

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Green Production and Materials Selection: Partnering with Academia and Industry to Achieve True EPR

Ken Geiser, Co-Director, Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, University of Massachusetts Lowell

Ken Geiser, a guru in the field of toxics reduction, heads the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at the University of Massachusetts. In his book *Materials Matter*, he writes, "by paying more attention to the materials that we develop and the way in which we use them, we could pay less attention to their impacts once they are released to the environment." Ken will talk about our need to re-design our production systems to eliminate the need for toxic chemicals so that we can do better for the future. Ken will draw on his experience with the international clean production movement along with his more local experience working with Massachusetts companies to reformulate their products in order to help HHW program staff understand the barriers and opportunities in extended producer responsibility policies and the role of local government in facilitating such upstream changes in manufacturing.

<http://www.mindfully.org/Plastic/Materials-Matter-Kenneth-Geiser2002.htm>

Kenneth R. Geiser, Ph.D. is the Special Assistant to the Provost for Collaborative Research at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Ken is the past director of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute, a multi-disciplinary research, education and training and policy center. He is a Professor of Work Environment at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and is co-director of the University's Lowell Center for Sustainable Production, a research and technical center promoting environmentally sound and occupationally safe forms of workplace organization. An internationally recognized expert on environmental law and policy, clean production and sustainable development, Ken served on the Core Advisory Group for the United Nations Environment Program's Cleaner Production Programme. He also serves on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Data Reporting Committee of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, and the Agency's Common Sense Initiative for Regulatory Reinvention. He completed his undergraduate work at the University of California at Berkeley, and holds graduate and doctoral degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

When Saying "Please" Isn't Enough: The role of NGO's in the Push Towards EPR

Charlotte Brody, Executive Director, Commonweal

Charlotte Brody, an environmental activist, had her body burden of toxic chemicals tested along with Bill Moyers and seven other people as part of a study led by Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, and in collaboration with Commonweal. She found that her body was carrying 85 contaminants, including 45 carcinogens and 56 chemicals that can affect the brain and nervous system, and more, even though she has never worked in industry or even used pesticides. Brody actively works to reduce the amount of pollution in the environment from plants, refineries and incinerators. She will enlighten us on what we carry in our bodies and what we can do to prevent it. Charlotte comes from a long history of community activists organizing around worker safety and exposure to toxic chemicals. As the director of the national nonprofit, Commonweal, she will share her vision for a partnership between nonprofit organizations and local governments to affect changes in chemicals policy and reformulation of consumer products.

<http://www.grist.org/comments/dispatches/2003/05/12/brody-hcwh/?source=daily>.

Charlotte Brody is a registered nurse. She is the Executive Director of Commonweal, a health and environmental research institute in Bolinas, California. Commonweal is the host organization for CHE, the Collaborative for Health and the Environment and the Commonweal Biomonitoring Resource Center. Charlotte is also a founder and board member of Health Care Without Harm, an international coalition of 431 organizations in 52 countries working to transform the health care industry so it is no longer a source of harm to people and the environment. The mother of two sons, now 27 and 19, Charlotte also serves on the boards of Smith Farm and the Environmental Working Group, the Advisory Boards of the Environmental Health Strategy Center and the Environmental Stewardship Council of Kaiser Permanente and the Steering Committee of the Safe Cosmetics Campaign. Before helping to found Health Care Without Harm in 1996, Charlotte was the Organizing Director for the Center for Health, Environment and Justice (CHEJ) from 1994 to 2000 and the Executive Director, Associate Director and Public Affairs Director of Planned Parenthood in North Carolina from 1982 to 1994. Before joining Planned Parenthood Charlotte worked with SNCC, the civil rights organization in Detroit, Michigan, in the women's movement and on an underground newspaper in Boston, with soldiers returning from Viet Nam in Clarksville, Tennessee, at a free clinic in Nashville, Tennessee, with striking coal mining families in Harlan County, Kentucky and with two groups of cotton textile workers: those disabled with occupational disease in the Brown Lung Association and others seeking unionization in the J.P. Stevens Campaign.

“Peak Oil: Causes, Consequences, and Ways to Avert Catastrophe”

Kevin Wehr, Assistant Professor, California State University, Sacramento

Kevin Wehr is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the California State University, Sacramento, where he specializes in Environmental Sociology, Political Sociology, Social Theory, Culture, and Criminology. He received his Ph.D. in Sociology

from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2002 and his MS in 1998. He received his BA in 1994 from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Selected publications include *"America's Fight Over Water: The Environmental and Political Consequences of Large-Scale Dams in the American West"* published with Routledge Press in 2004, and *"Dairy Industrialization in the First Place: Urbanization, Immigration, and Political Economy in Los Angeles County, 1920-1970"* (co-authored with Jess Gilbert) published in *Rural Sociology*. 68(4): 467-90 in 2003.

His on-going research projects include Co-investigator on a program evaluation of used oil recycling, funded by the California Integrated Waste Management Board; Principal Investigator on a program evaluation of curbside and recycling center collection in California, funded by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling; Principal Investigator on a quasi-experimental study of pricing mechanisms and conservation behavior during the installation of water meters in Sacramento, California; Principal Investigator on an ethnographic study of Bicycle Messengers; and Principal Investigator on a quasi-experimental study of High School discipline and entry into the criminal justice system. <http://www.csus.edu/soc/kwehr/>

Keynote Presentation

Terry Tamminen, Special Advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger, Governor's Office

From his youth in Australia to career experiences in Europe, Africa and all parts of the United States, Terry Tamminen has developed expertise in business, farming, education, non-profit, the environment, the arts, and government. A United States Coast Guard-licensed ship captain, Terry has long been drawn to the undersea world, starting in the 1960s with a family-run tropical fish breeding business in Australia and continuing with studies on conch depletion in the Bahamas, manatee populations in Florida coastal waters, and mariculture in the Gulf States with Texas A&M University. On land, Terry managed the largest sheep ranch east of the Mississippi, assisting the University of Minnesota in developing new methods of livestock disease control. Terry also managed a multi-million dollar real estate company, owned/operated a successful recreational services business, and assisted the west African nation of Nigeria with the creation of their first solid waste recycling program. He has authored numerous technical papers, *"The Ultimate Pool Maintenance Manual"* (McGraw-Hill 1993; third edition 2000), and several theatrical works on the life of William Shakespeare. Terry is an avid airplane and helicopter pilot and speaks German, Dutch and Spanish. In 1993, Terry founded the Santa Monica BayKeeper and served as its Executive Director for six years. He co-founded Waterkeeper programs in San Diego, Orange County, Ventura, and Santa Barbara and serves on the Board of the National Waterkeeper Alliance. From 1999-2003, Terry was the Executive Director of Environment Now in Santa Monica, a foundation dedicated to the restoration and protection of California's environment and natural resources. Terry was appointed as the Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on November 12, 2003. On November 4, 2004, he was appointed as Governor Schwarzenegger's Cabinet

Secretary and now is a Special Advisor to Governor Schwarzenegger .
<http://www.calcoast.org/news/cpr0041106.html>