

Earth First! News

"On the Frontlines of Ecological Resistance"

Number VII

Eostar

March/April 2012

This is the time of the Spring's return; the joyful time, the seed time, when life bursts forth from the Earth and the chains of winter are broken... a time of balance, when all the elements within us must be brought into a new harmony... the Dark Maiden, returns from the Land of the Dead, cloaked in fresh rain, with the sweet scent of desire on her breath. Where she steps, the wild flowers appear; as she dances, despair turns to hope, sorrow to joy, want to abundance. May our hearts open with the spring!

Eostar, Spring Equinox, is the time when day and night are in balance, with the light beginning to overcome darkness, a solar festival.

In Mediterranean lands, the death and resurrection theme had strong links with Spring Equinox: Easter, Jesus's death, descent into hell and resurrection, can be seen as one version of sacrificial mating, or perhaps revolutionary sacrifice—plunging into the hell of industrial civilization as a necessary prelude to rebirth.

In the North, where spring comes later, aspects of the mating ritual belong to Beltane: Mayday! Thus, Eostar gives up its human-fertility aspect and retains its vegetation-fertility aspect. In some areas, the Equinox is a time for sprouting, in others, a time for sowing. And down in the sub-tropics of south Florida, harvest is well under way.

Point being, don't get too attached to European pagan traditions. The planet is going to see some changes friends, and there's never been a better time to play your part in the directions they'll take...



"Make the Odds Be Ever in Our Favor"

NEWS FROM THE ECO-WARS

COMPILED BY THE EF! JOURNAL

DEC 11 - FIRST US MEGADAM IN 40 YEARS

Alaskan authorities announce plans for a megadam on one of the country's last remaining wild rivers, the Susitna. If approved, it would be the country's first hydroelectric megadam in 40 years, and its fifth tallest, just 26 feet shy of the Hoover dam.

Opponents say the project is a \$4.5 billion boondoggle that will affect wildlife including caribou, grizzly bears, salmon and a rare shrew, *Sorex yukonicus*, which lives on a bank downstream of the proposed site for the dam.

DEC 12 - DURBAN DOES NOT AVERT CATASTROPHIC CLIMATE CHANGE

Despite a deal sealed in Durban at COP17 UN talks, Scientists and environmental groups warned that urgent action was still needed. Under the Durban agreement,

governments will now spend four years negotiating how far and how fast each country should cut carbon emissions.

In return for the Durban agreement, the EU conceded to developing country demands to continue the Kyoto Protocol after its current emission-cutting targets expire next year. The EU is the only major developed country bloc to agree to a continuation. Japan, Canada and Russia have all refused, and the US has never ratified the pact.

DEC 14 - WEST PAPUANS DISPLACED BY POLICE AND MILITARY, 20 DEAD

Thousands flee from a large area in Paniai, West Papua, as authorities attempt to break armed resistance from guerrillas, allegedly affiliated with the Paniai Free Papua National Liberation Army (TPN-OPM). Human rights sources

are claiming up to 20 local people have been shot dead by Indonesian security forces around the jungle centre of Markas Eduda during an operation that is reported to have razed twenty six villages, and caused over 10,000 people to flee to Enaratoli. All Indonesian units involved in the assault were supplied by the Australian Government.

An on-going war is being waged against an indigenous movement opposed to Jakarta's rule and against members of the civilian population who stand in the way of Indonesian "development," including logging, mining, industrial farming, and appropriation of land for new settlement which dispossess tribes people.

(continued inside...)



"Peacekeepers" come out to suppress F29 protests in Portland, OR; Chevron leaves its mark in the Amazon of Ecuador; Yeah, that's right... Burn it to the ground!



DEC 15 - ANTI-COAL TREESITTER DENIED WITNESSES IN PRE-TRIAL HEARING

A West Virginian court's magistrate denied RAMPS activist, Squirrel, the right to witnesses based on the prosecuting attorney's objection to bringing these witnesses in on the grounds that it would confuse the jury. Denied witnesses included those personally affected by living in a mining region and others with expert knowledge of violations by coal companies.

In Squirrel's words, "The danger is that, if a jury heard these things, they might not want to convict me, whether or not I was technically breaking the law. They might just decide that breaking a law to save the lives of people and the beauty of these mountains was actually right. We should all try to remember the threat that we pose to oppressive governance when we understand the greater, more complex dynamics at play in our world."

DEC 16 - NO WAR BUT THE ECO CLASS WAR ON PALM BEACH ISLAND

Everglades Earth First! joins Occupy Palm Beach in march on Worth Ave-

nue, home to some of the world's most repulsive rich and ecocidal elite. Seventy five protestors simply marching and chanting causes many businesses to lock their doors to the public for the afternoon. Targeted business include Gucci, Pucci, Lacoste, Escada, Graff, Ralph Lauren, for their various involvements with diamond mines, sweatshops, and toxic pollutions. Last and least was elite "Everglades Club" where members pay \$10,000 to join and, according to recent reports, workers are stuck in hot, cramped dorms separated along ethnic lines; meanwhile, as a flyer states, "the 1% shmooze and make deals that affect all of our lives."

DEC 20 - PROTESTORS IN SOUTH CHINA STORM BUILDINGS, BLOCK ROADS AGAINST NEW COAL PLANT

Residents continue revolt against development plans in Guangdong province. The newest uprising involved 30,000 people protesting power plant in the southern seaside town of Haimen. Residents stormed local government offices and blocked a busy highway that runs from the manufacturing hub of Shenzhen to the city of Shantou.

DEC 21 - ROYAL DUTCH SHELL ANNOUNCES ANOTHER OIL SPILL

About 40,000 barrels of crude oil leaked into the Atlantic Ocean from the Bonga Deep Offshore Oil Fields. Shell operates the oil field, located about 75 miles southwest of the Niger Delta, on behalf of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation under a production-sharing contract. The oil spill is reported to have occurred while a vessel was being loaded with crude oil.

DEC 22 - O'ODHAM SACRED SITE THREATENED BY GOLD MINE

Silver Scott Mines announced that it had initiated a 2000-foot drilling program at a gold mine site in Quitovac, one of the most sacred places to the O'odham People. According to their creation story it is the site where the Elder Brother, I'toi, spirit of goodness, first gave shape to the People. After being saved from a toxic

waste dump three years ago, Quitovac is once again threatened. In late September, the US mining company declared that it had acquired an almost 30,000 acre concession near the site in Sonora, Mexico. Traditional O'odham leaders officially responded to the announcement in November with a resolution condemning the company's intentions.

DEC 30 - TUNISIAN ENVIRONMENTALISTS PROTEST FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Environmental groups held a protest in front of Tunisia's Qatari Embassy. These organizations have called upon the new government, and various civil society groups, to halt the hunting of Tunisia's endangered species practiced primarily by wealthy citizens of the Arab Gulf.

These groups have also demanded improved enforcement of Tunisian law, as well as international agreements, regulating the hunting of the Houbara Bustard and the Rim Gazelle specifically.

DEC 31 - OBAMA SIGNS INDEFINITE DETENTION BILL

Indefinite military detention of Americans became the law of the land as President Barack Obama signed a defense bill that codified that authority, even as he said he would not use it. The National Defense Authorization Act states how the military is to be funded, but also includes a number of controversial provisions on arresting and holding of suspected terrorists.

JAN 2 - THOUSANDS IN THE STREETS AGAINST GOLD MINE IN PERU

About 1,000 people marched in the Andean city of Cajamarca against the gold mine proposed by the US miner and its Peruvian partner, Buenaventura. The government says the largest mining investment ever in Peru would generate thousands of jobs, but opponents of the project say it would hurt water supplies by replacing a string of alpine lakes with reservoirs. Peruvian President, Ollanta Humala, temporarily suspended freedom of assembly in the month in order to break up protests against the mine that drew 5,000 people onto the streets.

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JAN 7 - PROTESTS BLOCK SHELL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION IN IRELAND

Activists with Shell to Sea and Rossport Solidarity Camp disrupt construction of Shell's natural gas pipeline in County Mayo again, in the 11 year campaign. Protestors jump in front of trucks carrying gravel to stop them. Three are arrested. The following day activists intercept a specialized tree-cutting machine being used to clear the route for the pipeline with one person climbing on top of the machine and locking to it, preventing all construction equipment from getting to the site.

JAN 10 - AUSTRALIAN ACTIVISTS RELEASED FROM JAPANESE WHALING SHIP

Three anti-whaling activists boarded one of Japan's ships were detained on the high seas for disrupting the hunt in the Antarctic. The International Whaling Commission, which banned commercial whaling in 1986, allows Japan to hunt whales for "scientific research." The fleet left port a month earlier with plans to kill some 900 whales this season.

JAN 11 - MONKEYS LIBERATE THEMSELVES FROM ZOO IN BRAZIL

Refusing to wait for the aid of bi-pedal liberators, eight capuchin monkeys took matters into their own hands and broke out of a Brazilian zoo. The monkeys utilized a rock to smash open the lock on their cage and made a break for it under cover of darkness. Unfortunately, four of the monkeys have been recaptured. Three of them were caught using traps baited with fruit. The fourth monkey was captured after it broke into a restaurant.

JAN 12 - CATTLE TRUCKS BURNED TO THE GROUND IN CALIFORNIA

Activists take credit for destroying 14 cattle trucks at California's largest beef producing, feeding and marketing ranches. The North American Animal Liberation press office posted an anonymous letter on its website from activists claiming full responsibility for the arson: "We were extremely pleased to see that all 14 trucks 'were a total loss,' with some being 'completely melted to the ground.'"

JAN 14 - THOUSANDS PROTEST CHEVRON PLANS FOR FRACKING IN BULGARIA

Bulgarian people rally in capital Sofia against the exploration for shale gas in the country. Protesters have requested that the Bulgarian Parliament impose a moratorium on the exploration and production of shale gas in the country. Last summer, the Bulgarian government granted a concession to US energy giant

Chevron to explore for gas in Dobrudzha, northeastern Bulgaria.

JAN 15 - LOGGING OPERATIONS BLOCKED IN CANADA

Activists in Alberta block access to the Castle Wilderness Area for over a week, despite below freezing temperatures. Several dozen people set up tents on the access road where Spray Lakes Sawmills wants to log 300 acres of land in a wilderness area, which serves as wildlife corridor and critical habitat for grizzly bears. In addition to logging, the area is also threatened by oil and gas projects.

JAN 17 - REPORT SURFACES OF AMAZON GIRL BURNED ALIVE BY LOGGERS

A child was said to have wandered away from her village, where around 60 members of the Awá tribe live in complete isolation from the modern world, and fallen into the hands of loggers. Luis Carlos Guajajaras, a local leader from a separate tribe, told a Brazilian news site that loggers tied her up and set her alight as a warning to other natives, who live in a protected reserve in the northeastern state of Maranhão.

JAN 18 - OBAMA REJECTS KEYSTONE XL TAR SANDS PIPELINE

The bid by Canadian energy company TransCanada to build a \$7 billion oil pipeline linking the tar sands of Alberta to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico was rejected. But the door is left open for a new application.

JAN 19 - GITXSAN REJECT ENBRIDGE PIPELINE, BLOCK TREATY OFFICE

Gitxsan protestors nailed shut the Treaty Society's door and set up a running blockade in front of the building to prevent anyone from entering after a deal with Enbridge is signed by one of their negotiators over the energy firm's proposed Northern Gateway pipeline to transport Alberta tar sands oil to a West Coast port in Kitimat, British Columbia. The deal triggered outrage among many Gitxsan people who said the move embarrassed them before their First Nations neighbors in the province who have pledged to stop the project at all cost.

JAN 23 - EARTH FIRST! AND OCCUPY DISRUPT BOCA RATON INVESTORS

Everglades E! and Occupy activists blockade a bridge, snarling rush hour traffic during a cocktail party of corporate hedge fund investors at the GAIM USA 2012 conference. Other demonstrations

included a canoe flotilla and a sneaky breach of security in which activists circulated information against private prison investments throughout the resort.

JAN 24 - ELF DOCUMENTARY NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR AWARD

If A Tree Falls, which follows the story of ecoprisoner Daniel McGowan, makes it to the big time!

JAN 26 - ANTI-MINING MOB TORCHES OFFICES, FREES PRISONERS, AND WINS

The Indonesian government announced that it will revoke the permit for a gold mine after massive rioting. The crowd, thousands strong, ransacked and burned two government offices. The mob continued on to a nearby detention center and forced the authorities to release 35 of their comrades arrested last year.

In Dec, two protesters were killed and 10 others injured during a protest over the planned goldmine, co-owned by Australian company Arc Exploration and its Indonesian partner, PT Sumber Mineral Nusantara. The victims were among nearly 1000 people in Lambu village in West Nusatenggara province trying to stop the mining project on Sumbawa Island. National police spokesman Major General Saud Usman Nasution says police were forced to fire on protests after demonstrators burnt down dozens of government buildings and banks. Nasution also said that police arrested 47 people involved in the protest, which disrupted port and ferry services in the coastal town of Sape.

FEB 1 - GASLAND FILMMAKER ARRESTED ON CAPITOL HILL

Josh Fox, of Academy Award-nominated documentary *Gasland* was taken into custody by Capitol Hill police, along with his film crew, after Republican officials objected to their presence filming at the hearing of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Environment.

FEB 3 - FOREST DEFENDERS BLOCKADE OREGON GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Using a mound of discarded Christmas trees, activists blocked the entrance and held banners announcing: "Rally at the State Land Board Meeting Feb 14." One person was arrested. The action was in response to Governor John Kitzhaber approving a plan to nearly double logging in the Elliott State Forest.

JANUARY 25 - TIBETAN VILLAGERS DUMP MINING EQUIPMENT INTO RIVER AND WIN!

After efforts to negotiate with the local government failed, villagers pushed \$300,000 of equipment into the Nu River in defense of Mount Kawagebo, one of the most sacred peaks in the Tibetan world, proposed for gold mining. On Jan 20, a village leader who had tried to confront the mining company was ambushed by local police, tazed and arrested. Community members surrounded the police station in an ensuing riot which resulted in a villager sent to the hospital with serious injuries. Officials ordered the mine closed and the equipment trucked out of the village in the following week.



FEB 6 - AUSTRALIANS OCCUPY DRILL RIG AGAINST COAL

Two activists with the Quit Coal campaign shut down operations at Bacchus Marsh and staged a "picnic" with local food, to oppose the burning and export of brown coal from Victoria, Australia.

FEB 5 - HIGHWAY BLOCKED, POLICE STATION BURNED IN PROTEST OF PANAMA'S MINING LAWS

An indigenous Ngobe protester was shot and killed, with many more injured during confrontations with the police in San Félix over mining. In retaliation to the death, Ngobe protestors set light to a local police station. Since Jan 30, demonstrators have been positioned at various points along the Pan-American highway using wood, metal and rocks to block the road. They are protesting against the Panama government's decision to remove a law that provides environmental protection to their lands.

FEB 8 - OHIO GOVERNOR DISRUPTED BY ANTI-FRACKERS

State Troopers escorted seven hecklers out of a State address as Governor Kasich talked at a school in Steubenville about drilling for natural gas in eastern Ohio. They shouted "John Kasich is selling out Ohio" during his speech. About 100 demonstrators gathered outside on issues including a new drilling technique and union rights.

FEB 10 - THE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION DISRUPTED BY WOLF ALLIES

Activists from Animal Defense League and Cascadia Earth First! infiltrated the spring board meeting of the Oregon

Cattlemen's Association to confront the group's anti-wolf propaganda and recent Oregon House Bill 4158. Starting a week prior, the Oregon Legislature began hearing arguments on the "Wolf Kill Bill," a brainchild of the Cattlemen's Association, which would circumvent the Endangered Species Act and streamline the killing of wolves for the benefit of the ranching industry.

FEB 11 - HUNGARY DESTROYS MONSANTO BIOTECH CORN

Taking a bold stand against biotech giant Monsanto and genetic modification, Hungarians destroyed 1000 acres of maize found to have been grown with genetically modified seeds, according to deputy state secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development. Unlike many European Union countries, Hungary is a nation where genetically modified (GM) seeds are banned.

FEB 12 - ATHENS IN FLAMES, AGAIN

Fire destroyed the Attikon theater block, torching the first Starbucks in the country, as another wave of protests rage through the Greek capitol. The news tells us that the riots are about national austerity measures, but we all know that the desire to turn cities to ashes goes much deeper than economic reforms.

FEB 13 - GREENPEACE SHUTS DOWN COAL PLANT IN NORTH CAROLINA

Sixteen Greenpeace activists were arrested after unfurling a banner on the Progress Asheville Power Station smoke stack. Activists also secured themselves to the coal loader and conveyers preventing coal from entering the facility.

The Progress-owned plant, which uses mountain top removal coal, is about to be taken over in a merger with Duke Energy, making Duke the largest utility in the US.

FEB 14 - BLACK MESA RESIDENTS UNDER ATTACK, AGAIN

Over the course of a week, Rangers employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs rode in on horse back and four wheelers, armed with portable corals and livestock trailers, to take horses and calves from Diné tribal elders living on Black Mesa. Residents of the traditionally tribal land say the livestock seizure is the latest push in a relocation effort elders have fought for more than three decades.

FEB 15 - VENEZUELAN BLOCK STREETS WITH FLAMING BARRICADES AFTER OIL SPILL

Hundreds of protesters in eastern Venezuela blocked streets with burning tires to demand clean water after a recent oil spill polluted rivers and streams that supply local storage tanks. "We have not had water for a week," said Maria Rodriguez, an angry 26-year-old housewife who joined the protest. "We don't have water to cook and bathe, and we don't have the money needed to buy bottled water everyday." Oil began spilling from a ruptured pipeline on Feb. 4 near the city of Maturin.

FEB 16 - JAPANESE WHALERS DENIED PROTECTION FROM SEA SHEPHERD

Japanese whalers asked a US federal court to make the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society stop harassing them during their whale hunt in the Southern Ocean. The judge refused the whalers' protection

MARCH 22 - OVER 130 ARRESTED IN PROTESTS AGAINST VERMONT YANKEE NUKE PLANT

More than 1,000 people turned up in Brattleboro to march 3.5 miles from the town common to Entergy's Vermont Yankee offices, with dozens trespassing on company property. Forty years after the plant opened, it has continued to operate despite its license expiring March 21.

The plant's continued operation sets a precedent nationwide in the nuclear as well as in the legal realm. Earlier this year, federal Judge J. Garvan Murtha issued a ruling finding that two Vermont laws requiring legislative approval for the plant to continue operating were unconstitutional.

The Vermont Public Service Board has yet to issue an order on the new license and no one has ordered the plant to cease operating in the interim.

A 93-year-old anti-nuclear activist, Frances Crowe, was among more than 130 protesters arrested at the corporate headquarters of the Vermont Yankee plant on the first day of operation after the expiration.

"As I was walking down, all I could think of was Fukushima and the suffering of all the people, and I don't want that to happen to New England," said Crowe, referring to the

Japanese nuclear disaster in last March. When asked how many times she'd been arrested, her answer: "Not enough."

In a coordinated action, the headquarters of Vermont Yankee's parent company, Entergy Nuclear, in New Orleans, had another group of seven activists arrested after they went into the building and refused to leave. The New Orleans protesters live near the Vermont plant and traveled to Louisiana to request a meeting with Entergy CEO J. Wayne Leonard. Five others also were arrested at Entergy offices in White Plains, NY.



above: Francis Crowe of Northampton, with another member of her affinity group.

request. The ruling came less than a week after a standoff in sub-zero Antarctic waters between Sea Shepherd activists on a jet-ski and three inflatable boats, and the Nishin Maru 2, a Japanese harpoon boat. The spray from a water cannon on the harpoon boat hit the activist on the jet-ski in his chest, causing him to fall into the frigid waters. He was able to make it back onto his jet-ski and return to the Sea Shepherd vessel nine miles away.

FEB 17 - ANTI-DEVELOPMENT PROTEST GETS HEATED IN ARMENIA

Police used force against more than a dozen environmental activists who were camped in a public park in downtown Yerevan to protest against the construction of several shops there in the capital.

Environmental and other civic groups condemned the choice of a new location for the shops, saying that it would inflict further damage on Yerevan's green areas that have shrunk significantly over the past decade. Riot police pushed a group of protesters, who have staged daily sit-ins in the park, away from the construction site to allow work to resume.

FEB 19 - TREESIT IN TASMANIA BREAKS RECORD

The forest defense group Still Wild Still Threatened set up a 200-foot high tree sit-in at the TN044B logging coupe near Maydena inside the area being assessed for reserve status under the forestry peace deal. The "Observer Tree" is occupied by Miranda Gibson, who broke the nation's forest defense record at 52 days in the canopy.

FEB 20 - EARTH FIRST! MAKES A MESS OF UTAH TAR SANDS PLANS

The Earth First! 2012 Organizers Conference & Winter Rendezvous culminated in a rowdy demonstration outside the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) offices in downtown Salt Lake City. EF! activists staged their protest with local organizers from Utah Tar Sands Resistance and Canyon Country Rising Tide. The offices were closed for Presidents' Day, but a clear (and messy) message was left at the doorstep—a mock oil spill accompanied by a mural reading, "Hey SITLA: Tar Sands Outta Utah!"

FEB 24 - XENA WARRIOR PRINCESS OCCUPIES SHIP HEADED TO DRILL IN THE ARCTIC

Seven people, including actress Lucy Lawless (that's Xena), scaled the tower on a ship commissioned by Shell to drill for oil in the Arctic. They set up camp at the very top of the ship's drilling derrick and barricaded the access ladder for four days to prevent the ship from leaving. With phone, cameras, a laptop and a solar panel, they proceeded to speak to the world via live feed on the web. By the time they did come down, over 135,000

people had emailed Shell demanding an end to its Arctic drilling.

FEB 28 - ONE OF THE WORLD'S 10 OLDEST TREES DIES IN FLORIDA

A 3,500 year old bald cypress, originally thought to have caught by lightning strike, was declared killed in a fire lit by a local junkie at the park in central Florida.



FEB 29 - NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST ALEC AND ITS AFFILIATES

The movement against the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) got a boost as Occupy LA blockaded Wal-Mart Distro Center; Occupy Wall Street marched to Pfizer and blockaded Bank of America; Occupy DC blockaded Monsanto offices; Tucson activists blockaded a G4S security site; Occupy Portland had a mass march to multiple ALEC-related offices in the city with roving blockades; more actions reported in Utah, Connecticut, Mississippi, North Dakota, Florida, and North Carolina.

MARCH 5 - LAKOTA ACTIVISTS BLOCKADE TAR SANDS PIPES GOING THROUGH PINE RIDGE RESERVATION

Five Lakota arrested in Wanblee, South Dakota, at a blockade to halt a convoy of trucks carrying pipes used for tar sands pipeline going through the Indian Reservation. Canadian company Totran Transportation Services apparently wanted to avoid paying the State of South Dakota to use its highways. Instead Totran thought they would use the rez roads. Some 75 Lakota thought otherwise.

MARCH 6 - GRAFFITI ON COAL SHIPS SEND MESSAGE ABOUT GREAT BARRIER REEF

Police detained several environmental activists after they painted large messages

on the side of a coal ship in Gladstone Harbour in Queensland, Australia, saying "the reef is in danger."

About a dozen anti-coal activists led by Greenpeace also staged a protest intended to greet a UN mission to assess the impact of coal seam gas and port developments on the reef.

MARCH 8 - BLOCKADES CONTINUE TO OBSTRUCT SHELL IN IRELAND

All haulage for the Corrib gas project at Aghoose in County Mayo was stopped by 2 campaigners locking themselves to a concrete barrel in the road near Shell's main construction site.

MARCH 9 - BULGARIAN ACTIVISTS MARK FUKUSHIMA ANNIVERSARY

Members of several environmental organizations gathered in Bulgaria's capital Sofia, in front of the country's Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism, for a silent protest to mark the upcoming first anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

"We do not need Belene, neither do we need nuclear energy," a protester said, referring to the proposed Belene nuclear power plant.

MARCH 11 - ZOO PROTEST AFTER GIRAFFE DEATH IN INDONESIA

After a giraffe dies from a beachball-sized wad of plastic food wrappers in its belly, protests focused scrutiny on conditions at Indonesia's largest zoo. The tigers are emaciated, the pelicans packed so tightly they cannot unfurl their wings without hitting a neighbor, incredibly rare species, including Komodo dragons and critically endangered orangutans, sit in dank, unsanitary cages.

Set up nearly a century ago in one the most biologically diverse corners of the planet, the Surabaya Zoo is a nightmare, plagued by persistent suspicions that members of its staff are involved in illegal wildlife trafficking.

MARCH 13 - THREE KILLED IN LATEST PERU MINING PROTESTS

Reports claim that Peruvian protests against government plans to regulate small-scale mining left at least three dead and 50 wounded in the southern Amazon jungle.

Local officials said police were far outnumbered by the protesting miners, who tried to take control of the airport at the city of Puerto Maldonado.

Officials say they want the local miners to obtain the correct permits and to abide by environmental rules related to impacts such as high levels of mercury in the waterway, but the protesters accuse the government of wanting to hand over mining concessions only to large multinational companies.

(See Jan 2 story)

MARCH 14 - COURT REJECTS APPEAL OF NORTHERN ROCKIES WOLF HUNT:

A federal appeals court rejected a lawsuit from conservation groups to block wolf hunts that have killed more than 500 of the predators across the Northern Rockies in recent months. The ruling from a three-judge panel of the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals said Congress had the right to intervene when it stripped protections from wolves last spring.

MARCH 20 - MAJOR HLS DOCUMENTS LEAKED ON SHAC.NET:

Numerous documents of animal-testing giants Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS) have been leaked from inside HLS, putting confidential client documents, experiments, invoices, unpaid bills, staff communications and even their secret alter-ego—LSR Associates—in the public domain. The documents reveal previously unknown suppliers and customers, as well as re-confirming existing ones who can be contacted by finding their details online at shac.net.

MARCH 21 - BRAZIL FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST CHEVRON EXECUTIVES FOR OIL SPILL:

A Brazilian prosecutor filed against Chevron, Transocean and their top executives for an offshore oil spill in November. Energy analysts say the environmental crimes charges are likely to send a chill through an offshore-drilling industry unaccustomed to prosecution for what companies view as inevitable accidents. The federal prosecutor is seeking to seize assets from both companies.

This comes at a delicate time for Chevron CEO John Watson, as Chevron is also facing the liability from what experts consider to be one of the world's worst environmental disasters which occurred in Ecuador last year.

MARCH 23 - THE HUNGER GAMES MOVIE IS RELEASED:

Will the sparks of eco-rebellion against the Capitol and its industrial slavery find tinder?! But, really though, you're better off reading the books.

Check out a review of the series online at NEWSWIRE.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

GAIA

Sad, wise, cautious eyes.
Green shoots after a wildfire.
Life follows all storms.

Kurt Michaels #E64903, 1-EY-49,
SQSP, San Quentin, CA, 94974
[Kurt is a Death Row inmate, and a reader of the Earth First! Journal. Please consider writing him a note.]

EARTH FIRST! TOOLBOX:
Spells To Win a Court Case



If you are involved in a court case and are in need of a little assistance, perform any of the following magickal spells to ensure that the judge will rule in your favor: Mix a pinch of the herb known as black candle tobacco with a bit of salt, and then burn it along with a black candle prior to going to court. It is said that courtroom victory is awarded to those who bathe in a tub of water into which lovage root has been added.

Brewing a tea from *cascara sagrada* (also known as sacred bark, native to some western states in the US) and then sprinkling it around the courtroom prior to your proceeding will also help you to win your case.

If mojo magick suits you, anoint either a Chewing John root or the root of a snakeroot plant with three drops of Court Room Oil. If you are unable to find this particular oil, you may use High John the Conquerer Oil in its place. Place the root inside of your mojo bag and then carry or wear it when you go to court.

For another highly effective mojo, burn some dried galangal every night during the two weeks preceding your court case and save the ashes in a green flannel bag. Anoint the bag with three drops of Court Room Oil, and then carry it on you when you go in to face the judge.

Source: Herbal Magick by Gerina Dunwich

\$5-15 donation no one turned away for lack of funds. All proceeds go to legal support.

Sacramento Prisoner Support and Marie Mason Support Crew present:

Never Alone

A speaking tour about long-term anarchist prisoner support, taking a close look at the cases of Eric McDavid¹ and Marie Mason²

[Enter info for local events here]

APRIL 2012

- Mankato, MN A1
- Minneapolis, MN A2
- Milwaukee, WI A3
- Chicago, IL A4
- Kalamazoo/Grand Rapids, MI A5
- Lansing + Detroit, MI A6
- Pittsburgh, PA A7
- Buffalo, NY A8
- New York, NY A9
- Philadelphia, PA A10
- Washington DC A11
- Chapel Hill, NC A13
- Asheville, NC A14
- Cincinnati, OH A15
- Bloomington, IN A16
- St. Louis, MO A17
- Carbondale, IL A18
- Des Moines, IA A19
- Denver, CO A20
- Salt Lake City, UT A21
- Seattle, WA A23
- Olympia, WA A24
- Portland, OR A25
- Eugene, OR A26
- Sacramento, CA A27
- Santa Cruz, CA A28
- Bay Area, CA A29

- * Multimedia Presentations about the Cases of Eric and Marie!
- * A Discussion about long-term Anarchist Prisoner Support!
- * Strategies to Build Stronger Cultures of Resistance!
- * Security/Culture: v.2012 now with extra tech!
- * Rockstar Guest Speakers! * Rage and Love!

1 Eric McDavid was arrested in January 2006 and charged with a single count of conspiracy. Eric, who never carried out any actions and was accused of what amounts to "thoughtcrime," refused to cooperate with the state and took his case to trial. He was convicted by a jury after a trial fraught with errors and sentenced to almost 20 years in prison. More information on Eric and his case is available on supporteric.org.

2 Marie Mason was arrested in March 2008 after her former partner turned informant for the FBI. Facing a life sentence if she went to trial, Marie accepted a plea bargain in September 2008, admitting her involvement in the burning of an office connected to GMO research and the destruction of a piece of logging equipment. She was sentenced to almost 22 years in February 2009. Information on Marie and her case can be found at supportmariemason.org.

NEVERALONETOUR.WORDPRESS.COM NEVERALONETOUR@RISEUP.NET

Part of the collaboration for International Day of Solidarity for Long-term Anarchist Prisoners – JUNE11.ORG

ECO-PRISONERS, SNARED LIBERATIONISTS AND HOSTAGES OF THE STRUGGLE

This eco-prisoner related content courtesy of Earth First! Prisoner Support Project, a prisoner and post-release support group for earth and animal liberation prisoners. To support their efforts, contact them at EF!PSP c/o Sacramento Prisoner Support, PO Box 163126, Sacramento, CA 95816, or email: EFPris@riseup.net

For a more complete list of prisoners, international listings, and resources for comrades behind bars, check out:
EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG/PRISONERS

TIM DECHRISTOPHER #16156-081, HERLONG FCI, FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, PO BOX 800, HERLONG, CA 96113.

Sentenced to 2 years for bidding on oil and gas leases on public land to stop fossil fuel extraction. More info on Tim can be found at: Bidder70.org

JOYANNA ZACHER #36360-086, FCI DUBLIN, FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, 5701 8TH ST, CAMP PARKS, UNIT F, DUBLIN, CA 94568. Serving 7 years and 8 months for an ELF arson attack on an SUV car lot in Oregon. Due to be released to half-way house on May first of this year.

ERIC MCDAVID #16209-097, FCI TERMINAL ISLAND, FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, PO BOX 3007, SAN PEDRO, CA 90731.

[See info on previous page]

MARIE J. MASON #04672-061, FMC CARSWELL, FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTER, POB 27137, FORT WORTH, TX 76127.

[See info on previous page]

MICHAEL SYKES #696693, 10274 BOYER ROAD, PO BOX 5000, CARSON CITY, MI 48811.

Serving 4 to 10 years for anti-sprawl arsons, graffiti and attempting to chisel through the cement is his jail cell.

FRAN THOMPSON #1090915 HU 1C, WERDCC, POB 300, VANDALIA, MO 63382, USA.

Serving Life for killing a stalker in self-defense. Before her imprisonment Fran was an eco, animal & anti-nuke campaigner.

DANIEL MCGOWAN #63794-053, FCI TERRE HAUTE- CMU, PO BOX 33, TERRE HAUTE, IN 47808.

Charged on multiple counts of arson and conspiracy relating to the arson of Superior Lumber company and Jefferson Poplar Farms claimed by the ELF. He is set to be released to a halfway house in December.

WALTER BOND #37096-013, 37096-013, USP MARION CMU, PO BOX 1000, MARION IL 62959.

Arrested for the "ALF Lonewolf" arsons in Colorado and Utah, targeting animal exploitation. In 2011, Bond received a sentence of 12 years and 4 months for his actions. He recently converted to Islam and also uses the name 'Abdul Haqq.'

NATHAN "EXILE" BLOCK #36359-086, FCI LOMPOC, FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION, 3600 GUARD ROAD, LOMPOC, CA 93436.

Exile is currently serving 7 years and 8 months for ELF arsons against a Poplar Tree Farm and a SUV dealership. Although no living beings were injured in either of these actions, Exile received a "terrorism enhancement" during his sentencing.

JUSTIN SOLONDZ #98291-011, FDC SEATAC, FEDERAL DETENTION CENTER, PO BOX 13900, SEATTLE, WA 98198.

Justin recently plead guilty to charges of arson and conspiracy in connection with the ELF arson at the University of Washington in 2001. In 2009, Justin was arrested in China for drugs and a fake Canadian ID.

JORDAN HALLIDAY #201200256, DAVIS COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, PO BOX 130, FARMINGTON, UT 84025.

Jordan began a 10-month sentence in January this year for grand jury resistance related to ALF raids in Utah.

UPCOMING PRISONER BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 21: GRANT BARNES #137563, ARROWHEAD CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, POB 300, CAÑON CITY, CO 81215-3000.

Grant is an environmentalist who was arrested in 2007 for setting fire to a number of SUV's in Denver, Colorado. He plead guilty to one count of using an incendiary device, and one count of second degree arson, and was sentenced to a 12 year term. GRANTBARNES.WORDPRESS.COM

JULY 11: VICTOR VANORDEN #6916264 NORTH CENTRAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, 313 LANEDALE, ROCKWELL, IA 50579.

Victor was arrested with his wife Kellie in October 2011 while allegedly trying to free mink from a mink ranch in Iowa. He is scheduled to be released after 2.5 years, Kellie was sentenced to two months. SUPPORTKELLIEANDVICTOR.BLOGSPOT.COM

SEPTEMBER 3: STEVE MURPHY #39013-177, FCI BEAUMONT MEDIUM, POB 26040, BEAUMONT, TX 77720.

Steve has been charged with a 2006 E.L.F. action in Pasadena, CA. and was recently sentenced to 5 years on April 5, 2010 after previously pleading guilty. SUPPORTSTEVE.ORG

SEPTEMBER 12: LEONARD PELTIER #89637-132, USP COLEMAN I, US PENITENTIARY, POB 1033, COLEMAN, FL 33521.

Leonard has spent over 36 years in prison for a murder he did not commit after leaders of the American Indian Movement such as himself were targets of COINTELPRO. People are commonly set free due to a single constitutional violation, but Peltier—faced with a staggering number of constitutional violations—has yet to receive justice. WHOISLEONARDELTIER.INFO

Earth First! Directory

For a complete listing of EF! contacts, venues and affiliated groups, contact the Journal or check our online directory at:
EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

US Groups

CALIFORNIA

Diablo EF! (Bay Area)
diabloearthfirst@gmail.com

EF! Humboldt
contactefhum@gmail.com

Sierra Nevada EF!
sierranevadaearthfirst@gmail.com

COLORADO

High Country EF!
highcountryearthfirst@riseup.net

FLORIDA

Everglades EF!
evergladesearthfirst.org

IDAHO

Northern Rockies EF!
http://nref.wordpress.com

MAINE

Maine EF!
maine.earth-first.net

NORTH CAROLINA

Katua Earth First!
katuaearthfirst@riseup.net
Croatian Earth First!
croataneearthfirst.wordpress.com

NEW YORK

Genessee Valley EF!
gvef.rocus.org
Fingerlakes EF!
fingerlakesearthfirst.org
Hudson Valley EF!
hudsonvalleyearthfirst@gmail.com

OHIO

Oberlin EF!
oberlinearthfirst@gmail.com

OREGON

Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project
27803 Williams Lane, Fossil, OR 97830
Cascadia EF! - Eugene
cascadiaef@gmail.com
Cascadia EF! - Portland
cascadia_ef@riseup.net

TENNESSEE

Three Rivers EF!
annebonnylives@yahoo.com

VIRGINIA

Richmond EF!
rvaeearthfirst@yahoo.com

International Groups

AUSTRALIA

efoz@earthfirst.org.au

CANADA

Elaho EF!: zoe@wildcoast.ca

UK EARTH FIRST! ACTION UPDATE

earthfirst.org.uk

GERMANY

efgermanycontact@googlemail.com

ITALY

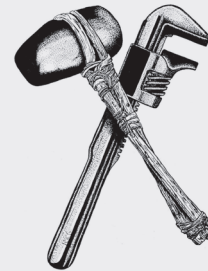
earthfirstpadova@gmail.com



An old photo of The Senator, recently deceased 3,500 year old cypress tree in Florida. See Feb 28, inside, for details.

Summer 2012 Announcements

(For an updated calendar with website links to each event, visit NEWSWIRE.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG)



APRIL 14: [Manhattan, NY] **Anarchist Book Fair**

APRIL 19-23: [Eastern Tennessee] **Southeast Regional Earth First! Rendezvous**

APRIL 19-24: [Houston, TX] **Occupy The Machine Blockades Oil Refineries**

APRIL 22-29: [Lafayette, GA] **Rivercane Rendezvous**

APRIL 29-MAY 5: [Forestville, CA] **Buckeye Gathering** - earth skills

MAY 1-19: [Chicago, IL] **Resist the NATO/G8 Summit**

MAY 13-29: [Boulder, UT] **Slickrock** - earth skills gathering

MAY 19-20: [Canada] **Montreal Anarchist Bookfair**

JUNE 1-3: [Baltimore, MD] **MOBICON (Mobilizing & Organizing from Below Conference)**

JUNE 16-24: [Southwest Colorado] **Wild Roots, Feral Futures**
earth skills and activism

JUNE 21-24: [Asheville, NC] **Firefly Gathering** - earth skills

JUNE 20-25: **Cascadia Regional Earth First! Rendezvous!**

JULY 1-7: [Location TBA,] **Earth First! Round River Rendezvous**
in the Marcellus region, Western PA/Upstate New York

AUG 23-30: [Tampa, FL] **Crash the Republican National Convention**

AUG 29-SEPT 3: [Location TBA] **Cascadia TWAC! ***

SEPT 3-6: [Charlotte, NC] **Protest the Democratic National Convention**

* **"TWAC = The lovely sound of smashing patriarchy!"**

A message from TWAC organizers: "Calling all Eco-Warriors who are fierce, something amazing is going to happen in the deep forests of Cascadia late this summer. Trans and Womyn's Action Camp (TWAC), amongst other things, is an intentional safe(r) space created by and for radical eco-feminists of all persuasions to share skills and discuss what radical environmentalism within an anti-oppression framework looks like! Save the date, location TBA. TWAC see you in the woods! Regular meetings are happening, if you want to get involved or for more information about TWAC, visit TWAC.WORDPRESS.COM"