

South Twin Lake Conservation Society

P. O. Box 203
Medford, WI 54451

SILVER WOOD LEAVES

1st Quarterly Report of '00
Addressing: The 21st Century

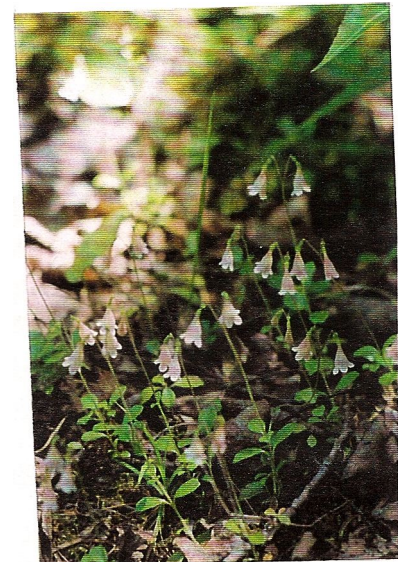


Small is beautiful!
May the *twinflower*
symbolize the 21~Century!
One of *partnership* rather than
adversarial war among ourselves
and against the environment!

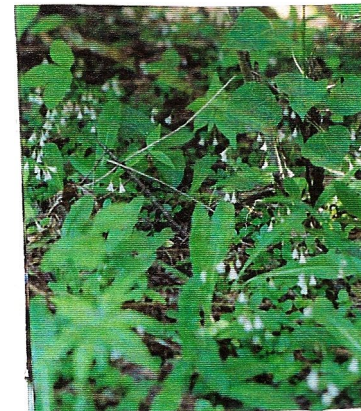


The white birch has its beauty.

And the *twinflower* a beauty more exquisite.



Small is beautiful!
A journey begins with but a step!
The foundation of existence
is *miniaturized* within the atom!
In human affairs, *you* are that foundation!
Be true to the power and glory within *you*!



PEEPER PARTY, on Peeper Point, Saturday, May 6, to hear the peepers shrilling their joy on three sides of you. A light supper at 6:00 p.m., then the peepers, and partying afterward at the cabin.

BOARD MEETING, Saturday, June 3, at 10:00 a.m., at the cabin. Janet will provide the wherewithal for sandwiches following the meeting.

HARVEST FESTIVAL some time in September or October. With the impetus of the harvest festival initiated by Dan and Janine Renzoni last fall, it is impossible to stop it from becoming an annual event. Details later.

OUR "WILD LIFE AMBASSADOR" apparently is Mike Riegert. Last year he did a lot of work regarding turtles - their penchant for nesting in the gravel and sand on the shoulders of roads (where sunshine helps to keep the eggs warm and thus aids in hatching) and the proclivity of a few macho motorists who deliberately run over the turtle. He ran an article in the Star news (sponsored by STLCS) in regard to the turtle nesting season, which was also aired by the Medford radio station as a public service announcement, talked at length to the local DNR official (game warden), to the local sheriff, and to Bob Hay, the DNR herpetology specialist in Madison.

The turtle nesting season is approximately from June 1 to July 10. If you see a turtle along the roadside that someone has deliberately run over by swerving from the lane of traffic, you are urged to report it on the DNR tipster hotline - 1-800-847-9367, since it is both a traffic and conservation violation. You can be anonymous if you wish. If you can report the motorist, better yet. And best of all, give him a piece of your mind! As such reports increase,

pressure is applied on traffic and DNR officials to take notice. As in practically everything else, *people power* is what moves the world of mankind in humane and democratic directions.

Also, one can stop and remove the turtle from the shoulder. If it can be left elsewhere on a sunny patch of sand, it would be ideal. One person on our Board carries a shovel in his car for that purpose.

JULIA "BUTTERFLY" HILL ended her vigil on an 8/8 foot plywood perch 18 stories high on Luna, the giant redwood tree near Arcata, California, on Dec. 18, 1999, after two years and 8 days aloft. In exchange (in perpetuity) for Luna and a 2.9 acre buffer zone around her, Hill and her supporters pledged to pay \$50,000 to Pacific Lumber which it will donate to Humboldt State University for forestry studies.

Hill is a heroine to the striking workers of Kaiser Aluminum plants Charles Hurwitz, CEO of Maaxam, bought up Kaiser Aluminum. In the 50 or so previous years of its existence, there had never been any problems. But with Hurwitz, working conditions worsened, wages declined, and quality suffered. So the strike. But Hill was successful in opposing him through one of his subsidiaries - Pacific Lumber. Tweaked his nose, so to speak. Gave the strikers a sense that all is not hopeless!

In January, Hill surfaced again a few blocks from the California State House in Sacramento, in a demonstration with the Northern California Environmental Coalition. They are advocating a state-wide petition to bar old growth logging in California. Old growth would be defined as any tree 150 years old and with a diameter of 36 inches. The California Board of Forestry refused to consider the petition. But if she and her supporters persist as they did with Luna, old growth eventually will be

saved in California -- an example and encouragement for environmentalists wherever they may be and whatever the cause.

Lonnie Vones lives below the ridge where Luna is rooted. Hill is his heroine too. (It should be noted, however, that she was not alone, but had a tremendous amount of support). She has delayed the logging that he fears will trigger a mud slide that would wipe out his home.

This bit of information sparked a question by this ignoramus in a past Quarterly. If the government can expropriate private land to build superhighways for "the common good" (such as super highway 55 going through Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis, private homes, and over Indian sacred grounds), why can't it expropriate forest land on steep slopes such as that below Luna for the "common good" of residents - as well as of fish and the environment?

Under the **GENERAL MINING LAW OF 1872**, a mining company can buy 20-acre tracts of land for \$5 an acre. And pay no royalties on the ore extracted. There are 330,000 active claims, including more than 2,000 within the National Park System.

American Barrick, a Canadian company, is mining more than \$10.2 Billion worth of gold in Nevada for \$5,190. Further at their Goldstrike mine, they are pumping 68,000 gallons of water a minute, 24 hrs a day, from beneath their open pit mine. This has lowered the ground water table by 800 feet, affecting 350 surrounding square miles. Still further, they mine by a process of cyanide leaching that poisons streams, pools, and ground water, which, of course, kills the animals and birds that drink it.

Then mining companies can turn around and sell the land. Or other entrepreneurs can gain title to *our* land for \$5 an acre and build condominiums, golf courses, or ski resorts.

It is estimated that mining corporations have left 50 billion tons of toxic waste, polluted 12,000 miles of streams and spoiled 180,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs.

Where does responsibility rest? An anonymous BLM official complains that regulations have no teeth - just easily ignored scraps of paper. So it rests with the U.S. Congress, which passed the law and ignores the result.

H.R 3377 would require manufacturers to label foods containing GE (genetically engineered) ingredients -- labels much like those identifying fat or caloric content. If you don't like the idea of eating rice genetically engineered with human genes, for instance, contact your Congressperson.

"THE BATTLE IN SEATTLE" against the **WTO** will hopefully be recorded in history as the turning point that saved the ecological world, and thus also our humanity. Hence the space given to it in this Quarterly. Captain Paul Watson explains the issues well in an article on the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's web site. The following excerpts used by permission.

"A threat that cannot be averted is heading our way. All life in the seas - not to mention the air we breathe, the food we eat, the principle of sovereign states, the rule of law and democracy - are in the gun-sights of a small group whose simple goal is to remake the world and to make themselves the undisputed rulers of that world."

"If you are a farmer, a worker, a small business owner, a housewife, the resident of a Third World country; if you are a man, woman, or child; a cetacean or a sea turtle, everything you know is about to change, and not for the better. Your fate is about to be decided by 134 men with briefcases who

belong to an organization which did not exist prior to 1995."

"And if you are an environmentalist, every conservation law you ever fought for is about to be undone by three trade bureaucrats sitting around a table - the appellate panel of the World Trade Organization. "

"The WTO is "a global system of enforceable rules ... where corporations have all the rights, governments have all the obligations, and democracy is left in the dust" (A Citizens Guide to the World Trade Organization, Working Group on the WTO/MAI, July 1999)" (The MAI is the Multilateral Agreement on Investments, which you have been warned about in a previous Quarterly.)

"We (the SSCS) noted that trade disputes are resolved at the World Trade Organization by non-elected corporate panels in an undemocratic process outside any constitution or the courts, and that, in every single case, over the five-year existence of the WTO, decisions by those panels have favored corporations over the environment. "

"GATT/WTO members ... succeeded in overturning the U.S. Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act - the "dolphin safe" tuna label - citing new rules barring trade embargos "based on method of production." The "dolphin safe" label was responsible for reducing dolphin mortality in the tuna fishery of the Eastern Tropical Pacific by 97%. "

"Since 1990, any tuna caught by setting nets on dolphins could not be sold in the United States, the world's largest tuna market. The weakened U.S. standard now violates the Marine Mammal Protection Act and allows chasing, harassing, netting, injuring, and killing dolphins in catching tuna, which may now be sold in the U.S. as "dolphin safe", a situation tantamount to

consumer fraud."

"In 1998, a WTO panel ruled against the requirement of the U.S. Endangered Species Act that turtle excluder devices be installed on shrimp nets to prevent sea turtles from being drowned. All seven species of sea turtles are listed as endangered. This law, fought for by thousands of environmental activists worldwide, was effectively gutted."

In 1996, when the U.S. Secretary of Commerce certified that Canada was violating the Fisherman's Protective Act "Canada immediately threatened action through the WTO and thus avoided a U.S. embargo on imports of its fish products."

Visit the Sea Shepherd web site for more ~ www.seashepherd.org

AND STATE LAWS are in the gun sights of the WTO. "Here are some examples of typical state laws or legal principles that conflict with the WTO: laws that promote investment in recycled material markets; that allocate public deposits or banking business based on community reinvestment performance or local presence; that impose "buy local" requirements or preference for state procurement; and that make state procurement contingent on certain social or human rights considerations, like the MacBride principles and Burma selective-purchase laws. Ninety-five laws have been identified as potentially "WTO-illegal" in California alone, according to the Georgetown University Law Center" - Dennis I. Kucinieh, Ohio Democratic Congressman.

AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Watson mentions sea turtles and dolphins above. In his Log he writes tellingly about whales, Harp seal pups, Grand Banks cod, drift netting, drag netting, etc. etc. etc. He and Lisa Distefano (International Director of the SSCS) are my current hero and heroine,

along with Tim Hermach of "Zero Cut" and Julia "Butterfly" Hill of Luna, the giant redwood tree. In addition to what they are battling, and disappearing tropical forests, add this: *The Asian long horned beetle*, native to Korea, Japan, and northern China, has hitch-hiked to the US. via wooden pallets and packing materials. It has a special appetite for hardwoods, and particularly sugar (hard) maple. It has shown up in New York City and Chicago, where maples they have infested shriveled up and died. The only way to control the beetle is to cut the trees they infest and burn them. So the US. banned wooden packing materials from northern Asia that have not been treated with heat or fumigants. Hong Kong is challenging the US. ban as a barrier to free trade. In this one instance alone, is US. membership in the WTO worth losing our sugar maple forests with their glory of fall foliage, maple syrup, and priceless lumber?

ANARCHISTS AND VANDALS in Seattle opposing the WTO seemed to be the gist of the mass media. But here are excerpts from a first day report by eyewitness Terry McCormick, Labor & Women's Rights Activist & Seattle Resident: "Here is what I saw in person: a march of 40 and 50,000 people - every possible skin hue, every conceivable race, every age between 20 and 70, from all over the U.S.. I saw Women of Steel - women steelworkers from Boulder, Colorado, next to the association of airline pilots. I saw tool and die workers walking next to the association of professional engineers. Thousands of diverse people together in good fellowship .."

"I saw no anger expressed, no hint of violent behavior. I saw positive statements: "If it doesn't work for working families, it doesn't work" was the most common placard being held. I saw smiling

faces and camaraderie. "

"Imagine my amazement when I went home, hoping to see pictures of the march on television, and found nothing! I switched channels and followed the news for some time. I heard one two-second reference to the march. How can this immense show of people not be news?"

"What was being shown? Tear gas, people blocking intersections, and looters that had no connection to the protest at all."

"No matter how hard the press tried, they were unable to show violence of any kind instituted by the WTO protesters."

"The only punches thrown were by a WTO delegate. Another delegate brandished a gun at the protesters."

The King TV did show "a young 14-16 year old kid ... running down the street with a big grin on his face, after heaving rocks through windows. (The) Seattle anchorwoman said that here was a protester showing no remorse. This was such a palpable false-hood that her co-anchor came on soon after and pointed out that the looting and vandalism was being done by people taking advantage of the situation, not the protesters"

Why was the mass media so intent on discrediting this event? Why did it pass up the opportunity to interview some of the very important people among the protesters? Another question answers by asking "Who owns the media?" O what boob tubers we are! It is not the tube that's the boob.

"THE WTO IS BETTER THAN NOTHING AT ALL" is one argument for it. However, we have had "global" trade for a number of centuries -- even millenniums. The 5 year old WTO really has nothing to do with "globalization" of trade. It has to do with "global free" trade - meaning that nothing may stand in the way of a megalomaniacal and *lawless* pursuit of

profit by multinational corporations and their would be world-dictator CEOs-sweeping aside the *laws* of nations, states, local communities and individuals as well as the laws of decency and morality. These laws can hardly be called "nothing at all". In fact, the WTO has nothing to do with "trade". Trade is barter between two equal individuals or groups, each setting conditions on which the swap is made. The WTO is brushing aside the conditions of individuals, local communities, states and nations, leaving only *its* conditions -- meaning no conditions at all. A spokeswoman for Monsanto has said, "You are going to have Roundup ready soy beans whether you like it or not" - i.e. twice or more of the herbicide Roundup on your soy beans, whether you like it or not. This is trade? Phil Knight, CEO of Nike, has said in a speech "Corporations are the real power in the world today and nations must understand that." Such arrogance! HE is superior to nations!" Is fair trade possible with the likes of him? For myself, I'm looking into soy beans, and I'll not wear anything made by Nike. I'll go barefoot or make my own moccasins first. And where are those radical, free-thinking university students who allow their "educational" institution to make exclusive contracts with Nike (Reebok owns UW of Wisconsin, Madison) which then flaunts its symbol on university sport wear? I might become interested in college sporting events if I were to see teams playing basketball, football, or baseball *barefooted* in protest. Nike makes more than shoes? Well, apply the same principle, and undoubtedly ticket sales to college sporting events would balloon to the point where Nike would be out of business. The editor of "Brainstorm" Dec/Jan, 2000 relates how Nike's advertizing is ridiculing "antiquated American values". Like freedom. How

dare one challenge Nike's dominion? And Nike lampooned Vince Lombardi, the Green Bay Packer coach who insisted on racial tolerance and commitment to the team. Any kind of such hero worship is out! And of course the Packers are the only *locally* owned team in all of professional football. Such a value would prevent teams from picking up and going some place else where the profit might be greater. The value of "local ownership" would inhibit corporations from picking up and crossing the border into Mexico or setting up sweatshops in Indonesia. And Nike even had the gall to place an ad in Brazil slyly poking fun at Jesus. How out of date can one be to "do unto others as you would have others do unto you"? This in a predominately Catholic country! The ad was quickly pulled. And Nike is not alone. For most other multinational corporations agree that such "antiquated values" must give way to the corporate pursuit of profits.

FEEL POWERLESS? Clarence Darrow, the great "Attorney for the Damned", who lent his services to the down trodden, often for nothing, said in one of his summations: "I know that the individual that will not stand for his rights will have no rights, and I believe the first duty of every American citizen is to protect himself and his country in all the liberties we have and all that we can get."

So do something ! Anything! However seemingly insignificant it may be, doing something empowers oneself Pick up trash in a public place, recycle, write your Congressperson, or stretch yourself and become a leader'

And when people unite, great things can happen' From the Nation, 12/6/99 - "In 1994, the fiftieth anniversary of the World Bank and IMP, citizens' groups from all over the world organized a "Fifty Years Is

Enough" campaign. In the United States, it has involved more than 200 environmental, development, faith-based, labor and policy organizations. Congress responded to their demands by restricting funding for agencies until they improved disclosure, environment and resettlement policies, and by requiring that the United States use its voting power to promote internationally recognized workers' rights"

MY VOICE OF EXPERIENCE: Many of us become tongue tied when we are charged with being an *isolationist* for opposing *globalization*, such as that which the WTO would inflict upon us. For instance, I was active in the World Beyond War movement, and our slogan was "We are One", i.e. we are inter-related with all peoples of the world; and through war and killing each other, we are actually destroying ourselves.

I now realize that by emphasizing the "one", a person tends to overlook the "we" - that vast diversity of cultures, nations, and individuals that comprises this "one world".

But each individual person is unique, an *isolated* bit of humanity. Diane Ackerman in "A Natural History of the Senses" puts it well. "Our skin is a kind of space suit in which we maneuver through an atmosphere of harsh gases, cosmic rays, radiation from the sun, and obstacles of all sorts.. shielding us from harmful rays and microbial attack, insulating us from heat and cold, repairing itself when necessary, regulating blood flow, acting as a frame for our touch, defining our individuality, holding all the thick jams and jellies inside us where they belong."

The skin, however, is not impervious. It has trade restrictions with practically everything on its outside world except moisture, which it can both exude and absorb. It has an embargo, however, on the salt in seawater, or we couldn't swim in it--

for long. A man adrift on the ocean in a small boat, and tortured with thirst, decided to end it all. He managed to get himself over the end of the boat, but clung on to it, not quite resolved enough to let go. Then he began to feel better and realized that his body was absorbing water from the sea. But the skin, of course, was placing trade restrictions on the salt. The man survived long enough to be rescued.

And if, as individuals, we engaged in "free trade" in regard to what we let into our bodies in food, drink, and air we would soon depart from the living. We must discriminate, enforce embargos, exact tariffs. Our interdependence with the last 15 billion years (give or take a few billion) is total. However, in the living reality of the present, we must be very selective to exist and make our contribution to the evolutionary process.

This *isolation* (a better word is *encapsulation* or perhaps *insulation*) is necessary for human existence. The same is true for all other living things, including the plant world.

Further this *encapsulation* is necessary for the existence of the so-called material world - from molecules, to atoms, down to the smallest atomic particle. The atom bomb is a dramatic example of what happens when the atom's *encapsulation* is breached.

Each human person, each individual of any sort, is a microcosm of the macrocosm. But there is this strange reality that the macrocosm is dependent for existence on this astronomically limitless number of individual things. We are each part of a mind boggling two way universal interdependence.

Yet the WTO would ruthlessly over ride and destroy any protective skins in the way of its profits. But it must be said that tariffs, trade restrictions, minimum wages, human rights, pollution controls, etc. are all

justified to protect a human individual, a local community, a city, a state, a culture, a nation, and the host of species and the limitless number of individuals that comprise our environment. The WTO is an alarming *acceleration* of economic forces that are already destroying everything decent in human society as well as our environmental support system. *For nothing can exist without a protective skin II!*

IN CONCLUSION, may I inflict my latest poem on you, especially for those who may like this all put more gently. This came out of a trip though the desert and mountain country from Yuma, Arizona, to Las Vegas, Nevada, where Janet and I went to visit friends.

City of Gold

In the desert regions
Of the great southwest,
Spaniards vainly sought for El Dorado.

Still today thousands seek their El Dorado
in this desert land - clank of slot machines,
spin of wheels, click of dice, slip of cards.

But most, the very most,
leave as empty handed as the Spaniards.
And the few who seemed to strike it rich,
find that riches do not bring fulfillment.

But still this desert land
points to the golden city that so many seek.

Mountains in the distance
appear a chocolate brown.
Those further on become a smoky blue.
And still further on, in bluish haze,
jagged peaks melt into the azure sky.

So, too, successive mountains on my right
Then, to my surprise, those to my left!
And, behold, those behind me!

The canopy of sky arches highest just
above me, and gravity pulls me to the
center of the earth!

Though I search "out there",
though I run.,
though I thunder through the sky on planes,
still mountains all around
fade away beyond awareness
leaving me the center of reality!

I am a summary of all ages past!
This desert land is shouting out the obvious
"El Dorado is within you!"

Though one is scarred with failures, hurts,
disablement, abuse, disease, or poverty,
still, still the golden city lies within!

Cherish it!
Valiantly defend its boundaries
in spite of seeming imperfections!
Yet extend its recognition, love,
compassion, helpfulness to all the other
golden cities,
be they human, plant, or animal!
For outside the host of living things,
the only gold is that for fools.

By just existing,
the golden city
glows within each vibrant, living self!



INCLUDED in this mailing is "**Reflections On The Turn To The 21st Century**" by private citizen Carl I. Nelson. This is not official STLCS commentary, but is intended as explanatory addendum to the Quarterly.