



Clean Water for North Carolina Clean Currents

Winter 2004-2005

A newsletter of clean water and community environmental justice issues

CWFNC Report: Communities with Contaminated Wells Face Environmental Injustice

A small trailer park and adjacent residents along S. Stratford Rd. in Forsyth County have struggled with the existence of a spreading plume and contaminated soil from old leaking underground storage tanks since 1993. They only learned of the contamination because of talking to workers removing contaminated soil, and have since fought for acknowledgment of their need for city water lines and hookups. The toxic "plume" of benzene, MTBE and other components of gasoline has spread to within a few feet of the trailer park drinking water well, and even onto the neighboring property of Harold Stanley's family.



Harold Stanley

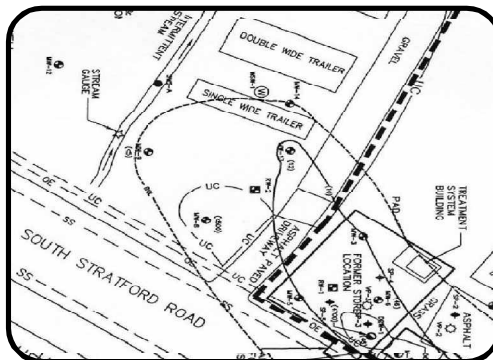
Stanley, who has worked for years to bring attention to this threat, says "I'd call this situation an 'Exxon Valdez under the ground,' because there are millions of gallons of leaked gasoline in our state alone. It's all about the power and pollution of oil. It's especially easy for officials to ignore people with low income housing. Were looked at as nobodies, but we're all human beings."

Kelli Reed, CWFNC's Central NC Organizer and Researcher, studied the experiences of four communities with contaminated wells in getting notified of contamination, help with well-testing, and getting access to a safe water supply. Based on demographic information, extensive file searches and interviews with residents, she concluded that those outcomes are linked to community characteristics including income, race and education. "Unequal Water Justice," released this month, presents her findings on two communities in Wake County and one each in Forsyth and Caswell Counties. Although education and racial dynamics between state officials and the communities were found to shape residents' experiences, income was the best predictor of the extent to which communities were at risk from polluted wells as well as failure to obtain a replacement water supply.

Reed, who started the study last summer as Clean Water for North Carolina's Environmental Justice Intern, says "Inadequate notification of contamination or well-testing, and slow efforts to provide a clean water supply, were regarded by low-income and minority residents as significant injustices and violations of their human right to clean water. Ultimately, even if DENR fully investigates a contamination incident, they don't have any way to help lower income residents pay for water supply hookups."

Among the communities in the study, residents of the mixed-income African American Beechwood neighborhood, located in southeast Raleigh, learned of contamination in their wells in early 2003. They had not been notified of other contaminated wells found just across the road in 1986. With strong local leadership and support from allies including CWFNC, the neighborhood held several community meetings, spoke out to the Raleigh City Council, invited state and local officials to the community, did extensive media outreach and wrote letters to state officials before public water lines were extended to their streets this fall.

Rev. Jerry Price, Beechwood community leader and pastor of the Solid Rock Baptist Church, points out that their hard and persistent work to organize residents and to keep pressure on



Halted Underground Storage Tank Cleanups Threaten Groundwater

Gas station owners in North Carolina pay a modest fee for each underground storage tank (UST) to help pay the cost of clean ups of fuel spills that happen when tanks rust or pipe joints spring a

leak. Because the "UST Fund" pays all cleanup costs above \$20,000 (the amount covered by the owner), there has been no incentive for owners or contractors to keep costs in check. In fact, some cleanup contractors have been caught overcharging the Fund or doing exorbitant work that has little impact on the final safety of groundwater. Eight of these companies have been indicted and are in settlement talks with state officials. With over 13,000 underground fuel tanks in NC, leaks are the biggest potential source of contamination to drinking water in the state.

In 2004, the partly taxpayer-supported UST Fund had fallen \$32 million in debt, taking in less in fees than it had spent on clean ups. The NC legislature passed an emergency bailout measure, transferring funds from the Highway Trust Fund to balance the books, but attached tight strings to control future cleanup spending. UST Fund officials report that clean up work on contaminated plumes continues at only about 50 of over 9,000 current sites across NC. Funding for "emergency" measures, including supplying bottled water to those with contaminated wells, will allow some work to continue at about 50 more. State officials say that they will resume cleanups at more sites when they see the Fund reaching financial stability. While CWFNC realizes that cleanups need to be prioritized and cost-effective, this is a brutal way to make such changes. With stopped cleanups, it's likely that plumes of contamination will continue to spread into drinking water sources, and re-starting cleanups will add further costs.

To protect our groundwater sources, we need a shift toward full accountability for tank owners and fuel users (that includes higher gas prices for us, too!), and requiring better containment to prevent spills and leaks. The Fund must also support larger state staff for monitoring wells and oversight of cleanups. CWFNC will be asking for YOUR support as we push for long-overdue reforms to the UST Fund, so that we can get hundreds of groundwater cleanups back on track as quickly as possible!

WhoWeAre

Clean Water for North Carolina

Clean Water for North Carolina is a private, non-profit organization based in Asheville, NC. CWFNC works to ensure that all people have a right to live, work, and play in clean and safe communities. Together, we have the power and responsibility to work for a healthy and sustainable environment.

Our staff works with an active and diverse board of directors and members to increase grassroots involvement in environmental decisions. CWFNC spearheads action statewide and helps grassroots and environmental groups, individuals, and local governments develop strategies to address threats to the environment.

Our Mission

Clean Water for North Carolina promotes clean, safe water and environments and empowered, just communities for all North Carolinians through organizing, education, advocacy and technical assistance.

Board of Directors

Maccene Brown-Lyerly • Durham
Robin Cape • Asheville
Isaac Coleman • Asheville
Molly Craven • Asheville
Montie Hamby • Winston-Salem
Allen Hubbard • Charlotte
Nathanette Mayo • Shiloh
Richard McElrath • Charlotte
Emma Patti • Fairview
Marshall Tyler • Mocksville

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Hope Taylor-Guevara, Executive Director
hope@cwfn.org
Kelli Reed, Central NC Organizer

Garysburg

252-537-1078
Belinda Joyner, Northeast Organizer

Welcome two of our new board members!

Molly Craven was drawn to the organization because of its dual focus on environmental and social justice issues. "I've always been interested in environmental and social justice issues," says Molly, "when I discovered that CWFNC not only worked for clean water, but also for social justice and empowering rural communities I was hooked." Molly grew up in Raleigh and moved to Asheville at the age of 18 to pursue a double major in Environmental Studies and Economics at UNC Asheville. While at UNCA she led two student groups, Active Students for a Healthy Environment and Unified Solar. Molly worked as a summer intern for the Clean Air Community Trust, where her energetic personality was put to use doing outreach and spearheading a couple of significant projects including the climate neutral calculator (check out www.airtrust.org). Molly now lives and works on a farm in Barnardsville, where she is studying healing techniques with an herbalist, learning earthen building skills and doing farm work.



Isaac Coleman joins CWFNC's Board as a seasoned social justice and civil rights activist. Isaac's interests in social and environmental justice issues began in his youth in Lexington, KY and stayed with him through his college years in Knoxville, TN. In 1964, he traveled to Mississippi to help with political organizing and voter registration with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee. Isaac moved to Asheville, NC in 1971 to work with the Black Appalachian Commission to organize a conference for black leaders. When the project lost funding, he went to work for Model Cities (part of President Johnson's war on poverty), before being hired as a housing inspector for the City of Asheville. He then transitioned to Housing Rehabilitation Inspector, working as an educator and trainer for 22 years. It was here that Isaac became increasingly concerned with environmental issues, particularly lead contamination in city housing. Isaac is now "retired," but working part-time with UNC Asheville's Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. "I became more interested in CWFNC the more I found out about what the organization does," says Isaac. "I really identify with the goals and objectives of CWFNC."



Other new Board members elected to serve three year terms starting this fall are Robin Cape (see our Spring 2004 issue to learn about her involvement in protecting the Woodfin Watershed) and Montie Hamby (see our Winter 2003 issue to see a photo of Montie, who organized our 2003 Yadkin River trip!). Watch for interviews with Montie and Robin in our next issue!



Communities continued from front cover

public officials paid off. "We've been notified that the state has found resources to keep the costs of hookups reasonable for all of us here. We're grateful for that, but it shouldn't be necessary to do this much work to get drinking water justice—state and local agencies must be required to do more to protect well-users in all communities."

As a result of the findings from these communities and others that CWFNC has worked with in recent years, the report calls for

- full notification of well users within 1,500 feet, testing of wells within 1,000 feet of any contamination above drinking water standards
- participation of impacted communities in all decisions and services by government agencies in the wake of known contamination
- a new state Emergency Drinking Water Fund to provide immediate funding for public water supply hook-ups or other safe and adequate replacement household water

The full report, "Unequal Water Justice," is available on our website, at www.cwfn.org.

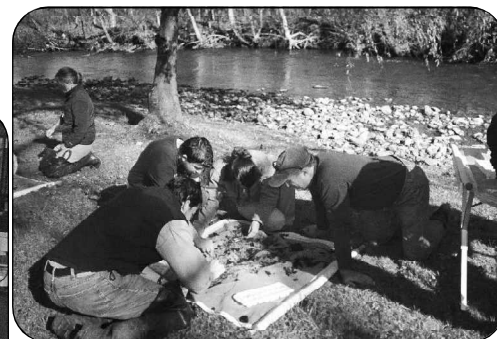
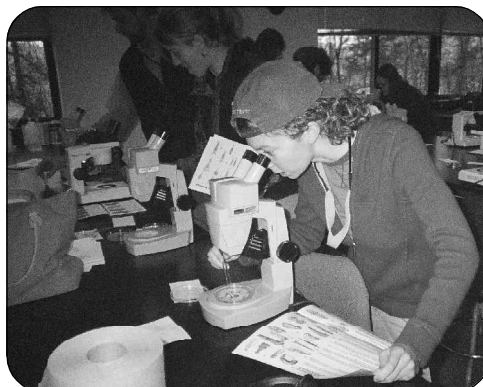
Gearing up for Citizen Biological Monitoring of Western NC Streams!

By Gracia O'Neill, CWFNC Outreach Coordinator

On Sunday November 14th, 13 volunteers came together in Waynesville to participate in the first full bio-monitoring training offered by western North Carolina's Stream Monitoring Information Exchange (SMIE). An open group of dedicated citizens and representatives from at least 10 non-profit organizations, educational institutions and state agencies, these folks have met over the past year and a half to improve communication regionally on water quality and stream monitoring issues, and develop strategies for improving regional water quality. In an effort to empower citizens to get involved in improving regional water quality, the group's first priority has been to develop a new biological stream monitoring protocol for sampling aquatic organisms (benthic macro-invertebrates) that are excellent indicators of stream health.

Clean Water for North Carolina has been coordinating the SMIE for just over a year, with funding for staff time, aquatic biologist, supplies and travel from The Pigeon River Fund of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina, as well as some western NC major donors. Other organizations participating in SMIE include RiverLink, Haywood Waterways, UNCA's Environmental Quality Institute, Smoky Mountain National Park, DENR (NC Department of the Environment and Natural Resources), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere, Watershed Association of the Tuckasegee River, Environmental and Conservation Organization, and SouthWings.

This newly developed method for biological stream sampling is a potentially groundbreaking compromise between basic volunteer biological monitoring methods (such as Izaak Walton League) and the rigorous benthic sampling methods employed by the NC Division of Water Quality. Volunteers participated in a full day of training, spending the morning at Haywood Community College where they learned background information and insect identification skills, using microscopes and other equipment. The afternoon was spent at Richland Creek applying the new protocol in the field, to practice biological sampling, insect identification, and data collection. Participants came from all backgrounds, and several had never looked at an aquatic insect under a microscope before. At the end of the day, volunteers said they came away with an increased understanding of stream ecology, feeling more confident of their



identification skills, more aware of how sensitive aquatic habitats are, and with the belief that their new skills would make a difference in helping to protect WNC's waterways.

During the training, volunteers preliminarily selected bio-monitoring sites that correspond to the water chemistry sampling sites already in use by the Volunteer Water Information Network (VWIN), a program based at UNC-Asheville's Environmental Quality Institute that collects and analyzes samples from over 130 sites in the region. Each group of SMIE volunteers will sample a couple of sites twice a year, with guidance from a group leader who has additional training in identifying organisms, and a consulting aquatic biologist who will provide quality assurance for the volunteer sampling and data.

"The combination of extensive volunteer chemical and biological monitoring will provide more detailed information on water quality of local streams than can be found anywhere in the state."

MARILYN WESTFALL,
COORDINATOR, VOLUNTEER
WATER INFORMATION NETWORK

SMIE's effort to develop and implement a new method of biological stream monitoring stands apart from other citizen monitoring programs as state water quality officials are not only willing to work with us, but can actually see this program producing data that would be of use to the NC Division of Water Quality. Trish MacPherson of DWQ's Biological Assessment Unit has provided input as the new protocol and has committed to using our volunteer-collected data as a "red flag" for identifying trends and prioritizing the state's water quality assessments.

SMIE's Data Subcommittee is working to collect volunteer-collected data and make it easily accessible to multiple user groups (citizens and watershed groups, NC DENR, educators, homeowners, land-use planners, recreationists, etc.) via the web.

Trainings will take place several times per year (the next training will take place early next spring), and are free and open to anyone (11th grade and up) with any level of experience or identification skills. For more information, or to become a volunteer, contact Gracia O'Neill at Clean Water for North Carolina: (828) 251-1291 or gracia@cwfn.org.

Water Utilities Manipulating Drinking Water Lead Results?

Many of the country's largest municipalities have recently been caught manipulating the results of random household lead tests for water, possibly leaving millions of Americans at risk for consuming contaminated water. Based on an extensive investigation by Washington Post reporters, some major water suppliers including the cities of New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, have thrown out results showing high lead levels, and strategically avoided repeat tests of households with previous contamination. Communities all over the country, therefore, face misleading reports from their water providers, and are at unknown risk of exposure to lead.

Water suppliers may be motivated to reduce their expenses by decreasing lead testing and avoiding the cost of installing new distribution pipes or other cleanup measures. Most often, the widespread problems with high lead levels at the tap are caused by changes in the treatment method used to disinfect water. Changing from chlorine to chloramine disinfection in some cases has been found to increase leaching of lead from distribution or household pipes, as revealed in Washington, DC earlier this year. CWFNC recommends that folks find out about your water suppliers treatment methods and check your own lead level at the tap, using the non-profit, certified **Clean Water Lead Testing** service. You can order low cost kits on-line or by mail at www.leadtesting.org.



Buncombe/Haywood Get Worst of Hurricane Damage—Have We Learned Anything?



In a season where at least 6 hurricanes impacted North Carolina, the worst loss of life and damage hit the western, mountainous counties. No one could have predicted freak landslides that took homes, buildings and trees all the way down mountainsides, but it's clear that some types of damage were utterly avoidable.

Fuel tanks, buildings and other hazards were located well within obvious flood plain areas, resulting in extensive property damage to homes, businesses and water quality. Many observers reported a strong petroleum smell in waters around Asheville and in Haywood County for days after the first flood impacts. Blue Ridge Paper Products, the region's largest non-utility toxic emitter, sits right on the Pigeon River and was flooded twice. Fuel tanks, untreated sewage and contaminated sediments washed down the long-polluted river, leaving toxic residue for many miles. Parts of Asheville lost water supply for up to a week when two of the city's biggest distribution pipes were undermined by flood waters and gave way (photo above).

It's not simply a matter of funding for flood plain maps, as some suggest. We need to exercise basic common sense, including stronger local ordinances to protect water and downstream residents from flood hazards, with , and fair, sustainable rates for publicly supplied water (get rid of discounts to business and industry!), so that aging infrastructure can be maintained and replaced BEFORE it fails!

Mebane Bypass Opponents Make Transportation Committee Squirm

Residents along the proposed north-south route of a bypass of the small city of Mebane, just west of the Triangle, felt they'd been sidetracked into a "stakeholder" process while those with local economic interests continued to drive for a new highway that the area doesn't need. Working with CWFNC, Woodlawn and White Level residents with concerns ranging from degrading drinking water to increased traffic, and destroying rural communities targeted critical decision-makers to stop the bypass.

With the regional Transportation Advisory Committee, which had voted to support the bypass, firmly in their sights, Pat Brewer and 15 allies called on Committee members with conflicts of interest to step down at a November meeting. Committee Chair Ed Hooks, who runs a heavy construction equipment company, knew he was a target of this comment, but claimed that the bypass would be "vital" for Mebane's future. A growing group of allies will keep the pressure on until the Committee votes again on regional priorities in late 2005. They've learned the value of analyzing power relationships and developing targets, writes Brewer.



CWFNC Steps Up Yadkin River Monitoring



Working with SouthWings, a conservation flying service based in Asheville, CWFNC began "flyover" monitoring of sediment impacts on the Yadkin River earlier this year. Even on our first flight, when it had not rained for over two weeks,

extremely heavy sediment is turning the South Yadkin River (left fork in photo) into a thick soup. Sediment harvesting is a terrible



substitute for preventing sediment plumes from getting into the water. Soils in this region are highly erodable. Pell-mell residential and commercial building are rapidly degrading water quality in the river. Future flights, to take place soon after storms, will focus on locating bad developments and other sources of sediment. CWFNC has also committed to involvement on water quality issues in the relicensing Yadkin River hydro-electric dams, and we need input from our local members and supporters. If you would like to be part of either of these important projects for the future of the River, email hope@cwfn.org or call us!



Cleanup of Military Explosives in Butler Slow

When your child carries a 17" unexploded shell into the house, it gets your attention. More than two years after rapid residential development in large parts of a former weapons firing range began revealing a wide array of unexploded ordnance, a "Restoration Advisory Board" has begun to meet to prioritize cleanup activities. Clean Water for NC has been selected to be a member of this board, and is working with impacted residents, who are also represented.

CWFNC has serious concerns about the pace of cleanup, the tiny resources available given huge military budgets, and the inadequate public notification of unexploded weapons in about 40,000 acres of fields, woods and residential areas. We hope that the Board will be effective in moving the process forward more quickly and fairly. If not, CWFNC and residents agree that we need to be careful not to be "stakeheld" in a process that only serves as a buffer between the Army Corps of Engineers and public needs.



Navy Caught "Reverse Engineering" OLF Site for Political Reasons

Folks of Washington and Beaufort Counties and environmental groups never believed that the Marine Corps had seriously looked at the environmental or human impacts for their proposed site for an outlying landing field. Hundreds of long-term residents wanting to protect their way of life and develop sustainable wildlife tourism based on a national wildlife refuge a few miles away. They were to be bulldozed to make way for squadrons of SuperHornet jets doing what they do most noisily—practicing aircraft carrier landings.

At least, that is, until opponents combing through thousands of pages of documents found some emails indicating what they had suspected all along. The choice of the Washington County site had nothing to do with favorable environmental conditions and everything to do with secret deals among politicians and the Navy to placate Virginia residents who, (not unreasonably) objected to the jets' noise. A forthcoming Congressional investigation of the Navy's siting process and court decision by Judge Boyle, who had earlier stopped real estate purchases at the site, will open the Navy to even more embarrassing revelations and may be enough to save local residents and wildlife from the roar and destruction of the SuperHornets and their enormous landing field.



Camp Lejeune Contamination Report Challenged

Contaminated drinking water was discovered at Camp Lejeune in 1980. Water supply wells in base housing were closed in 1985 but the birth defects and illnesses experienced by residents and workers are a long-standing reminder of the dry-cleaning solvents and other carcinogenic chemicals that had polluted the water. A June, 2004 hearing by the Marine Corps panel assigned to investigate the incident accumulated testimony from over fifty adamantly concerned citizens and former Marines. Many of them called for a wider investigation of the effects on nearly 200,000 residents than a would be carried out by what they called a "hand-picked panel." Currently, there is no known threat to Camp Lejeune drinking water supplies, but residents feel that the Marine Corps strategically concealed the contamination, and left them at risk for exposure to an unknown range and concentration of toxins. THE STAND, a group that works for justice for all those wounded by toxic chemical poisoning at Camp Lejeune, continue to demand a more independent investigation.

Mercury from Power Plants Poisons Kids and Moms

Twenty percent of hair samples submitted for a recent Greenpeace study showed that participants had unsafe mercury levels for women of childbearing age, levels which could cause future memory, attention and language problems in their children. Samples were analyzed by UNC-Asheville's Environmental Quality Institute, and accompanied by a research survey that asked about the participant's fish consumption. The study found that the more fish a person eats, the greater the likelihood of having an unsafe mercury level, with highest levels in those who ate canned tuna or fish caught locally.

Mercury, which is released to the air mostly by coal-fired power plants and major chemical operations, is deposited widely and then washed into the sediments of streams and rivers. There it is biologically converted to methyl mercury, which concentrates along the food chain of aquatic organisms, with fish at the top.

At a September press conference organized with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), and Clear the Air, CWFNC remarked that NC's mercury emissions have actually INCREASED by hundreds of pounds in

recent years. Our state's Clean Smokestacks Act only requires reductions of ozone-causing nitrogen oxides and particulate-forming sulfur oxides, but no reduction of mercury or other toxic emissions.

CWFNC and other clean air activists support a previously proposed federal requirement for 90% reductions by 2008. The Bush administration instead proposed a rule that would only require a 70% reduction by 2018, a major gift to energy industry cronies, but a massive environmental injustice and public health crime. Thousands of children each year in NC are at risk of developmental problems due to excess mercury exposure each year, and mercury never breaks down in the environment.



Hope Taylor-Guevara and SACE's Ulla Britt-Reeves at Sept. press conference.

Physician Links Suicide "Cluster" to Toxic Air Releases

Dr. Richard Weisler, a Raleigh psychiatrist and researcher associated with the University of North Carolina, analyzed death certificates for Salisbury from 1994 through 2003. Remarkably, he has documented a highly significant 3.7 fold increase in death by suicide above the statewide rate in a census tract of 1561 residents downwind from a asphalt facilities. For 2003 deaths alone, the suicide rate was about sixteen times the overall NC rate. The potential toxic exposures were also indicated by 566 documented resident complaints for noxious odors and respiratory related problems. NC Division of Air Quality officials calculated rotten egg smelling hydrogen sulfide gas (H_2S) up to 600 parts per billion (ppb) in the census tract with elevated suicide rates. Serious health affects have been reported at levels as low as 7ppb. CWFNC and other groups are still fighting to reduce the state

"ambient air level" from 120ppb, and to remove an exemption for pulp and paper mills wastewater systems. Neurotoxic compounds such as benzene may have also been released by the asphalt terminal, the hot-mix asphalt plant, and a former petroleum tank farm.

Knowing that hydrogen sulfide has strong neurotoxic effects, Weisler hypothesizes that chronic low level environmental H_2S and other chemical exposures affect residents' moods and lead to an increase in suicides. CWFNC, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and environmental justice allies join Dr. Weisler in calling for a "precautionary approach" by public health officials: immediate action to reduce exposures and educate local residents about the hazards they may be living with, including psychological follow-up.

CWFNC Intern Takes "Adopt-a-Permit" Program To A New Level

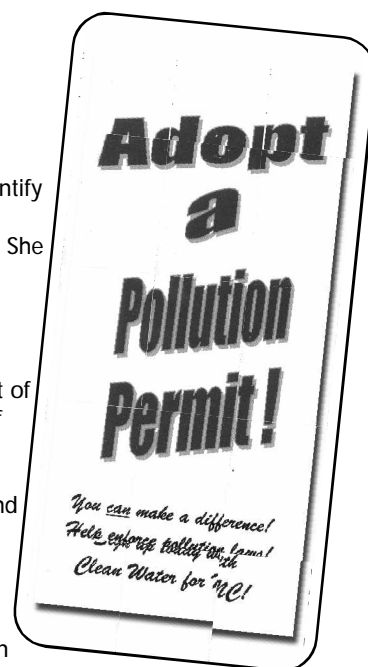


Julie Erb

UNC-Asheville Senior Julie Erb is busy finding critical problems with water permits up for review in the Catawba River Basin, and in the process she's making CWFNC's "Adopt a Pollution Permit" Program easier for volunteers to use. The Adopt a Permit Program was started in 2003 to increase public participation in strengthening protections for our air and water, as well as improving enforcement of existing regulations. Pollution permits are issued to corporations, municipalities and others by the

various divisions of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). But as more and more permits are issued, DENR acknowledges increasing difficulty in adequately monitoring them all. The "Adopt a Pollution Permit" Program matches concerned citizens with problem pollution permits in their own community, and guides them through the process of becoming a citizen watchdog! And we find that the best regulators in state agencies actually APPRECIATE concerned citizen involvement in improving permits and reporting non-compliance.

Julie's work so far has been to search through vast seas of permits, and identify the permit holders with the most "questionable" records of violations. She is creating a database of the permit holders with the worst records, complete with compliance histories, specific areas of concern within each permit, contact information, and a list of potential health affects of a variety of pollutants. Julie's work will make it easier for concerned citizens to identify the most serious polluters, and easier to recognize areas of concern within each permit. Julie's research currently focuses on the Catawba River Basin, but she will soon begin work on the French Broad River Basin as well, finishing up her project with CWFNC in the spring of 2005. Thanks for your great work, Julie!



Thanks to Our 2004 Foundation Partners and Major Donors for their Generous Support!

Anonymous • Environmental Support Center

Alan and Martha Finkel • Rosemary and Allen Hubbard

Hummingbird Educational Foundation • New Leaf Fund, Community Foundation of Western NC

Norman Foundation • Patagonia, Inc. • Pigeon River Fund of Community Found. of Western NC

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation • Brad Stanback and Shelli Lodge-Stanback

Fred and Alice Stanback • Walter and Edna Staton • Dr. Richard and Shawney Weisler

Thank You

***In Memory
of Nan Freeland***

NC Environmental Justice Leader, Former CWFNC Co-Director

We are saddened by the passing of Altheria "Nan" Freeland, a founder of North Carolina's Environmental Justice Network. Nan worked as an Organizer and Co-Director of Clean Water Fund of NC (our former name) until 1998. Nan was only 54 at the time of her sudden death due to a stroke, and she had been working for a fair election and other lifelong concerns until just days before she died. Working on social justice issues since her student days, Nan was a staff member or volunteer for organizations ranging from Black Seeds youth group to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, from Heifer Project International to the Prison and Jail Project.

Nan's leadership helped to build CWFNC's lasting commitment to working for environmental and social justice in every community and on every issue where we are involved. A native of Durham, Nan earned her bachelor's degree at Hampton University and a law degree at North Carolina Central University. As a result of her organizing and advocacy for clean up of the toxic PCB Landfill in Warren County, the first nationally recognized environmental justice site, Nan received the "Struggling for Justice Award" from NC WARN in 2003. NC's Environmental Justice community and many others will greatly miss her commitment to justice, as well as her patience, humor and affection.

Thank you to recent new and renewing members (as of Nov. 30) who make our work possible!

Montie Hamby, Unity Center of Christianity, Robin Cape and Ivo Ballentine, Pat and Stephen Brewer, Wanda Comfort, William Gray Newman, Wilhelmenia Rembert, Emma and Deborah Patti, Jean and Thomas Brown, Carrie Clark, Nathanette Mayo, Chris Dowdle, Jean and Joseph Karpen, Steve and Rebecca Patch, Winston Taylor, Peter and Jane Roda, Carola and Stuart Cohn, Dorothy and David Herbert, Doug and Carol Wingeier, Mitch Alford, Max and Gail Light, Susan and Richard Walton, Mary Ellen Brown, and Catherine Faherty

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for help with outreach, research, advocacy, events and more!

Mathew Brown, Bob Cannon, Bob Grytten, Lincoln Balassa, Tony Gallegos, Carolyn Carnahan, Molly Craven, Reba Shoemaker, Nina Claudino, Toby Heaton and Chris Dowdle

Here's an easy way to support Clean Water for North Carolina!

Visit www.cwfnc.org and click on the "Donate!" button for secure on-line giving.

Clean Water Lead Testing (www.leadtesting.org)

- Low-cost testing at a certified laboratory. Confidential, detailed reports.
- Support drinking water research at EQI and education by CWFNC!
- Give your family and friends awareness of any lead or arsenic hazards in their home.
- Order on-line or by check at • www.leadtesting.org or call (828) 251-1291.

Reports currently available

Citizens Toolkit for Protecting Your Environmental Rights - \$5

Unequal Water Justice Contaminated Wells and Environmental Justice by Kelli Reid - \$2.50

Chemical Security in North Carolina by Bill McCloy - \$2

All of the above reports are FREE on request to CWFNC Members.

Order by check made payable to CWFNC and mail to:
29½ Page Avenue • Asheville, NC 28801
or request when you join or rejoin!

Join Clean Water for North Carolina

(or renew your membership!)

☐ **membership**_____.

☐ **I would like to volunteer, contact me.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

(Email is a faster and cheaper way for us to reach you.)

Make your check payable to:
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and send to: 29½ Page Avenue • Asheville, NC 28801



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Celebrate A Clean Water New Year With Us!

Food, fun, and a chance to talk about plans
for 2005 with staff and fellow supporters

Asheville: Friday, January 8, from
4:30-6:30 at 29 1/2 Page Ave. meeting
room, across from the Grove Arcade.

Durham: Friday, January 15,
4:30-6:30 PM, at 2009 Chapel Hill Rd.,
across from Lakewood Shopping Center.



This newsletter is printed on 80% post-consumer,
processed chlorine free paper.

Probing Chemical Security in North Carolina 20 Years after World's Worst Chemical Accident

According to a new report from CWFNC, we're falling short in protecting our communities from chemical accidents, largely due to public complacency. Author Bill McCloy, CWFNC's Stanback Intern for 2004, is a graduate student in Environmental Health and Security at Duke University who researches chemical security, emergency planning and right to know issues that affect us all. His surveys of some of the state's Local Emergency Planning Committees indicate a disturbing lack of public concern and involvement, despite the presence of hundreds of chemical operations that could threaten tens of thousands of nearby residents in the case of an accidental release or explosion.

Twenty years ago in Bhopal, India, as many as 20,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands suffered permanent injury when toxic methyl isocyanate gas escaped from the Union Carbide pesticide plant. Much of this terrible toll could have been avoided if the community and its health and emergency workers had known what chemicals were present, how to avoid and respond to accidents, and how to treat those exposed. In the United States, as response to this accident, a broad coalition of chemical workers, environmentalists, public health and right to know activists built a movement that led to the 1986 federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

This groundbreaking act created the most important public environmental database revealing companies' toxic emissions—the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)—and called for local reporting of hazardous

materials by companies as well as the formation of Local Emergency Planning Committees in every county and large city in the nation. The TRI is still being updated annually and is widely used by activists to hold polluters accountable, but post 9/11 security concerns have caused the Bush administration to reduce public access to summaries of the TRI and "worst case scenarios" for plant accidents. What can you do to get involved in your local LEPCs and researching local chemical hazards?

To read the full report "Chemical Security in North Carolina," visit our website at www.cwfn.org.



Part of the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal after the disaster.

**Don't miss Clean Water Lobby Day 2005
at the NC Legislature**
**Wednesday, April 6th, all day. Meet legislators,
support safe water laws for NC's future.**
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!
Call Gracia at (828) 251-1291 for info.

