



Kent Environmental Council

Winter 2008

KEC Annual Meeting to Feature Potluck Dinner; Presentation on Great Lakes Compact, Pending Environmental Legislation

Kent Environmental Council members, friends and other guests are invited to the organization's annual potluck dinner, election of officers and a presentation this year by state Representative Kathleen Chandler (68th District) and state Senator Tom Sawyer (28th District). Both districts include Kent.

Chandler and Sawyer will address the Great Lakes Compact between Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces and Gov. Ted Strickland's proposed electrical utility rate restructuring and energy bill that calls for the use of a variety of alternative energy sources.

The annual meeting is set for February 11 at the Presbyterian Church of Kent, 1456 E. Summit Street. The potluck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by the election of KEC officers for 2008 and the program at 7:30 p.m.

The Great Lakes Compact was ratified in 1965. The Great Lakes have the distinction of being the repository of about 20 percent of the entire planet's fresh water. Environmental organizations and Great Lakes industries collaborated to produce a bipartisan agreement, with supporting legislation to be passed by U.S. and Canadian legislators. The agreement is intended prevent the diversion of water from the basin containing the Great Lakes to thirstier areas, such as the American Southwest and Southeast, as both re-

gions are currently experiencing drought conditions. The agreement also seeks to encourage sustainable use within the basin.

The governors and Canadian premiers of states and provinces that border the Great Lakes then will be asked

The compact has been adopted by Minnesota and Illinois, with other states at various stages of the legislative process. In Ohio, support for authorizing legislation has been stalled by a handful of legislators who allege that the compact will violate private property rights and "gives away" state sovereignty. In reality, the compact will not diminish private property rights already established and, under the compact, Ohio actually will gain sovereignty rights not currently protected under federal law, according to *Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat News*, Vol. 15, No. 4. For additional information, contact the Ohio Environmental Council's Kristy Meyer at 614/487-7506 or Kristy@TheOEC.org.

See *COMPACT*, p. 3.

**Kent Environmental Council Annual Meeting
and Potluck Dinner**

Monday, February 11, 2008
Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall
1456 E. Summit Street, Kent

6:30 p.m. - Potluck Dinner
7:15 p.m. - Election of Officers
7:30 p.m. - Program

Speakers:
Kathleen Chandler - State Representative, 68th District
Tom Sawyer - State Senator, 28th District

Topic:
Great Lakes Compact and Pending Environmental Legislation Under Consideration by the General Assembly

to sign the legislation as a show of support for efforts to protect this important natural resource from being drained for population and economic growth outside of the Great Lakes basin.

The lakes already are experiencing the predicted effects of climate change through increased evaporation and less precipitation to replenish the lost water. According to the National Wildlife Federation, only about 1 percent of the water in the basin, even under the best of circumstances, is replaced in this manner; the remaining 99 percent is nonrenewable.

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A Tribute to William Schultz: 1954-2008

William Schultz, 53, of Kent, died January 3, 2008. He was born July 27, 1954, in St. Louis, Missouri. Bill worked tirelessly as a councilman, attorney and advocate for peace, justice and the environment. He also was an enthusiastic supporter of the Kent Environmental Council. Below are two tributes to Bill. Both were to have been given at a memorial service for Bill on January 13 at Kent Roosevelt High School.

Today we remember one who, throughout his adolescent and adult life, bore the marks of incapacity and dependency. His life was a life of patient waiting—until someone would come to lift him out of bed . . . patient waiting for someone to put on his reading glasses . . . patient waiting for someone to put the straw of his water glass into his mouth . . . or three times a week waiting for someone to drive him to dialysis.

But the testimonies we have heard today are not about incapacity and dependency. We have spoken of one whose energy and imagination were devoted to the wider community . . . the environment . . . justice for the disadvantaged . . . a more peaceable world. Our memories are of one to whom we looked for intelligent leadership and service . . . one to whom we looked to bring us together for important causes . . . and to fight the good fight.

And more than a source of intelligent leadership and service: Bill was a person who loved life . . . who was energized by a friendly interest in persons and relationships . . . with an openness to the amazing grace which wells up within from the sacred mystery which encompasses us all.

I think of Bill's life as a sort of parable of faith. I don't mean faith as a "religious doctrine" which we either assent to, or dissent from. I mean faith as the embrace of life . . . the substance of hopes . . . the ground of dreams . . . the evidence of the unknown future.

I think of stories of Jesus in the ancient Scriptures . . . Jesus had a way of recognizing faith in unexpected persons, and in seemingly overwhelming circumstances . . . the woman with a flow of blood . . . the group of lepers at the roadside . . . the paralyzed man who was lowered from the roof to the feet of Jesus. It was to these that Jesus declared: "Your faith has made you whole."

I think that Jesus would have sensed in Bill an unusual quality of faith . . . a "heart" of faith, if you will . . . a wholeness out of which emerged the fruits of caring. I feel that I have learned from him about the deeper things of life, and I know that many of you will feel the same.

I invite you for continuing fellowship and refreshments in the atrium this afternoon, with further sharing of our treasured memories . . . and then, let us go from this place in peace, with a heart of thanksgiving for the life of our friend Bill Schultz. Let us continue to be inspired by his memory, and let us continue to walk with him in the way and in the work of justice, of peace, of faith, of friendship, and of hope!

—*The Rev. Harold Walker, retired Presbyterian minister and resident of Kent*

Nancy and I were both sorry to learn of the death of our good friend Bill Schultz. We worked together for nearly three decades on many environmental and peace issues.

Despite a disability that would have destroyed a person of lesser character, Bill prevailed for 40 years using his razor-sharp and retentive mind to compensate for physical loss.

Bill's thinking was always out ahead of the pack on so many fronts which is the reason he was such a formidable debater through his nearly 30 years on Kent City Council. He stimulated others to work on projects that needed attention like conserving threatened and environmentally sensitive land through the creation of PLACE, and he helped to incorporate the sometimes abstract concepts of sustainability into public policy.

We also remember that it was Bill's idea to help build an environmental community, to recognize those who have contributed to the preservation and enhancement of our natural heritage, and to raise funds for environmental projects through the establishment of an annual Environmental Conservation Awards Benefit Dinner which, as we move into our 10th year will have raised more than \$100,000 for a number of environmental projects in Portage County.

Bill never complained but found ways around his physical challenges so he could participate fully in public affairs. His friendship and leadership will be sorely missed.

—*Walter and Nancy Adams*



KEC member Walter Adams introduces City Councilman Bill Schultz as the second of two Environmental Commission sustainability award recipients in 2005.

The other important legislative issue making its way through the Ohio General Assembly is Strickland's proposed electric utility rate restructuring and energy bill, also known as Substitute Senate Bill 221. This legislation has passed the Ohio Senate, and hearings are under way the House.

People with concerns about environmental issues are not pleased with the state's proposed incentives for some alternative sources of energy. These alternative sources are being referred to as "advanced energy" sources that include so-called clean-coal technology, ethanol, and nuclear sources. The bill also contains inadequate incentives for energy conservation and efficiency, as well as solar and wind sources.

The current legislation calls for 25 percent of electricity to come from these so-called advanced-energy sources, with only half of that from solar, wind or geothermal sources. Other states, such as Illinois, are offering incentives only for such alternative energy sources as solar, wind and geothermal.

Everyone concerned about the environment accepts that the U.S. economy is heavily dependent on the burning of fossil fuels and that the

cost of energy will rise with increased competition from developing economies (such as India and China) and the introduction of new technologies required to curb greenhouse gases. However, the cheapest kilowatt is the one that is not generated in the first place. Incentives to encourage conservation and efficiencies, and the use of solar, wind, and geothermal sources must be reflected in any state energy policy. Indeed, a major solar technology manufacturer has indicated that incentives built into the pending legislating are inadequate and will not prompt manufacturers to consider locating a plant in Ohio.

For more information, contact Ned Ford, Ohio Sierra Cub Energy Chair, at Ned.Ford@fuse.net or Ellen Hawkey Carmichael at ellen.hawkey@sierraclub.org. Information on energy issues also can be obtained from the Ohio Environmental Council at www.theoec.org. KEC is a member organization of the Ohio Environmental Council.

Now that you have read up on the issues and know what is at stake for the environment in Ohio, mark your calendars for KEC's annual meeting and potluck dinner on February 11, which concludes with a legislative update from Chandler and Sawyer. Everyone is affected by the decisions made in the Ohio General Assembly, so take this chance to become informed and ask questions at this forum.

'The Worms Have Arrived'

Worms? Yes worms. Stanton Middle School Garden Club, one of four recipients last year of a Kent Environmental Council grant, used part of the funds to purchase the critters and two bins for its vericomposting project. Simply put, it's the use of worms for composting. The project has been running smoothly except for a bit of a fruit-fly problem. A few traps have been set up to catch the flies. "The club members love the worms," said Laura Murphey, faculty advisor for the Garden Club.

At the same time, the club held a plant sale, selling many of the plants that club members had rerooted from other plants. Sales totaled about \$130.

The club also began an Abitibi Paper Retriever fund-raising program. Abitibi's recycling Dumpsters are said to be "clean and attractive," according to www.paperretriever.com. All of the money raised from the recycling effort will go to the Garden Club to help it begin building a shed and an outdoor classroom, as well as other projects around the school. To help with the construction of the outdoor classroom, the Garden Club recently received a \$2,400 grant from Lowe's.

"Please let people know that they are welcome to put their paper into the green and yellow bins in Stanton's parking lot," said Murphey. "They will be helping out our environmental program at the same time." Club member also will be collecting papers for recycling from all of the classrooms twice a week.

Funds for the grants were made available from bequests and donations that the KEC Executive Board wanted to apply to efforts that further the goal of a livable, sustainable environment through education, advocacy of environmentally sound public policies and networking with other groups sharing a similar goal.

Information on the progress of the other grant recipients will be reported when it becomes available.

Towner's Woods Site of Winter Hike, Story

The Portage Park District is sponsoring a winter hike and story at Towner's Woods Park on January 26 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Join park staff for a winter hike ending with a Native American story told around a camp fire. Hot cider will be provided. Dress for weather, and meet in the parking lot. To get there from S.R. 43, turn east onto Ravenna Road. Go two miles to the park entrance. For more information call 330/297-7728.

Towner's Woods is comprised of 175 acres of forest, wetlands and meadows in Franklin Township. The park is the site of a 2,000-year-old

Hopewell Indian mound that overlooks Lake Pippen. In addition, the park has what many regard as one of the best



cross-country skiing trails in Northeast Ohio and is adjacent to The Portage Hike and Bike Trail.

The Park District provides many opportunities for recreation, from year-round hiking, to picnicking, horse riding and bicycling. The park activities page (www.portageparkdistrict.org) provides more information on specific park offerings.



Save the Date . . .

February 16 - Kent Community Dinner, Riverwood Chapel, 1407 Fairchild Ave., Kent, 6 p.m.; bring a dish to share.

February 21 - "Trees and Shrubs," Kent Free Library, 7 p.m.-8 p.m.; informational program about the Portage County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual tree sale.

March 15 - Kent Community Dinner, United Methodist Church of Kent, 1435 E. Main Street, Kent, 6 p.m.; bring a dish to share.

April 12 - 10th Annual Portage County Environmental Awards Dinner, American Legion Hall, Mogadore Road and S.R. 261, 6 p.m.; event honors those who have made a difference in protecting and preserving the land, water and air in Portage County; for information on purchasing tickets, sponsoring a table or donating items for the silent auction, contact Karen Cross at 330/626-2162.

April 19 - Second Annual "Who's Your Mama" Environmental Film Fest and Earth Day Celebration, Kent Stage, 175 E. Main Street, Kent, all day; for more information, call Jeff Ingram at Standing Rock Cultural Arts at 330/673-4970.

April 19 - Kent Community Dinner, Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 S. Water Street, Kent, 6 p.m.; bring a dish to share.

May 17 - RiverDay, all day; celebration and cleaning of the Cuyahoga River throughout its watershed; to help plan local activities, call Edith Chase at 330/673-1193.



KEC

Membership

Reminder . . .

Please take the time and energy to check your mailing label for the current status of your KEC membership.

If you see **REN** above your name and address, KEC is reminding you that it is time to **RENEW** your membership. A return-addressed envelope will be attached to the newsletter for your convenience. You can indicate your support of KEC at the following membership levels:

Sustaining, \$45; Family, \$35; Individual, \$25; Golden Buckeye, \$15; Golden Buckeye Family or Couple, \$25; Student, \$10

If you see OK on your label, you are a **member in good standing**. Thank you for your trust and support!

The letters **CC** mean that KEC has sent you a **complimentary copy** this month. Please consider joining KEC at any membership level you find appropriate. Make your check payable to Kent Environmental Council, and mail it to: Kent Environmental Council, P.O. Box 395, Kent, OH 44240.

Kent Environmental Council

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Kent Environmental Council . . . on the Web at www.kentenvironment.org