

DISBANDING THE MONSTER THAT EATS MONEY

By Douglas Bandelin

"Clean the ditch!" the cry went out. But who said it first? Who was the Horatio at the bridge, the hero of the day, the savior of us all? We sit and wonder. Was it you? Did you utter the cry? Or you? Maybe the words formed first in your mind's eye? Perhaps. Or perhaps our fathers' fathers' fathers said "Clean the ditch," and our voices are but faint echoes of that first marvelous imperative.

No matter, not in the least, because the identity of whoever first said those words, or when, has not ever made less urgent the need to maintain the ditch. Now, today, fall 2002, the ditch needs to be cleaned again, as it was regularly in the past. Not a silly 250 yards for show; no, not that at all. The ditch needs 15,000 yards removed. That is the true measure of the call.

There are 55 of us property owners along the ditch, and with more or less one down, there are still 54 stretches left to clean. And the cost, at current rates? Hmmm. That will be 6 million, eight. Silly, you say? You bet. It's absurd. "Obscene" would fit just as well.

I am appalled that it has come to this. Two years we have spent. Over 134 meetings, 4 potlucks, 2 days of celebrations; thousands upon thousands of hours spent in meetings, running elections and rallies. We have written our case in prose, poetry, and song, spent large sums from our meager fortunes, and for what? 300 feet of ditch cleaning? Oh boy! Be still, oh my heart!

Certainly the county can point to millions that have been wasted in our name during those two years. We have seen the spectacle of heavy lift

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From the President

Thinking cannot be carried on without the materials of thought: and the materials of thought are facts, or else assertions that are presented as facts. A mass of details stored up in the mind does not in itself make a thinker; but on the other hand thinking is absolutely impossible without that mass of details. And it is just this latter impossible operation of thinking without the materials of thought which is being advocated by modern pedagogy and is being put into practice only too well by modern students. In the presence of this tendency, we believe that facts and hard work ought again to be allowed to come to their rights: it is impossible to think with an empty mind.

J. Gresham Machen

The Naked Fish is published by May Valley Environmental Council (MVEC) a non-profit community group dedicated to sensible environmental management of private property. Articles in *The Naked Fish* cover subjects of concern both to local and national readers. We try to provide environmental information not commonly found in the major media. Articles with by-lines reflect the research, views and opinions of the author which may not reflect positions on the issues adopted by MVEC.

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helicopters flying in stumps to place in drainage ditches. We have seen city people chain stumps to cement anchors, calling it nature's way. I personally watched grown men shock minnows and gather them with an oversized aquarium net because they thought the minnows too dumb to get out of the way of a track hoe. Gee, I figure if the fish are that dumb, just net um. No need to shock the poor babies. Oh, well. City people's brains are like rocks, ossified, hard, and impenetrable.

Okay, then. The season has drawn to a close, and the county can thump its chest, saying it did something for the citizens of May Valley. Well, yes, they did; and I suppose I should jump up and shout "Alleluia!" But I cannot. Why?

Because of the cost, the prohibitive cost, the waste of money, the fiddle fuddle way the county goes about goes about my business. (And yes, what the county does is my business, our business if you will; but my business nevertheless. It breaks my heart to see these fine young men and women caught up in the madness that is the Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP). It saddens me because we are all paying for it. We are paying for this silliness with fewer police, fewer firemen, fewer teachers, fewer social workers, and fewer buses. We are paying for it whether they waste our money in my valley or yours. And we are paying for it with scarce tax dollars. There are only so many eggs in the goose.

I, for one, am shocked, and I call for the disbanding of the monolith, the break-up of the monster that eats money faster than we can make it. I cry because the imperative, "Clean the ditch!" will never, ever be fulfilled. It will never happen. Not in one more year; not in sixty more years.

I understand this, and so I beg, I plead: Please, King County. You want to flood us? Destroy our homes? Then pay for it fairly. Buy us out and send us on our way. You might ask, "How? The county is broke." to which I would respond, "Disband DNRP. You would have plenty of money then; and without us, you would not need DNRP." Simple solution to a difficult problem. Sounds like a winner to me.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES WANTED

The editors of The Naked Fish wish to provide more local interest items in this publication. The items can be either news — births, deaths, marriages, accidents, etc. — or human interest type stories about local residents. Please send anything you think would be of interest to our readership to:

nakedfish@maycreek.com

or Naked Fish 15019 SE May Valley Road Renton, WA 98059.

SILENT SPRING AT LAST

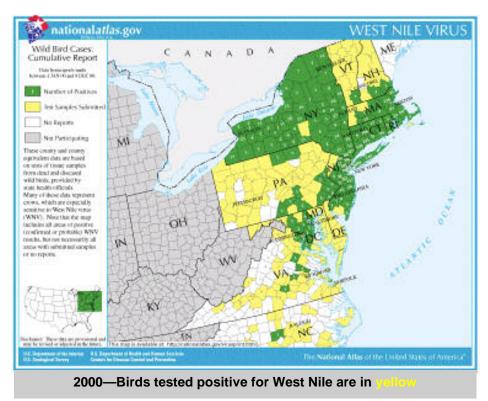
By Rodney McFarland

"... a strange blight crept over the area and everything began to change. Some evil spell had settled on the community: mysterious maladies swept the flocks of chickens; the cattle and sheep sickened and died. Everywhere was a shadow of death. The farmers spoke of much illness among their families. In the town the doctors had become more and more puzzled by new kinds of sickness appearing among their patients. There had been several sudden and unexplained deaths, not only among adults but even among children, who would be stricken suddenly while at play and die within a few hours."

-Silent Spring, by Rachael Carson, 1962.

In 1962 Silent Spring was a runaway best selling book about the coming chemical cataclysm, caused primarily by pesticides, and the ensuing silent spring devoid of birds. It looks like her prophesy is about to come true as birds die in massive numbers across this country — not from pesticides but from lack of pesticides. I refer, of course, to the immense toll the spread of West Nile Virus is taking on bird populations as it spreads across the U.S. West Nile is spread by mosquitoes just as mosquitoes spread malaria. The spread of West Nile has been very rapid. The maps that accompany this article show the spread of infected birds from 2000 to 2002. One hundred eleven bird species had been infected before the

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The Most Dangerous Substance of All

by Sheldon Richman September 2001

For all our preoccupation with ridding society of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, little thought is given to the most dangerous mindaltering substance of all: ink.

Do you doubters need proof? Take Rachel Carson's famous book, Silent Spring. In 1963 Carson wrote a book claiming that the insecticide DDT was damaging the ability of birds to reproduce. In truth, she misrepresented the research of James DeWitt, whose work, reported in 1956, did not indicate that pheasants and quail were less likely to hatch their eggs when fed lots of DDT. She also charged that DDT caused liver cancer in human beings. Again, there was no evidence for that. DDT has actually been found to reduce tumors in animals. That was reported, among other places, in a National Cancer Institute journal in 1975.

Nevertheless, her book set off a panic that led to the banning of the insecticide in the United States in 1972 by Richard Nixon's EPA chief William Ruckleshaus, despite an EPA administrative law judge's ruling that DDT isn't hazardous. Moreover, the environmental movement has pressured the developing countries to stop using it. The attempt to adopt a treaty to ban it or regulate it out of existence goes on, with the rich part of the world using economic pressure

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(Continued from page 3) against the poor part.

There is one small problem. DDT kills mosquitoes that carry malaria. It stands to reason that if DDT use were stopped or curtailed, the mosquito population would thrive — and the human population would not. That's exactly what has happened. The poor people of the world have been the chief victims.

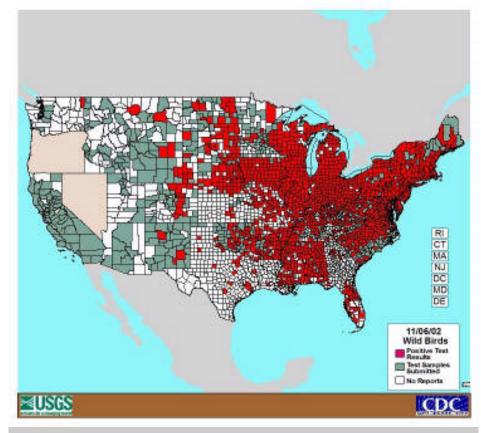
Deaths from malaria in the developing world had been falling precipitously – until the anti-DDT campaign got under way. Then infections and deaths skyrocketed. The number of cases in Sri Lanka has tracked the use and non-use of DDT in that country: 2.8 million in 1948; 17 - yes, 17 - in <math>1963; 500,000 in 1969. Sub-Saharan Africa is the worst hit: a child dies from the disease there every 40 seconds. The United Nations Environment Program says that each vear 400 million people are at risk and that "about 1.5-2.7 million people, mainly children, die each year from malaria.... In some parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, one in 10 infant deaths, and one in four deaths of children under four years are attributed to malaria." And it's on the rise. Why? "Although many factors contribute to increasing malaria, the strongest correlation is with decreasing number of houses sprayed with DDT," says Dr. Donald R. Roberts of the U.S. Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Thankfully, more and more people are realizing that the campaign

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SILENT SPRING AT LAST

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2002—Birds tested positive for West Nile are in red

end of 2002 and West Nile had spread from the East coast all the way to Washington State.

Malaria was eradicated in North America with a three-pronged approach. Swamps were drained and other stagnant water was eliminated, kerosene was floated on lakes and set afire to kill mosquito larva, and DDT was used as a pesticide to kill and/or repel mosquitoes. All that was before *Silent Spring*, which doomed DDT, was written and before the Clean Water Act was used to deify wetlands. Currently in our supposedly more enlightened times of environmental awareness, none of those methods can be used against the mosquitoes spreading West Nile Virus. We must simply resign ourselves to some of us dying. That is a good thing according to some environmentalists. Back when DDT was being banned Dr. Charles Wurster, chief scientist for the Environmental Defense Fund was asked if people might die as a result of the ban. He stated, "Probably ... so what? People are the causes of all the problems; we have too many of them, and this is as good a way as any [to reduce the human population]." We are told that a few of us dying is not really a problem since it is

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SILENT SPRING AT LAST

(Continued from page 4) mostly the young and the elderly.

In the years since Silent Spring vilified DDT, no follow-up studies have been able to verify the claims made against DDT. According to the current methodology used to test carcinogens by giving high doses to lab animals — a highly suspect way to test for cancer-causing agents — our average daily intake of coffee is 50 times more carcinogenic than was our daily intake of DDT before the ban. Our daily consumption of celery, potatoes, carrots, apples, orange juice and lettuce are all more deadly than DDT was.

The damages of not using DDT are very real. Harvard University's Amir Attaran offers a visual device: imagine seven jumbo jets, each packed with women and children, crashing into the ground every day — day after day, year after year — adding up to more than 2 million deaths a year. Most, if not all of those deaths could have been prevented by limited use of DDT.

DDT was banned in part because it was thought to cause hatching problems in birds due to thinning of the shell of the eggs. That claim was falsely based on the work of Dr. James DeWitt, which, in fact, showed the opposite effect. A study by Dr. Joel Bitman in 1969 purportedly showed that Japanese quail fed DDT produced eggs with thinner shells and lowered calcium content but it was later determined that they had been fed a diet much too low in calcium and that was the real cause.

West Nile is a very real cause of bird deaths. Some species such as the American crow have a fatality rate of 100% if they get West Nile virus. We have lots of crows but the effect of West Nile on several endangered species may be catastrophic. There are currently only 120 Mississippi sandhill cranes.

The war against West Nile will be fought at the local level. For many of us that means our King County government must be the ones to lead the fight. While they may not care about the human deaths, they have shown in the past that they care very much about every single fish. They need to take that thinking into the fight to save every single bird.

The tools used to fight malaria were proven effective and need to be exhumed. Get rid of all the stagnant water, not just the birdbaths and old tires, but the retention ponds and the swamps. Their use is questionable science anyway. Break out the pesticides. If not DDT, then at least malathion and vectolex. Even the most dangerous pesticide in use today — ETU, ethylene thiourea — is less dangerous than drinking 13 beers in your lifetime. Do not hold our birds hostage to the acolytes of Rachael Carson or we will have a true silent spring.

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against DDT has been a catastrophe. The Wall Street Journal reports that South Africa is turning the tide on malaria by resuming its use of DDT. Thanks to the pesticide, the country had kept the disease in check. But in 1996 South Africa stopped using DDT in order to be in step with the developed world. Soon malaria was on the rise, the Journal reported, "outstripping even the number of new HIV/AIDS cases in parts of the country." The expensive alternatives to DDT turned out to be poor substitutes. Now South Africa has resumed use of DDT and the number of cases is falling.

The continuing campaign against DDT by the UN and the environmental movement is outrageous. In the time it has taken to write this article, more than 83,000 more people have contracted malaria and more than 600 have died. (See the Malaria Clock at the ProBiotech Web Site.) No doubt about it. Rachel Carson's use of ink has led to the deaths of tens of millions of people, more than have ever been killed by pesticides or illegal drugs. But is she vilified? No. She's been sainted by the ruling establishment. The post office even put her picture on a stamp.

I'm not implying that the government should ban or control the use of ink, just as it shouldn't control the use of DDT or drugs. What I'm saying is that people ought to use their common sense and not give in to the latest environmental hysteria.

QUIZ

Here's a simple mental quiz to stimulate your thinking, motivate your self confidence and insure you Have A Great Day!

World's Easiest Quiz

(Passing requires 4 correct answers)

- 1 How long did the Hundred Years War last?
- 2 Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3 From which animal do we get catgut?
- 4 In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- 5 What is a camel's hair brush made of?
- 6 The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal?
- 7 What was King George VI's first name?
- 8 What color is a purple finch?
- 9 Where are Chinese gooseberries from?

All done? Check your answers on page 7.

RECIPE

Recipe promised by Doug??

Time to Drop Shade Theory

By Pat Larson

Federal and state government in Oregon and Washington have preached about a shade theory for years stating, "Shade provided by streamside vegetation will significantly reduce stream warming."

They claim the shade theory is based on sound science, but it was probably dreamed up by someone eating lunch one summer afternoon under the canopy of a tree. It is not based on sound science.

The idea that shade will cool water because it cools people is similar to an ancient theory established in 3000 BC. Aristotle described heat as something that flows into our bodies creating a sense of hotness and flows out of our bodies creating a sense of coldness. Today we use a modern heat theory and recognize that heat is energy that flows between a system and its environment by virtue of a temperature difference that exists between them. During the last 50 years, no one in Oregon has proved that shade controls stream temperatures, and in the 400 years no scientist has disproved the laws of thermodynamics.

The laws of thermodynamics explain how objects and systems in the universe heat and cool. Water temperatures measured in shaded and unshaded streams display patterns of heating and cooling consistent with these laws but inconsistent with state policies. The shade theory is a misfit, doesn't work, and can be disproved by anyone with a thermometer on different days through different seasons.

Thousands of temperature samples taken in Oregon and Washington clearly demonstrate that thermodynamics overrules the shade theory with no link to water temperatures. The modern heat theory explains why streams at high elevations are cooler than streams in the valley bottoms, allows scientists a way to explain how stream velocity affects water temperature changes, and explains why some streams will never meet the state standards.

EPA, Oregon and Washington clean water policies link salmon mortality to the lack of shade and high water temperatures using the outdated aristotelian thought experiment. In agency documents, water quality is equated with salmon mortality as though salmon are incapable of tolerating physiological stresses, even though they adapt to both a salt water and a fresh water environment twice in their lives. It's politically incorrect to criticize salmon recovery efforts, but this is one case when it is scientifically correct to do so.

Lethal temperatures established for salmon have generally been set by sci-

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Time to Drop Shade Theory

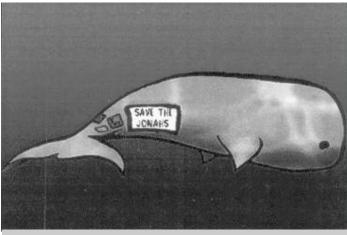
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entists studying the physiological responses of fish held in laboratory tanks using static water temperatures. The studies answered questions appropriate for fish physiology, but inappropriate for questions about stream temperatures. It is absurd to suggest that fish responses inside a tank mandate how water temperatures must behave in the natural world, because that would mean the scientific process was turned upside down.

Science is the systematic enterprise of gathering knowledge about the universe and organizing and condensing that knowledge into testable laws and theories described in physics and chemistry. The process of science includes debates and discussions about the value of an idea, application of a theory, or dispute about methodology, but there is little to argue or discuss about attempts to substitute fish theories for established physical laws. The laws are a framework to tell us when fish theories are right; it's not the other way around.

The temperature standards are wrong in Oregon and Washington and cannot be justified as being based on science. Dead salmon in laboratory tanks do not equal dead salmon in warm streams. A better approach to solve the salmon decline would be to seek direction from fish biologists after they discover how salmon adapt to the various stream conditions. The temperature standards along with state policies should be examined against the science laws to determine what is sound science and what is n't.

Science contains the set of ideas that agree with the facts of nature and is not an opinion in a report. Regulations that prop up the shade theory should be abandoned, because enforcement of a bad idea won't make it right. We can no longer afford to use false ideas mistaken for knowledge to solve problems. You can't build "good science" around something that started out as "bad science."



Bumper sticker recently observed in Puget Sound

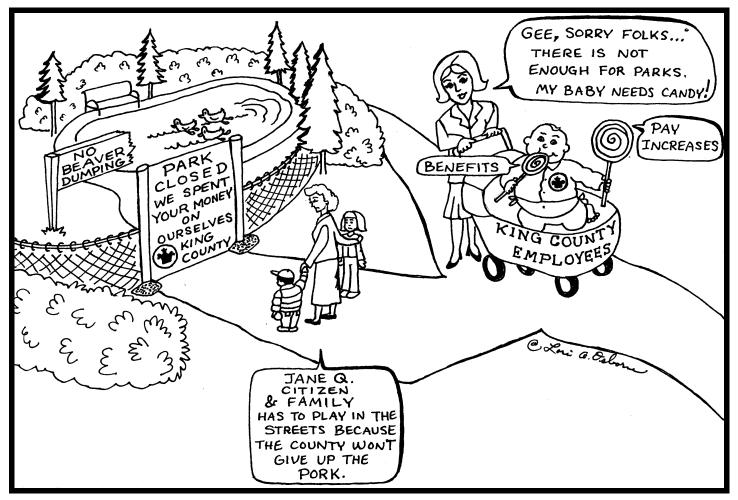
ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ

- 1- How long did the Hundred Years War last? *116 years
- 2- Which country makes Panama hats? *Ecuador
- 3- From which animal do we get cat gut? *Sheep and Horses
- 4- In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
- *November
- 5- What is a camel's hair brush made of? *Squirrel fur
- 6- The Canary Islands in the Pacific are named after what animal? *Dogs
- 7- What was King George VI's first name? *Albert
- 8- What color is a purple finch? *Crimson
- 9- Where are Chinese gooseberries from? *New Zealand

What do you mean you failed? Pass this on to some other geniuses and see how they do

RECIPE

Recipe continued to here.



Letter to the Editor

In the current economic environment, King County is extremely short of money. It is not able to maintain its parks or pools and contemplates reducing staff. These dire times have led county agencies to cut expenses and raise revenue.

The Department of Development and Environmental Services has started to charge an hourly rate for their building permit, land use and environmental services. DDES also has the ability to specify which services are required and for how long they are needed.

This has enabled it to be especially creative in it charging practices, such as repeatedly calling to ask what zip code a project is located in? Each phone call takes 0.25 to 0.5 hours charged back at the rate of \$132 per hour. [Editor's note: don't call your King County Councilperson to help you with DDES as any calls they make on your behalf are also charged to you!]

DDES employees work 40 hours per week. I hope that they do not have to account for 40 hours of billing to be divided between whatever number of permits they are currently working.

A county agency such as DDES has so much power over individuals who require their services. And then the livelihood of the DDES employees depends on their ability to bill for services. This is not how governments are supposed to operate.

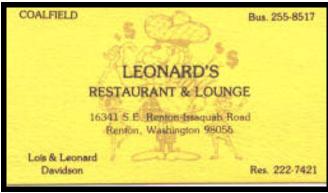
Jerry Jennings - Auburn, WA

MVEC meets every
Monday at 7 PM at
Leonard's Bar and Grill
See you there!



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A Message from the President

I f you ask most people if they have suggestions for improving local government, they will tell you in no uncertain terms what they perceive the problems to be. They may even suggest some solutions to those problems. Unfortunately, they only ever preach those solutions to the choir. They fail to take the initiative to contact their elected representatives or the bureaucrats that might be able to do

Organized special interest groups don't act that way. They are constantly urging their members to contact the appropriate people in government to keep their issues on the table. They write letters,

something with their ideas.

make telephone calls and send emails — all things that you can do even if you are an interest group of one.

It is easy to sit on your hands and complain to your friends about the organized special interests controlling your life. It really doesn't take much more of an effort to pick up the telephone or send an email. Even better is to search out a group of like-minded souls and add to their efforts. Small groups can often be reenergized by even one new member lending his or her support. Be that new member!

Become as informed as you can about the aspects of your cause that interest you. Having your facts in order and easily at your command makes you much more credible with the powers that be. It also makes you more credible in casual conversations you may have. Be the one that entices that new member to your cause.

December is a great time to join MVEC for the new year as the election of officers and directors happens in January. Make this the year you quit complaining and do something. MVEC has had some success pushing the leviathan called King County into moving toward more sensible environmental policy but the fight is far from over. Your shoulder against the wheel may be just the one that gets us over the top of the hill.

Make that call or send an email today!

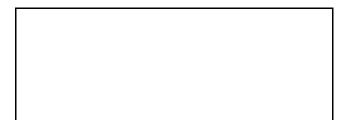
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Protect Historic May Valley!



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