justification does not sit well with activists who expected AZM's phase-out to come much sooner. "It is outrageous that EPA allowed continued use of this pesticide knowing that it would expose farmworkers to unacceptable risks of pesticide poisonings," said Patti Goldman, an attorney for EarthJustice, lead counsel on the lawsuit. "Since growers have already had five years to shift to other pest controls, there is no reason to subject workers and their communities to more poisonings for another six years."

Take Action: *Let EPA know that the timeline for phase out of AZM is unacceptable. AZM poses an unacceptable risk to workers and since growers have already had four years to shift to other pest controls, there is no reason to subject workers and their communities to more poisonings for another four years. All uses should be phased out immediately. Write to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson (Johnson.Stephen@epa.gov or Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460). For more information, contact the Farmworker Justice Fund, www.fwjustice.org.*

State Legislature Votes Toxics Out of NC Schools

On July 6, 2006, the North Carolina state legislature passed the *School Children's Health Act* (H1502), which protects children from exposure to pesticides, mercury, diesel fumes, arsenic-treated wood, mold and mildew in North Carolina's public school system. The Senate defeated an amendment offered by Senator



Jim Jacumin (R-Burke) that would have stripped out vital protections for school children from arsenic-treated wood. "The legislature has done a great job with this bill of taking a safety-first approach with schools," stated Fawn Pattison, executive director of the PESTicide EDucation Project, a group that advocates for eliminating hazardous pesticide use in schools. "The old-fashioned way of doing things was to ask, "How much of this chemical can we use before we hurt somebody?" Schools now are getting smarter about asking instead why we would want to have hazardous toxics around kids in the first place. I think that's real progress." Beginning this fall, schools will have to reduce students' exposures to diesel fumes from idling engines, coat or plan to eliminate arsenic-treated wood on playground equipment, make sure there is no elemental mercury in their science classrooms, and start managing pests with a common-sense method known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Schools will have five years to fully implement the new IPM programs, but many districts around the state are already using it, and have even reported cost savings as a result.

Take Action: *Protect children from pesticides and other toxics in your state. For model policies, local contacts and information on pesticides and IPM, visit Beyond Pesticides' Children and Schools webpage, www.beyondpesticides.org/schools or contact Children's Health project director Michele Roberts. For more information on North Carolina's School Children's Health Act, see the Pesticide Education Project factsheet at www.pested.org/involved/actionalerts/schoolhealthact.html.*

Washington Becomes First State with Organic Farming Degree

Due to the growing interest in organic agriculture, the state of Washington recently approved a proposal submitted by Washington State University to create the nation's first organic farming degree program. According to Washington State University soils professor, John Reganold, Ph.D., interest in traditional agricultural degree programs are waning, primarily due to the declining number of family farms and because many farm kids are seeking better-paying careers. However, interest in organic farming has been rising, even among students who were not raised on farms. In an effort to respond to this increased interest, the professor submitted a proposal that received no opposition, including from traditional big agricultural groups. According to Ray Folwell, Ph.D., associate dean at the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resources, "There was no resistance to it," because as Dr. Folwell continued, "It's a hot topic." Once considered a niche market with questionable economics, organic farming is the fastest growing and most profitable field in agriculture, and demand for food produced without hormones, pesticides or other chemicals is exploding. According to the Organic Trade Association (OTA), sales of organic food and beverages increased from less than $4 billion a year in 1997 to $13.8 billion in 2005. OTA says that organics were 2.5 per-

cent of all food and drink sales nationwide, but have been growing 20 percent per year since 1990. Michigan State University and Colorado State are on the verge of trying to offer organic degrees.

"Intersex" Fish Found in Potomac River, Endocrine Disruptors Suspected

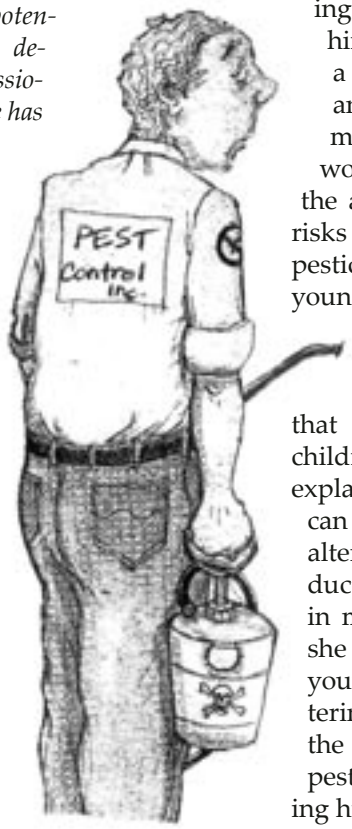
According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), some species of male fish are acquiring female sexual characteristics at unusually high frequencies in the Potomac River, which flows through downtown Washington, DC, prompting concerns about pollutants that might be causing the problem. Environmentalists have long pointed to pesticides and other endocrine disrupting chemicals as having the potential for wreaking such hormonal chaos. Data shows that in some Potomac tributaries, including the Shenandoah River in Virginia, nearly all of the male smallmouth bass caught in a survey last year by USGS were so-called intersex fish, producing immature eggs in their testes. In the Potomac itself, seven of 13 largemouth bass exhibited female characteristics, including three that were producing eggs. Intersex fish were discovered in the Potomac rivershed in 2003 and have also been found in other parts of the country, but the frequency found by the surveys is much higher than what had been found elsewhere. Most scientists believe that changes are caused by a combination of endocrine disrupting pollutants and synthetic estrogens, such as pesticides and birth control pills.

Endocrine disruptors are a diverse group of several thousand chemicals that are used in everything from pesticides and flame-retardants to cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. Endocrine disruptors may be mistaken for hormones by the body and thus their presence may alter the function of hormones, either blocking their normal action or interfering with how they are made in the body. Since hormones regulate things like growth and body development, there is great potential for damage. There are many commonly used pesticides that are known or suspected endocrine disruptors, such as atrazine, 2,4-D, glyphosate, and permethrin. The environmental effects of these chemicals have been well-established: pseudo-hermaphrodite polar bears with penis-like stumps, panthers with atrophied testicles, hermaphroditic deformities in frogs, and male trout with eggs growing in their testes have all been documented as the probable result of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the environment. Many scientists believe that wildlife provides early warnings of effects produced by endocrine disruptors in humans.

Take Action: *EPA is required under the Food Quality Protection Act to evaluate pesticides for endocrine disrupting potential, however, nearly a decade after this Congressionally-mandated deadline has passed, there is still no system in place. Write to the EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson (Johnson.Stephen@epa.gov or Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20460, and to your elected officials, U.S. Representatives (www.house.gov/writerep) and U.S. Senators (www.senate.gov) and demand that EPA fulfill its requirements under federal pesticide law.*

Leading Anti-Pesticide Activist's Lawn Doused With Toxic Chemicals

Tess Karwoski, one of Michigan's leading pesticide reform activists and a proponent of alternatives to dangerous pesticides used in many lawncare products, had her lawn doused with chemicals linked to birth defects and hormonal damage in September. A mistake by TruGreen ChemLawn was to blame for the application, which soaked Ms. Karwoski's entire front yard with a mixture of MCPA, mecoprop and dicamba. TruGreen planted their "Keep Children and Pets Off Lawn" warning sign only a few feet away from Ms. Karwoski's "Pesticide-Free Zone" sign. Ms. Karwoski, health and policy director for the Michigan Environmental Council and a nurse, was working from her Ann Arbor home, when the incident occurred. After confronting the applicator and telling him that she did not have a contract with TruGreen and did not want any treatments on her lawn, Ms. Karwoski proceeded to caution the applicator about possible risks associated with common pesticide chemicals. "I told the young man, 'Even more important to me is that you don't have a mask on. These are chemicals that will affect your unborn children,'" Ms. Karwoski said, explaining that such pesticides can affect sperm counts and alter the structure of reproductive organs, particularly in male fetuses. By the time she was done, she said the young man's eyes were watering. "I don't know if it was the irritant properties of the pesticides or what I was telling him."



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

Honorees and presenters at Beyond Pesticides 25th Anniverary 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. Hauk 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 I sat there thinking, what an interesting point of view this person has on the world. At the time, most people would pick up a guitar, learn a few chords, maybe sing a bit for their friends, play at the occasional hootenanny. Audrey had a goal and I looked at her and thought I'm glad that this person is on our side.

Anyway, here's a little bit of the things we learned: Beyond Pesticides was founded as the National Coalition Against the Misuse of Pesticides in February of 1981. The name was chosen in an effort to join together farmers, farm workers and consumers to prevent contamination and poisoning. In the spirit of Rachel Carson, the organization sought to curtail the use of pesticides. Early on it became evident that it is impossible to separate pesticide use from pesticide misuse. The organization 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 Beyond 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.

Audrey Thier and Jay Feldman (at podium)

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 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 information 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.

Actress, Kaiulani Lee

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.

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.

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.

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 Ecologists 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

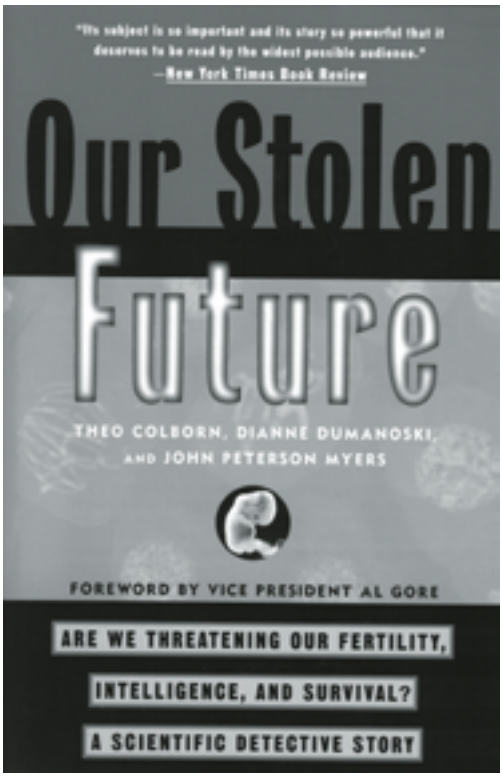
Sandra Steingraber

Sandra Steingraber delivering appreciation to Theo Colborn

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 *Chemically 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.



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

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

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.

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.

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 squirrelly, 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

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.

Theo Colborn accepting her Dragonfly Award

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.

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

Theo Colborn speaking at the 25th Anniversary Gala

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 darning 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."

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 changing 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.

Jane Nogaki presents the Dragonfly Award to Rep. Rush Holt

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

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 colleagues 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.

Beyond Pesticides supporters know how to party

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.

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

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

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 amendments 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

Presenations made at Beyond Pesticides' 25th Anniversary Gala and the 24th National Pesticide Forum are available for purhase 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., reknowned 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.

continued from page 4
EPA's review of pesticides: (i) **Less and non-toxic strategies ignored** - The current system assumes that if a pesticide meets a highly questionable "acceptable" risk threshold, it has value or benefit, even though there are typically less or non-toxic methods or products available; (ii) **Inconsistent definition of "reasonable" risk** - The interpretation of "reasonable" risk varies. EPA sometimes allows a cancer risk, for example, of one in a million and other times accepts one in 10,000; (iii) **Disproportionate risk** - EPA fails to take into account the numerous circumstances and realities that make some population groups more vulnerable to daily pesticide exposures; (iv) **Pesticide synergy** - Although pesticides are tested individually, research shows combinations with pesticides and other chemicals, including medications, multiply the toxic effects of some pesticides; and, (v) **Endocrine disruption** - Many commonly used pesticides are known or suspected endocrine disruptors, which are mistaken for hormones by the body and may cause serious adverse effects. EPA does not currently evaluate the endocrine disrupting properties of pesticides.

U.S. Stockpiles Ozone-Depleting Pesticide Banned by United Nations

Documents recently made public show that the U.S. has stockpiled millions of pounds of methyl bromide, a toxic pesticide used in agriculture and an ozone-depleter more powerful than CFCs. Banned under the United Nations' *Montreal Protocol* for the past two years (excluding farmers who have no immediate alternative to the chemical), methyl bromide has continued to be produced in the U.S. despite a stockpile that would last American farmers for more than a year. The treaty's ratifying nations convened in New Delhi in October 2006 and approved 91 percent of the Bush Administration's requested 14 million pounds of methyl bromide for 2008. Methyl bromide, used most heavily in Florida and California, is injected into the soil to kill a variety of pests. David McAllister, manager of fumigant product issues for the country's only manufacturer, Chemtura Corp., argued that having more than a year's supply on hand was necessary in the event of "a catastrophic interruption in supply or some sort of pest infestation that was unanticipated." According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the treaty says all nations "should have as little on hand as possible."

FMC Fights EPA Cancellation of Carbofuran, Allowing for Years of Possible Use

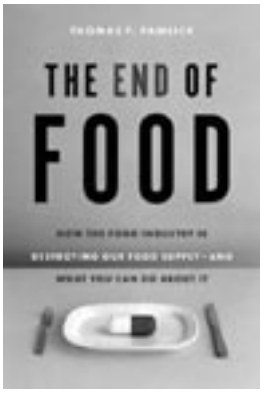
Thanks to public pressure and overwhelming scientific data showing harm, EPA canceled all remaining uses of the pesticide carbofuran and revoked the associated tolerances (legal residue limits on food), only to have the action delayed by a chemical industry challenge. The agency announced on August 3, 2006 its conclusion that there are considerable risks associated with carbofuran in food and drinking water, to pesticide applicators and to birds that are exposed in treated fields. According to EPA, the FMC Corporation, the manufacturer of carbofuran, decided not to voluntarily withdraw its registration and instead go to federal court. Federal pesticide law permits FMC to sell the deadly pesticide for years while it fights the decision in court. EPA issued an immediate end to the main uses of carbofuran: alfalfa, corn, cotton, cotton, potatoes, and rice; and a gradual phase-out of minor use crops over the next four years - but failed to use its "imminent hazard" authority, which would stop use during a court challenge. The cancellation also applies to use on most major imported agricultural products. With a zero tolerance, countries wishing to export agricultural produce to the United States will not be able to use carbofuran on those crops.

The pesticide, which is sold under the trade name "Furadan," is one of the most toxic pesticides to birds left on the market. It is responsible for the deaths of millions of birds and wildlife since its introduction in 1967. Carbofuran first came under fire in the 1980s after an EPA Special Review estimated that over a million birds were killed each year by the granular formulation. According to scientists at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, there are "no known conditions under which carbofuran can be used without killing migratory birds. Many of these die-off incidents followed applications of carbofuran that were made with extraordinary care." The granular formation was cancelled in 1994, but the liquid or "flowable" form remains on the market until the current cancellation process is complete. *To view the details of EPA's cancellation proposal, see http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/carbofuran/.*

The End of Food

How the Food Industry Is Destroying Our Food Supply- And What You Can Do About It

Thomas F. Pawlick (Fort Lee, New Jersey; Barricade Books, Inc, 2006, 256 pages; $16.95. paperback, www.barricadebooks.com.)



Thomas Pawlick's interest in researching the problems with the industrial food supply began with an encounter with supermarket tomatoes- beautiful, bright red tomatoes that happened to be rock hard, more like raw potatoes than tomatoes. The strange thing was that these beautiful tomatoes never ripened, even after a week sitting in the sun. Perplexed, the author decides to research tomatoes more in depth- and finds that shockingly, the tomatoes we eat today are much less nutritious than those of a few decades ago- with far less Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Calcium, phosphorus, and other nutrients.

The End of Food is the result of Mr. Pawlick's quest for answers. With his background in investigative science journalism, he sets about discovering why the current food supply is so deficient in vitamins, mineral, and nutrients, so lacking in taste, and so unlike the homegrown, vine-ripened tomatoes that the author grew up with.

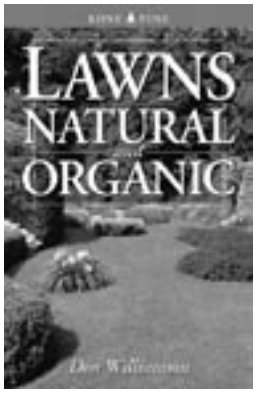
The End of Food takes readers through the steps of food production from farms to grocery stores. The author addresses chemical additives and treatments, including pesticides, antibiotics, and growth hormones, genetic modification and its hazards, contaminants such as feces, dioxin, and other scary things, as well as the system of industrial agriculture that has led to the problems we have today.

The strength of *The End of Food* is not only that it serves as a wake-up call, but also that it offers solutions. "We need to take back control of our own food supply, our own meals, and our own humanity." To this end, Mr. Pawlick offers pages and pages of many great resources for organic gardeners, people who want to start community gardens, and consumers, touting community supported agriculture (CSAs), food sharing, and the slow food movement.

The End of Food is a great book for anyone who wants to learn more about where their food comes from. "Food is not just something you jam into your mouth and swallow fast to prevent starvation. It is the basis of social interaction," writes the author.

Lawns Natural and Organic

Don Williamson (Auburn, Washington; Lone Pine Publishing International, 2006, 160 pages; $16.95. paperback at www.lonepinepublishing.com or call 1-800-518-3541.)



With 14 years of landscaping and turf management experience under his belt, Don Williamson knows a thing or two about healthy lawns. In his new book, *Lawns Natural and Organic*, Mr. Williamson uses his years of experience to write an easy-to-understand guide to growing an organic lawn. The author is committed to the development of high-quality lawns achieved through natural, chemical-free practices. *Lawns Natural and Organic* shows readers how to restore life to the soil and help grass become healthy, resilient and resistant to drought without the use of chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides.

According to Mr. Williamson, a healthy, natural, safe lawn first requires a change in attitude. "Growing an organic lawn is easy," the author states in the introduction, "however, your idea of what constitutes an ideal lawn might have to change." As a result of extensive advertising by the chemical and fertilizer industry, many people only have one view of a healthy lawn, expect immediate results, and unknowingly contaminate groundwater and put children and pets in danger. As stated by the author, "The intent of this book is to present alternatives to the current, chemical-dependent paradigm of lawn growing."

Filled with beautiful, full-color photos and illustrations, extensive information, and straight forward instructions, this book is ideal for homeowners, landscapers, and professional gardeners who are considering switching to organic lawn management. It is also an invaluable tool for those already in the practice of organic lawn care. The topics covered in the book include: the best turfgrass species for your lawn (this book specifically features grasses for the central and northern U.S.), soil and nutrient requirements, proper lawn installation, instructions for effective mowing, edging, watering, fertilizing and aerating, low maintenance grasses and groundcover alternatives, healthy maintenance practices, and troubleshooting lawn problems and solutions, including controlling pests and diseases. Mr. Williamson also includes a handy "Turfgrass Maintenance Calendar," which outlines a monthly lawn maintenance regime, and an extensive resource list for those who are interested in learning more.

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Vol. 26, No. 3, Fall 2006

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