

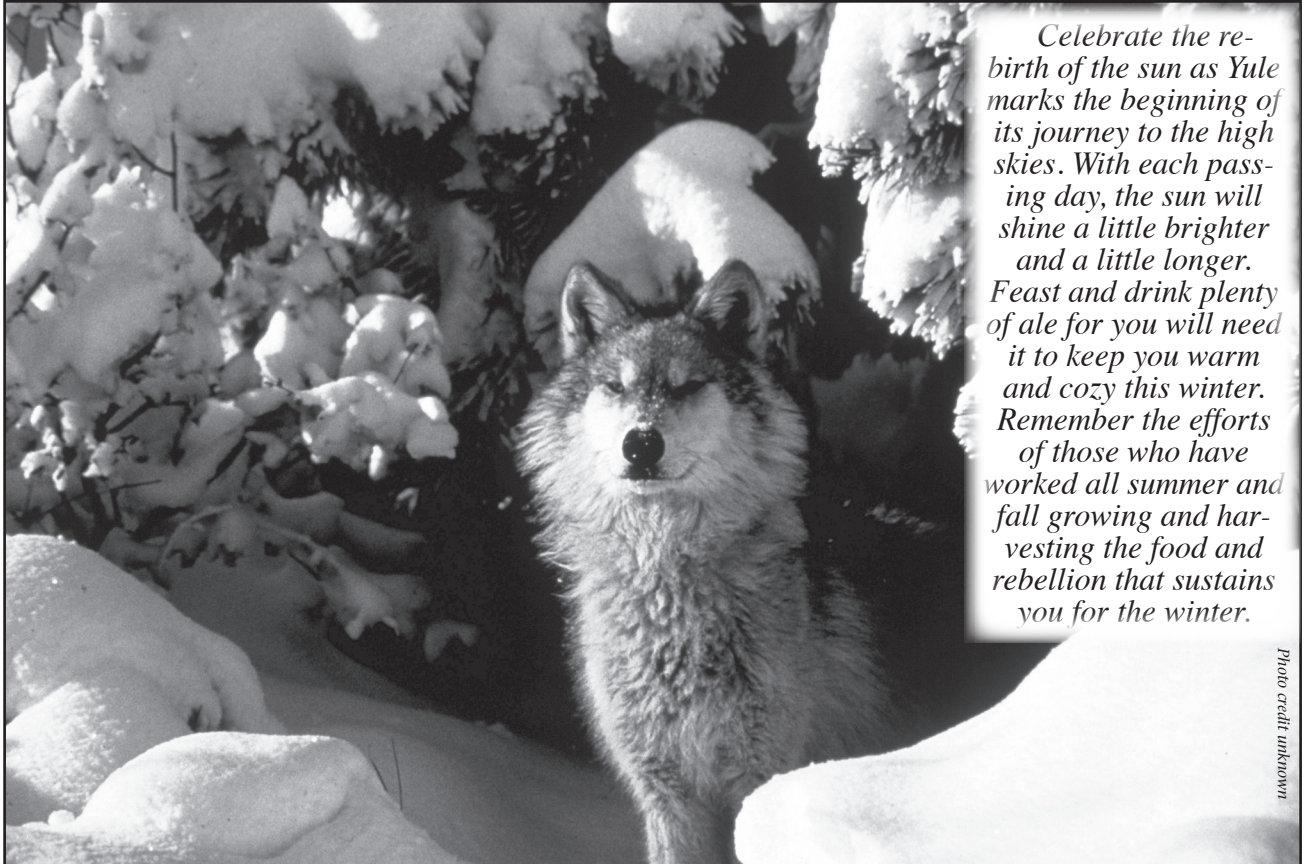
Earth First! News

“On the Frontlines of Ecological Resistance”

Number VI

Yule

December 2011



Celebrate the re-birth of the sun as Yule marks the beginning of its journey to the high skies. With each passing day, the sun will shine a little brighter and a little longer. Feast and drink plenty of ale for you will need it to keep you warm and cozy this winter. Remember the efforts of those who have worked all summer and fall growing and harvesting the food and rebellion that sustains you for the winter.

Photo credit unknown

News from the Frontlines

COMPILED BY THE *EF!* JOURNAL COLLECTIVE

Dec 6 - Seven Vermonters arrested blocking construction at Lowell Wind project: They are accused of standing in the way of construction vehicles on Green Mountain Power's Lowell wind project. Protesters sought to block vehicles from operating on land under dispute of ownership.

Dec 5 - Bhopal survivors blockade railway on 27th anniversary of disaster: Thousands gather in Bhopal to call on the Indian government to boycott the 2012 Olympic Games in London because Dow Chemical is an official sponsor. Activists blocked railway tracks to protest the ongoing denial of compensation payments to

victims despite a \$148 million plan unveiled earlier this year. The “Rail Roko” [railway blockade] was organized at four points from Nishatpura to Barkhedi railway crossing the city as survivors squatted and laid on the tracks. At Barkhedi crossing police dragged away elderly female survivors and cane-charged people mercilessly. Protestors took to stone pelting and arson, causing the police to retreat. The Bhopal District Collector and City Superintendent of Police (CSP) were injured in the heavy stone pelting. Four vehicles and a number of two wheelers were torched.

Nov 30 - O'odham elder pepper sprayed during Anti-ALEC actions, seven arrested, Phoenix, Arizona: Mass-mobilization and actions held through

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through the end of the week against the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) conference. David Ortega, Tohono O'odham native and veteran, suffered a stroke after being pepper sprayed by police and was rushed to the hospital. Hundreds marched and converged in Scottsdale, AZ for ALEC's annual "States and Nation Summit". [For more information on ALEC, see the *EF! Journal*, Mabon, October 2011, page 34]. On Dec 2, Indigenous Dine' (Navajo) and O'odham elders & supporters block the entrance to Salt River Project Headquarters (SRP) in Tempe, Arizona, for more than six and a half hours, resulting in 16 people arrested. SRP purchases coal now being mined out of tribal land in the Black Mesa area. Coal mining has destroyed thousands of archeological sites and compromised the community's only water source. Operations are causing widespread respiratory problems, lung diseases, and other health impacts on humans, the environment, and all living things.



Members of O'odham community and activists from around the continent resist ALEC, Alex Soto on right, Nov 30, Scottsdale, AZ

Nov 28 - Anti-tar sands protesters blockade transportation office in London: Activists from Greenpeace blockade the entrances to the Department for Transport (DfT) building using chains, plywood boards and cars with the aim of stopping any deal that would see petrol refined from tar sands oil being sold at UK petrol pumps. Sixteen activists were arrested after the two main doorways into the ministry were closed off for more than seven hours.

Nov 18 - "Timber barons are the 1%!" Occupy Eugene meets Forest Defense: Cascadia Forest Defenders and marchers with Occupy Eugene shut down Umpqua Bank from noon to closing. Activists raised a banner reading "Stumpqua funds clearcuts," and soft blockaded both customer entrances. Umpqua, which was the first stop in a series of N17 Occupy Eugene bank closures, chose to lock its doors rather than call on law enforcement.

Nov 16 - Eight arrested at Bank of America headquarters: Protest against Bank of America's reckless financing practices, including the bank's role as the lead financier of coal. Two people were arrested after unfurling

a banner reading "Not with Our Money" from atop two 50-foot flagpoles at the Bank of America's headquarters in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina. Six more arrested below—two while supporting the climbers, and four while blocking the main entrance to the bank's headquarters.



Protesters destroy drilling samples at a would-be iron mine near Hrazdan

Nov 9 - Protests continue against iron mining in Armenia: About two hundred residents of the central Armenian town of Hrazdan protest against the opening of an iron mine. Bounty Resources Armenia Limited (BRAL), a company partly owned by a Chinese firm, plans to launch open-pit operations there and in two other, larger iron deposits elsewhere in the country in the coming years. Protesters smashed wooden boxes containing drilling samples. Police officers monitoring the demonstration did not intervene.

Nov 8 - Ogoni protest non-implementation of oil clean-up, Nigeria: More than 2,000 Ogoni people in Rivers State protest in Port Harcourt against the failure to implement a UN Environment Program (UNEP) report on the oil impacted sites in Ogoniland. The report called on the Federal Government to take urgent steps to clean oil impacted sites in Ogoniland to save the lives of residents.

Nov 7 - Thousands surround White House in opposition to TransCanada pipeline: Environmentalists and social justice activists opposed to TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline encircled the White House, urging President Barack Obama to reject the project even if it means overruling his own State Department. The \$7 billion pipeline would carry oil from Alberta across Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas to Gulf Coast refineries.

Nov 7 - Protest against planned gold mine in Romania: About a dozen people occupy a historic building in the Romanian city of Cluj in protest of plans to mine gold in a nearby heritage area. The company, Rosia Montana Gold Corporation, a subsidiary of Gabriel Resources, wants to extract 300 tonnes of gold at the site in north-central Romania using a cyanide process, which is banned in several countries.

Oct 31 - Portland Rising Tide resurrects undead army against coal. A zombie army against coal marched

from Occupy Portland to Bank of America branches in downtown. One protestor, Tim Swenson, was arrested for allegedly smearing red corn syrup.. or, uh, zombie guts, on the exterior of the bank.

Oct 27 - Belo Monte Dam construction site is occupied by 400 indigenous people, fishermen and community members: The occupation was a collective decision made by 700 representatives from local communities who attended a seminar against the Belo Monte Dam held the week before. Participating groups



Images of resistance to Belo Monte Dam

released a statement saying: "In the face of the Brazilian government's intransigence to dialogue and continuing disrespect, we occupied the Belo Monte construction site and blocked the Trans-Amazon highway. We demand a definitive cancellation of the Belo Monte Dam."

Oct 23 - More senseless dolphin killing in the infamous Cove of Taiji, Japan: The dolphin killers drove in a pod of 10 to 12 Risso's dolphins into the Cove and brutally murdered the entire pod, including a baby.

Oct 22 - Blockade at proposed gas hub in Walmadan, western Australia: A protester tied himself to a communications tower near a proposed gas hub site in the Kimberley to stop survey work for the controversial project. The protester scaled a tower and was suspended by a rope that was strung across an access road, effectively blocking Woodside Petroleum from using the road.

Oct 10 - Chinook salmon liberation frees 60,000: After 40,000 were released on Oct 5th, the largest animal release to date, an unknown assailant snuck into the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, for the second time in a week, and cut loose the salmon being raised by students and volunteers for an annual fish restoration project. The fish were contained in 16-by-25-by-8-foot pens at densities that were clearly inhumane and unnatural for any salmon.

SEPT 29 - Evo Morales pressured to suspend highway construction: Indigenous peoples' 40-day protest march causes Bolivian President Evo Morales to suspend construction of a major highway through indigenous land in the Amazon rainforest. The march was brought to an abrupt halt when police used tear gas and batons to disperse the 1,000 protesters.

SEPT 29 - Mass mobilization defeats Genetically Modified rice in Spain: Valencia's local government has revoked the permit of an Italian pharmaceutical company to experiment with rice combined with human genes in Vinaros, Castellon. After protests from social, ecological and peasant organizations, the Valencian Committee of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), which depends on the Council of Agriculture, has rejected this dangerous crop.

SEPT 27 - ALF takes responsibility for Idaho fur store arson: The Rocky Mountain Fur & Fireworks located about 30 miles northwest of Boise was set ablaze for its capitalization on wild coyote and bobcat pelts sold from that store. The building reportedly held thousands of chemically treated animal skins.

SEPT 20 - Major anti-pollution protests in China force government to take action: In Haining, citizens temporarily shut down an american-owned solar panel factory. In Dalian, citizens successfully got the removal of a chemical plant.

SEPT 17 - Occupy Wall Street begins in NYC...

SEPT 5 - Turkish protesters halt power plant construction, burn drilling equipment: Turkish residents and environmental activists barricaded several roads leading to the village of Yaykil. They blocked the movement of construction crews from the Anadolu Group, which is partnered with McDonalds and Coca Cola, that is attempting to build a geothermal plant against local residents wishes. Activists and the police exchanged volleys of rocks and pepper spray. Twenty-five activists and four police were reported injured. On September 6, a large drilling vehicle parked on the outskirts of town was completely destroyed by fire. Police are currently investigating the sabotage.

Mid-Aug - Campesinos destroy part of an experimental field of GMO maize: During the second week of August 2011 an unknown number of people have destroyed part of an experimental field of GM maize seeds owned by Pioneer. The area, located between the towns of Valdivia and Zurbarán, had been requested by the company to be opened to the following GMO maize varieties: 1057, 59122 maize, NK603. This field is one of the three requested this year by Monsanto and Pioneer companies to experiment with transgenic corn.

Earth First! News

Yule, December, 2011.

Number VI,

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EF!N is released independently and as part of the quarterly *Journal* schedule.

It is available to download freely at NEWSWIRE.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

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Jan 22-25 2012 - GAME OVER: Occupy the Corporate Investors, Shut Down GAIM USA 2012. Gathering of Investors and Managers [GAIM]. Boca Raton Resort & Club, Florida.

OCCUPYPALMBEACHCOUNTY.ORG

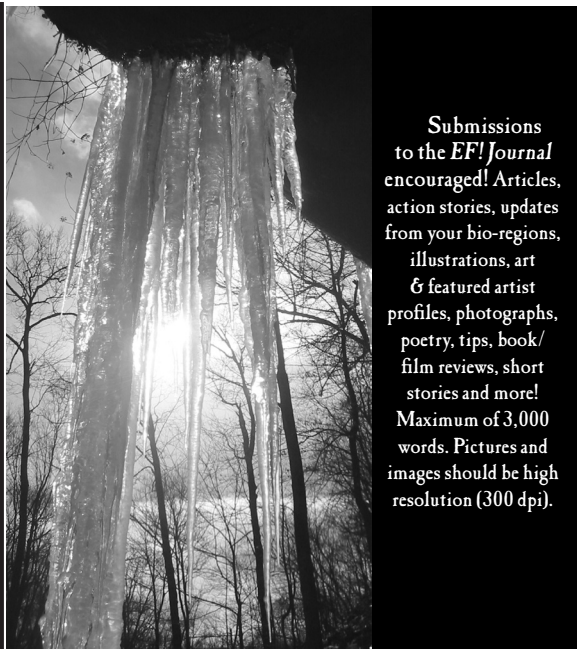
Feb 16-20 EF! Organizer's Conference & Winter Rendezvous! Make a stand for the wild at Mystic Hot Springs in Monroe Utah, with a Poet's Night to Howl and Seeds of Peace. For more info go to: EFOC2012.WEBSTARTS.COM, SALTLAKEEARTHFIRST.WORDPRESS.COM, SKILLSTOUR@GMAIL.COM, (406) 721-8427

Feb 16-20 Winter Witch Camp: Western Wisconsin. Visit www.witchcamp.org, winterwitchcamp13@yahoo.com, (612) 284-2948, Winter Witch Camp c/o Glimmer Skuld, 3824 Standish Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55407-3029

March 1-4 ELAW: 30th Annual Environmental Law Conference: Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC). Over 125 panels, workshops, and multi-media presentations addressing a broad spectrum of environmental law and advocacy. Go to:

WWW.PIELC.ORG

May 24- Commemoration of bombing of Judi Bari: Gather every year on the anniversary, at the time of the bombing: 11:30 AM on Park Blvd. in Oakland, near intersection of E. 33rd and Park Blvd. Contact: 510-548-3113, BACH@HEADWATERSPRESERVE.ORG



Submissions to the *EF! Journal* encouraged! Articles, action stories, updates from your bio-regions, illustrations, art & featured artist profiles, photographs, poetry, tips, book/film reviews, short stories and more! Maximum of 3,000 words. Pictures and images should be high resolution (300 dpi).

For Updates on Direct Action News from Around the World, check
WWW.NEWSWIRE.EARTHFIRSTJOURNAL.ORG

Earth First! ToolBox:

Contamination of woodchips destined to become paper can cost industry lots of money. Items such as plastic wrappers, nylon rope, cups, eating utensils, pens, and even hard hats have fallen onto conveyors and vats. Particles of plastic in the pulpwood do their damage after the final product—paper—has left the mill. Plastic specks in paper cause problems primarily because the plastic melts when heated. Plastic melts and sticks to rollers during manufacturing, plastic particles in computer paper have melted and gummed up computer equipment, etc. It takes only ten pinhead size specks per bale of pulp to ruin the whole shipment and one foot of polypropylene rope will produce approximately one million specks. The particles are almost impossible to remove from the pulping process.

Of course, unless someone actually works in a mill, or has access to the trucks that haul the chips to a pulp mill (these distinctive-looking trucks are a common sight in some woodland areas), it won't be easy to contaminate the wood after it has been reduced to chips. But this leaves the charming possibility of "contaminating" the trees before they are cut and reduced to chips so that they will be undesirable as pulp. Holes could be drilled (using a bit and brace) in trees in an area destined for pulpwood cutting. The hole needs to be slightly larger than your rope diameter. Take a small segment of polypropylene rope and tamp it all the way into the hole. Then fill the remainder of the hole with a caulking material, and camouflage as in any spiking operation. Activists in British Columbia are also using Styrofoam cups, foam ear plugs, and similar materials to "soft spike" trees slated for pulping. One advantage is that this spiking is not dangerous to workers.

From *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*

Earth First! Directory

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

US Groups:

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