

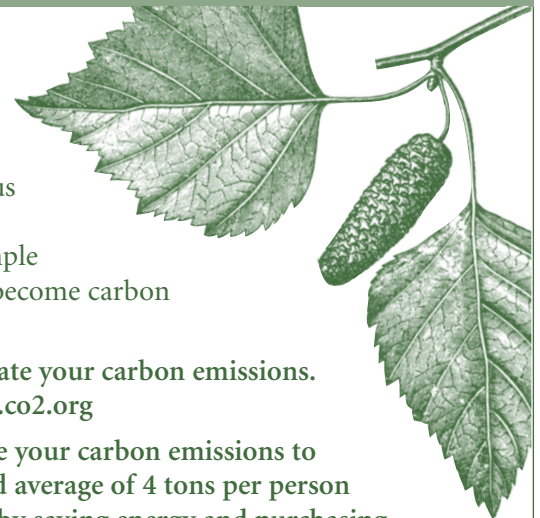
**A Bold Witness:
GA Urges Presbyterians
to Go Carbon Neutral**

Jenny Holmes, PRC Moderator

Extrême droughts, record heat waves, dead zones off the Pacific Coast, and melting glaciers—it was hard to remain a skeptic about the reality of global warming after the summer of 2006. Also, new films brought increased attention to global warming—*Too Hot Not to Handle*, *the Great Warming*, and *An Inconvenient Truth*. Public awareness and concerns have never been higher. If you have been paying any attention to the news this summer, you know that your neighbors and fellow congregants are waking up to the reality of global warming. This is good news.

The bad news is that once some people sense the magnitude of the challenge, they slip into despair and inaction. As Christians, the appropriate response to what writer Bill McKibben calls humankind's first civilization-scale-challenge is one of hopeful action. To help Presbyterians lead by example, PRC member Pam McVety worked with General Assembly commissioners to draft a successful resolution that urged Presbyterians to make a bold witness by aspiring to carbon neutral lives. (Carbon neutrality requires the energy use that releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere be reduced and carbon offsets purchased to compensate for those carbon emissions that could not be eliminated.) The groundbreaking resolution passed the floor of the General Assembly in late June on the consent agenda after being endorsed by the Social Justice Committee by a 55-3 margin.

Now what? PRC and other concerned Presbyterians are developing a plan to implement the resolution that includes engaging Presbytery leadership, training and education. We have started a new page on Energy at www.prcweb.org. The Presbyterian Hunger Program has posted the resolution and suggestions for action on its web page at www.pcusa.org/hunger



Each of us can take three simple steps to become carbon neutral:

1. Calculate your carbon emissions. See www.co2.org
2. Reduce your carbon emissions to the world average of 4 tons per person per year by saving energy and purchasing green energy from your utility. Start by replacing all your incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents.
3. Offset remaining emissions from car and air travel and heating fuels by purchasing green tags or carbon offsets. A few suggestions are www.greentagsusa.org and www.nativeenergy.com.

Our efforts to reduce and offset our carbon emissions, however, are not a substitute for policy action. We need both. There are strong bills in Congress now that aim for carbon reductions that scientist say we need in order to stabilize the

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www.prcweb.org

**Welcome to John Preston,
new Regional Rep, elected by
membership in June.**



Unintended Consequences

John Jackson, PRC Founding Member

The present Administration told us after September 11 that "we could not have imagined" or prevented such a disaster. However, we now know that many people had envisioned such a scenario ten to twenty years before - so much for excuses.

Now we are told that we can grow our way out of a costly oil dependency and oil depletion crunch. Voila - Biomass Energy Production. If this takes place, will we hear again: "We could not have imagined" the consequences of such a program. However, before we go down the yellow brick road of corn fired vehicles, let us imagine a few things.

- How much corn and fire does it take to make a gallon of moonshine? Thunder Road people can tell you it takes a lot of energy and heat. Even if we use grass clippings and sugar cane remains, how much energy are we talking about?
- Where is that smoke going to go to create that liquid fuel? Our biosphere is already in trouble and the global climate change clock is ticking faster.
- How much phosphate will it take to grow those gallons of fuel? How much water will be needed? How many rivers will be disturbed and/or polluted?
- How many pesticides and biocides will be needed to grow that fuel supply?
- How many creatures will have to move or die in order to bulldoze the rain forests for grain in Brazil, or to continue the fence post to fence post farming of bio-fuels in the United States.
- How much soil erosion and soil depletion are we talking about?
- How many financed incentives and subsidies will it take to grow bio fuel? The interest we are already paying on the national debt is now leaving our social needs cupboard bare. The interest we are paying to China and Japan will not buy one brick for the homeless, one book for the children's schools, or one drop of medical care for forty two million Americans without health care.

Yes—we can imagine the unintended consequences!

Yes—we can imagine earth—creature—human friendly alternatives: conservation, hydrogen fuel cells, efficiency in all things, solar, wave, wind power, bio-chemical/biomass, mass transit, producing and consuming food close to home, tree canopies, native-drought resistant plants - and tightening your belt and your wants.

A Bold Witness, cont. from page 1

climate. Also, our Presbyteries can affirm the national resolution and take the same steps above for their facilities and their meetings. For example, the Presbytery of the Cascades Eco-Justice Team is using green tags to offset carbon dioxide emitted by travel to meetings. The Presbytery of the James is planning to train a team from each congregation to perform energy audits and to reduce energy use. The resolution presents an outstanding opportunity for creative action. By going carbon neutral, we learn what it takes to make the transition to a low-carbon future and exercise respect for God's creation and future generations in our daily lives. Let your light shine, but make sure it's a compact fluorescent.

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A College Student Speaks Out!

Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, Macalester College

As a sophomore and environmental leader at Macalester College, a liberal arts college in St. Paul with Presbyterian roots, I'm convinced that youth-based environmental action is vital. As I move deeper into environmental work, I feel that direct cooperation between high school and college leaders is essential.

Before coming to Macalester, I led my New Jersey high school in a number of environmental initiatives. I've also tried to develop such action at Broadway Presbyterian Church in New York because I think there needs to be an integration of faith-based initiatives and environmentalism. A strong college youth movement around climate and energy issues has begun, but it has not yet effectively involved younger leaders.

In looking for solutions to the energy crisis and global warming, I try to lead initiatives that make as much ecological and economic sense as they are spiritually imperative. In my first year at Macalester, I surveyed energy usage and helped students conserve energy in their dorms, helped build a green roof (an insulating, planted roof-top) and facilitated plans for a green building. I also helped coordinate state-wide campus initiatives around energy and climate issues, pushing for a Renewable Energy Standard among them.

The Clean Energy Revolving Fund (CERF) is one of my most recent initiatives. Established in April 2006, CERF will fund renewable energy, conservation, and other sustainability projects that either generate revenue or

save on campus costs such as heating or electricity. These returns will then be used by the fund, which is managed by a board of students, faculty, and administrators, to support further projects. With the combined argument of environmental sustainability, economic viability, and engagement of the campus community, CERF is widely supported. It currently has almost \$30,000 in funding, primarily from student sources. As we continue to build the fund with grants and administrative financing, we're moving forward on an off-campus wind turbine through a Minnesota state community energy program.

I'm excited to read Rick Ufford-Chase's vision for a Presbyterian Creation Conservation Corps. I'm also certain that action aimed at our day-to-day society, not just a 'camping renaissance', is required. As people of faith, we must engage in the full range of our relationship with creation. Environmentalism should mean a sustainable world. Protecting wild places from an unsustainable society is futile.

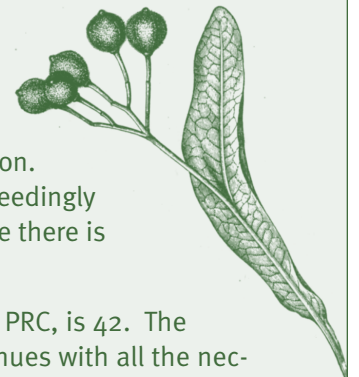
In order to inspire youth with the power of faith, they must be encouraged to directly engage in building a positive relationship between humanity and the rest of creation. If the church accepts that challenge, it will gain as much energy through its action as it will provide inspiration to the global movement to reclaim an intimate, positive relationship with the world.

PRC has created a young adult blog for exchange of ideas and networking at prcya.blogspot.com

YOU are special! *John Spaulding, PRC Member*

You are special! If you are like me, you have few friends who are serious about restoring creation. Yet, God has gifted us with a vision and a hope. Things don't have to be the way they are. Change is possible. Care brings renewal. What an indescribable joy it is to be a part of a faithful group of Christians devoted to restoring creation. When I reflect on the mission and ministry of Presbyterians Restoring Creation, I am exceedingly proud of who we are! My prayer is that we will increase in number and strength, because there is much to do ahead of us.

I have a burning concern for PRC. This fall I will be 73. My daughter, also a member of PRC, is 42. The ministry of PRC will not be completed in our lifetimes. I want to be sure that PRC continues with all the necessary support possible after our deaths. It is for this reason that I hope you will join me in making tax deductible donations to PRC's established fund with the Presbyterian Church Foundation, account #620A5056; Presbyterian Foundation; 200 E. Twelfth St., Jeffersonville, IN 47130. A check may also be sent to the office of PRC earmark for this purpose. Give this appeal prayerful consideration. You and I are special, because our mission is special and life saving!



A Call from the Coal Fields

Sharman Chapman-Crane, PRC Member

At General Assembly a statement against mountain top removal (MTR) was passed. Many of us who live in the midst of this devastation or who have witnessed the destruction were pleased to hear this. But we need to be equally clear about why and what we are for. We are for jobs. The companies own the coal and have rights to access it. We need the energy. But we need safe jobs. MTR is a very cheap way to mine the coal and because of this it also challenges deep-mine companies to find less expensive ways which may result in cutting corners or not enforcing safety measures. We need to challenge ourselves to use less energy, so that other countries can be assured that we are not taking more than our fair share.

We need to place such a high value on life, that we demand that the media let us know when our brothers and sisters who supply us with the energy we use every day, have been hurt or are endangered by the supplying of that energy. How many people heard about the toxic sludge pond spill in Martin County, Kentucky in 2000 that was 10 times the size of the Exxon Valdez spill? The EPA told the community not to worry, that there was nothing in the spill that couldn't be found on the periodic table. How many people know of the Marsh Fork community in West Virginia that has an elementary school at the base of an earthen dam higher than the Hoover Dam and it's leaking? The school is next to a coal processing plant. Almost all of the children have respiratory problems due to the dust creat-

ed by the processing. They've talked to the Governor, the legislators, the EPA, the Health Department...no one will help them. They've started their own fundraising drive to relocate the school.



The Center Holds

God does not stonewall

God is not

The self

Shadow boxing

With the self

God responds

Out of God's freedom

God's self regard

Though injustice

Roams the world

The Center holds

Because this is the

Creator's world

Fear not

The song

Goes on

jj adam

Orlando, 2004

We need to place such a high value on life and the need for water that we totally support the World Council of Churches in their statement this year that all people have the right to clean and necessary sources of water. MTR buries streams. In the past 30 years over 2,000 miles of streams have been buried in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The southern Appalachian Mountains supply 25 percent of the United States surface water and only 17 percent of the coal has been mined.

We need to challenge the corporations to sit at a round table where all have a say in how minerals are accessed, where jobs are protected and safe jobs are assured.

We must challenge our government to support technology for alternative sources of energy to take care of this gift of creation. Only when we value all of life are we giving thanks to God and truly worshipping our Creator.

Would you like to learn more? Join our Appalachian Environmental Learning Tour, to be held Oct. 10-15. Write Sharman Chapman-Crane, MCC, P.O. Box 460, Whitesburg, KY 41858; call 606-633-5065; or e-mail: Appalfinance@mcc.org for more information.

alt delete?

Holly Hallman, PRC Editor

Ask people you know and see what they have done with an alternative Christmas. Too often you will hear, "oh yeah, we tried it once." Once? The idea of downsizing Christmas is as appealing as a bad diet—we do it because we "should". There are two approaches to dieting—I would know. Sometimes I am caught up in the "what I am giving up" mode and not succeeding. Other times I am thrilled to be giving my body the gift of fresh organic veggies and beautiful, good water—and I lose weight. Perhaps we need to take the same approach to Alternative Christmas. Sweep the "shoulds" out the door and wallow in delight. One day I was at the Goodwill Outlet Store. Everything was \$1.29 a pound. On this occasion a family was having a fabulous time "shopping" for each other, tossing "goodies" across the bins and laughing at their strange finds. Any "shoulds" were lost in the delight of the day.

Here are a few of my favorite "should" busters.

- A fellow made digital photos of the children's art work—you know the funny, funky stuff on the back of bulletins. He assembled these into "card collections" and sold them with nice white envelopes.
- One group offered treats like paying for a whole bus load of children to go to an art museum. Great gift for an artist.
- Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery became a "fair trade corridor" for high quality artwork from Peru. It grew so quickly that they were able to establish a not-for-profit organization to handle the sales. Anyone can buy boxes from them to use in a bazaar. Contact hunger@glpby.org for information and view most items at fairtradeperu.com
- One Baptist church sells mosquito nets and vaccinations for children.
- Saving the best for last, why not give a gift membership to PRC! Go to www.prcweb.org for details.

Of course, there is always the usual tree, bag of cement, Heifer Project or SERRV. Find your delight! Then, send me an e-mail ([hhhallman@yahoo.com](mailto:hhallman@yahoo.com)) and tell me how you did it. Next fall we will have another (Part 2) article and pass on the joy. Let's not alt delete. Let's alt insert.



Do you have a story to share?

We are always looking for stories and typically take articles of 400 words or less. **The next submission date is December 1.** Send your ideas to [hhhallman@yahoo.com](mailto:hhallman@yahoo.com).

CREATIVE APPROACHES

a quarterly column

A Retirement Community Perspective

Mary Louise Ellenberger, PRC Member

When I moved to a retirement community, I asked "How will it be possible for me to continue my commitment to restoring creation?"

First, I learned that only newspaper could be recycled! That is, the county wouldn't pick up from an institution as it did from my home. Recycling of not only all clean paper products but also plastic, glass, and tin containers is a profitable business for Baltimore County, but suddenly I don't fit into the system. Residents had contracted with a company who pick up newspaper only, but the mail room's barrel of junk mail went into trash daily. So I followed a few other environmental die-hards to bring such recyclables to a county pick-up point.

Next challenge: STYROFOAMcups and multi-sized boxes for taking home food from the cafeteria! So I carry a bag with some reusable utensils to fill as possible.

Latest opportunity: a "Green Committee" of the residents' association. We know that other retirement communities have such a group who try to influence administrative decisions affecting our common environment, such as use of pesticides and chemicals. Our newly formed committee just met with the "environmental engineer" to talk about electricity, water, and all other resources necessary for communal living. And we're putting essays in our monthly community newsletter to inform and motivate residents.

So my commitment to earth's re-creation continues in a different way now that I reside at Glen Meadows whose board of directors claim a Presbyterian stewardship concern. Now I'm wondering if Presbyterians for Restoring Creation might help us seniors participate effectively in that endeavor. Could we have a column in the newsletter with questions, thoughts, and ideas from different communities? (Send your thoughts to [hhhallman@yahoo.com](mailto:hhallman@yahoo.com) or prc@sfts.edu.)

Report on “Economy, Ecology, and Empire” from Ghost Ranch

John Preston, PRC Regional Representative

The planning committee for this seminar decided to emphasize the reality of empire as defined by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) in its statement at Accra, Ghana in 2004. This statement is prophetically honest:

“The policy of unlimited growth among industrialized countries and the drive for profit of transnational corporations have plundered the earth and severely damaged the environment.” The statement goes on to say: “This crisis is directly related to the development of neo-liberal economic globalization...”

Walt Owensby led us through an analysis of such globalization. What is new are the rules of trade and money flow around the globe. Global institutions such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organization, along with trade agreements such as NAFTA write the rules out of public view. Although General Assembly statements affirm that globalization



can be a good thing if the rules encourage justice, community, and sustainability, this is not the case with the present global arrangement. The latter results in “a system of domination led by powerful nations to protect and defend their own self-interest.” (Accra). According to Owensby the claim of the current global system is that the public good (and thus justice, etc) is served when there are no restraints on global capitalism, including standards for fair labor practices and the environment.

Barbara Rossing, a biblical scholar with expertise in the Book of Revelation, said that for the writers of

Revelation the “end of the world” meant

the end of Rome’s Empire. She

noted the current sense of “end

of times” in the novels of the Left

Behind series with their Divine

violence, and in secular concerns

about the end of peak oil, climate

changes, terrorism, etc.

Gary Cook, a GA staffer and our third resource person said that the GA mission philosophy has changed to a new

cont. on next page >>

Fall Campaign Needs to Raise More Funds

Robert Remsburg, PRC Treasurer

Doesn’t that title sound familiar? Whether it’s public radio, World Wildlife Fund, or The Nature Conservancy that contacted you, there is always a need. PRC would like to be fully supported by membership dues, but reality is that we do not yet have a large enough membership base to rely totally on that source. For the past several years, we have held very successful spring and fall fundraising drives. Many, who are able, have been extremely generous in their donations. These gifts have allowed PRC to expand our services, our witness and our influence on all levels of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA).

Since the beginnings of PRC in 1995, we have received regular grants from the Environmental Justice Office of the denomination. Due to budgetary constraints in PCUSA, the Environmental Justice Office has been eliminated for 2007. The Presbyterian Peacemaking and Hunger programs are working to sort out how they can help pick up the pieces. As we prepare for 2007, the PRC Steering Committee is

unsure of any financial support from the denomination. The 2006 Fall Stewardship of Creation Campaign becomes increasingly important as a source of funds to lift the banner of Eco-Justice. In 2007, PRC will be the only concentrated Presbyterian effort for Eco-Justice and we fully intend to be a strong, effective, and relevant witness. Your donation will help.

The Fundraising Committee has set a goal of \$15,000 for the Stewardship of Creation Campaign. That is \$2,500 more than last fall’s campaign. As in the past two campaigns, each \$60 given will earn you the opportunity to give a membership to a friend (pastor, DCE, Presbytery staff, Sunday School teacher, next door neighbor). Anyone giving over \$100 will receive a copy of Rev. Dr. Carol Johnston’s booklet, *And the Leaves of the Trees Are For the Healing of the Nations*. This wonderful guide to environmental language in the Bible has recently been reprinted. Please be as generous as you can. Your envelope will be in the mail. You may always give online through www.prcweb.org. Thank you in advance for your continuing support of PRC.

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style of networking and partnering with churches outside the USA. For example, the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has partnered with the Presbyterian Church in Colombia via its very successful accompaniment program. He noted that we increasingly hear the cry of despair and anger from our partner churches around the world who perceive themselves as the unwilling victims of globalization.

The question is then: What can we do?

Cook said that the single most voiced issues raised by partner churches are those around water. Our church has a relationship with the Bolivian network (UMAVIDA) which might be of future interest to PRC. In this network, the focus is on water contamination and privatization issues, as well as on opposition to CAFTA. Perhaps PRC could become a partner with this or a similar network.

This was an excellent conference in a wonderful setting. I hope PRC can build on the analysis and the hopes of this conference in the years ahead.

John Preston is the author of "Wrestling Until the Dawn: The Fight for Biblical Justice in a Postmodern World," (pre-view at www.lulu.com/spiritbrookpress.)

Welcome New and Renewed Members!

Welcome to the following new PRC members, Partners, and Sustainers from the past 6 months. Thanks to all renewing PRC members as well!

NEW

Connie Blackstone, Owsley and Christina Brown, Kenneth E Carroll, Luis Collazo, Garry Cox, Brant and Andra Copeland, Rochelle and Jim Davis, John Dozier, Dani and Will Ebaugh, John and Sarah Foster, Joan Griffin, John and Amy Guthrie, Carolyn Harris, Nancy Hatten, Theresa Heiker, Emory and Ann Hingst, Mark and Cay Hohmeister, Peggy Howland, Nicki Jo and Dean Hulse, Andrew Jacob, Rebecca and Neil Johnson, Ken and Barbara Kronholz, Ruth and Michael Laws, Judith D Lepera, Jim and Laberta Lyle, Clinton A McCoy, Dr and Mrs Kelly T McKee, Hannah McVety, Walter and Marian Moore, Cynthia Muse, Helen Nablo, Kathleen O'Neil, Chip and Allison Orange, Martha Paradeis, Joyce and Bill Peck, Sr Dorothy Reynolds, Leo and Marvel Lou Sandon, Bethel Sherwood, John Shuck, Nancy Warlick, Joan and Jeff Wagner, Ruth White, Beth Wieman, Linda Wittish, Lee Woodard

PARTNERS

Celebration of Life Presbyterian Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church House Church, Mark and Barbara Barnes, Margie and Nickie Cantalamessa, Martha Bess DeWitt, Elizabeth Dyson, Linda and Jim Hagan, Wil and Michele Howie, Gwen S. McKee, Tom and Kathy Moore, James G Speer, Lynne West, Mary Westfall

SUSTAINERS

Eco-Stewards Montclair Presbyterian Church, Charles Conklin, John and Susan Davies, Cynthia Muse, David and Patricia Pearson, John and Patti Spaulding

Thanks to Spring Campaign Donors!

Thanks to our generous members, we met and exceeded our spring fundraising goal of \$6,000! Top gift amounts were \$1,000; \$500; \$250 and 23 people gave over \$100. Thanks to all who participated and helped us to meet our goal!

Neddy Astudillo, Mark Atma, Skip (Gerritt) Baker-Smith, Mark and Barbara Barnes, Rebecca & Peter Barnes-Davies, Earle P. Barron, Harold Barton, Claire Beasley, Karen Blatt, Bill Bowman, Howard and Nancy Corson Carter, Charles J. & Patricia Churchman, Clarence & Areta Crowell, Mark and Kay Davis, Kate De Braose, Sheila Denton, James and Carolyn Dunning, Elizabeth Fairly, Mary Louise Fisher, Pamela Frucci, Alison L. Gerlach, Gladys Gifford, Lora Gross, Barbara Hannon, Jenny Holmes, Nancy Holve, John Jackson, Carol Johnston, Adrienne Keller, Anne Leo and Nancy Kruger, Evie Macway, Muff & Allan McAllister, Gwen S. McKee, Robert & Pam McVety, Alice Meloy, Christine Miller family, Donald W. Mink, James T. Mulligan, Jane Ellen Nickey, Elaine and Bob Noble, John Preston, Virginia Price, Bob & Tammi Remsburg, Renee Rico, Byron & Margaret Shafer, John & Patti Spaulding, David & Norma Sholin, Robert Stivers, Peter and Cathy Surgenor, Stacy Tate, Charlotte Wade, Jane S. Wood, Robert & Nell Worrall, Robert Wozna, Kenneth & Cathleen Yost, Presbyterian Church of Danville, Eco-Stewards/Montclair Presbyterian Church

Upcoming Events

• **OCTOBER 2006,**
Presbyterian congregations will join with hundreds of others across the US to screen *An Inconvenient Truth*.

This Interfaith Power and Light campaign is "a religious response to global warming."

Many congregations showing the film have room for members of other congregations to join them! To find out where the movie is being screened go to the events page at www.theregenerationproject.org or contact your local Interfaith Power and Light Chapter. For a study guide on *The Inconvenient Truth*, go to www.eco-justice.org/TruthGuide.asp



• **FEB. 15-17, 2007**
PRC Regional Conference at Epworth by the Sea, on St. Simon's Island, GA. "Caring for God's Creation: Stewardship of Land and Water." Plenary Speakers: Rand Wentworth (Land Trust Alliance), Sally Bethea (Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeepers), and Carol Johnston (Christian Theological Seminary). Conference Musician: Marcus G. For more information see www.prcweb.org.

• **OCT 25-28, 2007**
PRC National Eco-Justice Conference at MO Ranch (TX), "Earth Sabbath, Earth Justice: Protecting God's Gifts of Food and Fuel." Save the dates and work with 2007 church budgets now to set aside scholarship money!

PRC Update

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Caring for God's Creation by connecting, equipping, and inspiring.

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- ___ \$75 COMMITTEE/INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP
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 please check to receive 4 copies of PRC Update
- ___ \$150 PRC SUSTAINER MEMBERSHIP
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