

Climate, Energy and Community: Vermont 2022

Alan K. Betts
 Atmospheric Research, Pittsford, VT 05763
akbetts@aol.com
<http://alanbetts.com/writings>

This is a compilation of my 2022 columns from the Rutland Herald and Barre/Montpelier Times Argus. This is the fifteenth year of a series that started in January 2008. A 2012 overview paper is available¹. **In the first decade**, these columns dealt with weather, climate, climate change, energy and policy issues. They blended science and opinion from a systems perspective, and encouraged the reader to explore alternative and hopeful paths for their families and society. They were framed so that a scientist will perceive them as technically accurate (although simplified); while the public can relate their tangible experience of weather and climate to the much less tangible issues of climate change, energy policy and strategies for living sustainably with the Earth system. **However, in recent years**, politically motivated attacks on climate science, the global rebellions to save the Earth, and rapidly deepening political corruption have expanded my commentary. The climate and extinction emergencies will bring immense suffering to our children and all of life. Earth scientists have a responsibility to communicate clearly and directly to the public² – as we are all responsible for the future of the Earth. Now remarkably the living Creation/Creator appears to be taking over the climate system, since society will not.

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¹ **Betts, A.K. and E. Gibson (2012)**, Environmental journalism revisited. *Environmental Leadership: a Reference Handbook*. Deborah R. Gallagher, Editor, SAGE publications Inc., Sept. 2012, ISBN: 9781412981507. Available at <http://alanbetts.com/research/paper/environmental-journalism-revisited/#abstract>

² **Betts, A. K. (2011)**, Communicating Climate Science. *EOS Transactions*, 92, No. 24, 14 June 2011. Available at <http://alanbetts.com/research/paper/communicating-climate-science/#abstract>

a) Climate Change and Local Action (February 19th 2022)

[Weekly Planet: Climate change and local action | Perspective | rutlandherald.com](#)

Last year I discussed the climate crisis and the extreme events we were seeing. I commented that it seemed that the living Earth system was taking charge, rather than let human power and greed destroy much of life on Earth. Rather little progress was made at the Glasgow COP26 talks on reducing carbon emissions that are driving extreme climate change. The fossil empire kept the discussions well under control, since burning all the fossil fuels is the key to their trillions in profits. So let us review the climate disasters of 2021, for which the fossil empire and business-as-usual capitalism bear responsibility. US greenhouse gas emissions rose 6.2 % last year compared to 2020 (which was affected more by the coronavirus), and oceans temperatures reached their highest level on record, driving stronger storms.

Wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes and a winter storm were among 20 weather and climate disasters in the U.S. last year that cost \$1 billion or more, totaling \$145 billion and killing 688 people, according to NOAA. Specific events include extreme temperatures in the Northwest US and Canada, wildfires and drought in the West, Hurricane Ida, three separate tornado outbreaks in the South and central parts of the U.S. In addition, unusually cold temperatures in Texas in February left millions of people without electricity, but successfully destroyed refineries. Hurricane Ida alone did more than \$60 billion in damages as it targeted both the oil wells along the Texas and Louisiana coasts, and the NY-NJ urban infrastructure and financial institutions that are funding the destruction of the Earth.

Extreme records for temperature are falling globally every year. July 2021 was the world's hottest month: 1.67°F above the 20th-century average. The event in late June in the northwest US and Canada was described as “most anomalous regional extreme heat event to occur anywhere on Earth since temperature records began” (weather historian Christopher Burt: *Extreme Weather*). The forest town of Lytton, B.C. on June 29, 2021 burnt down as temperatures rose to 121°F. This set a new high temperature record, a stunning 8°F above the previous Canadian record. Across Washington State, many other local records were also broken by 8°F. The world's highest temperature at 129.9°F degrees was again reached in Death Valley on July 9, 2021. This January, Onslow, a small coastal town in Western Australia, registered 123.3°F, setting a new record for the southern hemisphere.

The climate of the past is moving into history and forecasting new climate extremes before they actually occur is extremely difficult. One reason is the Earth appears to be selecting strategies to destroy fossil infrastructure to protect life on Earth. This is obvious to indigenous people, but it is heresy to capitalism, which thinks we are smart to make a lot of money exploiting and destroying the Earth.

The February 2021 freeze in Texas is a good example. This originated in the stratospheric oscillation over the North Pole, propagated down into the Arctic troposphere and then southward as a series of freezing blobs that sat over Texas, freezing and destroying infrastructure for 2 weeks. Texas had never seen anything like it, and its infrastructure was not winterized. Much of the electrical power system shut down (as it is largely isolated from the US grid), and some estimates of the total damages reached \$195 billion (larger than the total US damage figure above). But from the Earth's perspective, the real target was the Texas oil refineries, which suffered more damage from this February storm than any major hurricane.

The extensive fires in North America are increasing the risks of devastating mudslides across large areas. The Dixie fire in California alone burnt nearly a million acres and studying the landslide impacts on this scale is a huge task as it depends on soil type and vegetation coverage, as well as rainfall intensity. Fires can reduce the permeability of the soil surface so that subsequent intense rain rates form streams that carry soil and rocks downhill generating mudflows. In landscapes which were forested this process can be delayed until the tree root systems decay, which may take a few years. The extreme temperatures in British Columbia in late June and into July led to many fires that burnt and destabilized hillsides. Then a huge storm in mid-November 2021 from an atmospheric river off the Pacific dumped a month of rain on the region in two days. This generated massive mud and debris slides that closed the Trans-Canada Highway and national railway line. To us a 'supply-chain interruption' but useful from the Earth's perspective as BC is mining and liquefying natural gas to speed the destruction of the climate.

In sharp contrast, I have been exceptionally busy for two months taking over and planning the repair of a local community solar array. This 150 kW array was set up in 2015 by the Clean Energy Collective (CEC) by selling 300W panels to fifty members of the community. I myself own twenty panels (out of 684). We were promised twenty years of renewable electricity credits through Green Mountain Power. We the community investors were doing it to support the transition to renewable power, but CEC was doing it for short-term profit. It stripped funds from panel owners, long-term escrow accounts, stopped maintenance as inverters failed and then filed for bankruptcy for the three arrays it owned in Vermont. I noticed power production had dropped in the summer of 2021, and initially I thought it was the cloudy summer. As soon as I heard of the bankruptcy filing, I did a deeper analysis comparing with other VT sites. I found a sharp 25% power drop occurred in May 2021, when in fact 2 inverters had failed. I took over the array on behalf of our West Haven Solar Array Community and we are developing a long-term strategy that is in the interests of the Earth. [West Haven Solar Array]



b) The horrors of climate change and war

(April 9th 2022)

[Weekly Planet: Horrors of climate change and war | Perspective | rutlandherald.com](#)

Climate extremes are getting worse and harder to forecast. My columns this past year have covered the two aspects of this. One side is simply the destruction of the Earth for profit by the Fossil Empire and business-as-usual capitalism. Industries and individuals are making billions from this, and it is supported by webs of lies and massive advertising that is self-funding. A related thread has been the struggle between these webs of lies and the Truth that sets you free to act on behalf of the Earth.

In contrast, the Earth's emerging takeover of the climate system, refocusing explicit damage on our fossil fuel infrastructure suggests a brighter future, unless you are part of the corrupt establishment. After waiting forty years for the Fossil Empire to change direction, the living Earth, faced with human stupidity and destruction, has chosen to exercise its broad long-term responsibility to life on Earth. Our webs of lies and our greed mean nothing to the Earth.

You may recall the extreme record temperatures last summer in the north-western US and Canada, far above any ever seen before. As I write even more extreme temperature records were set in eastern Antarctica, as much as 70°F above the climatology that goes back 66 years. Stunned scientists simply said: "If you had told me this was going to happen a few days ago, we would never have believed you". But the Earth simply sent warm winds from Australia. Does it matter since Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth, even though it is the region that is warming the fastest? Well it does matter because with a few degrees more warming, the massive ice-sheets will start melting and global sea-level will rise some 20-30 ft. We cannot give you a date as the Earth is in charge, but we can advise you not to buy that coastal home, and suggest you ignore the climate change lies from Florida.

The war in Ukraine for the past month has exposed many dark sides, and many more webs of lies. In US politics it is a reminder of the first impeachment trial of Trump, who withheld key military aid to Ukraine, because Ukrainian President Zelensky could not be blackmailed to create fake evidence against Biden.

More generally all our wars are based on dark webs of lies. The US has the largest military budget in the world but it cannot intervene in the Ukraine, as Russia has threatened to respond by using its nuclear weapons. The US also has a rather weak moral platform as it too has shamelessly attacked nations like Iraq, killing half a million civilians. This attack was based on a sea of lies about the Iraq's involvement in the 9/11 attacks, which were in fact planned by a team of Saudi Arabians. In reality it was just a convenient excuse for the US to try to get control of Iraq's oil supplies.

Everywhere the fossil fuel industry has a dark history. Another example is Venezuela where the oil industry was developed by US companies. We were furious when Venezuela elected a "communist" government, which nationalized the oil industry to help the Venezuelan people, rather than fund the Rockefellers. US sanctions have damaged Venezuela for decades. No surprise that we are now talking again to the Venezuelans about their oil, since the Russian supply has been cut off.

The Ukrainian war has exposed the dark side of other false promises. In Europe, promises to move away from fossil fuels have been exposed by the Putin's dastardly rush to destroy Ukraine and slaughter its people, because they are defying his dream of restoring the Soviet Empire. It is clear that most of the

western oil companies are still investing in fossil fuel exploration and development in Russia. Europe is also heavily dependent on gas exports from Russia for winter heating, which means its plans to move to renewables were weak. Burning more gas enabled Germany to promise to shut down their nuclear power plants after the Chernobyl disaster.

A separate issue is global food supplies. Both Ukraine and Russia are key food exporters, so this war will also be linked to global food shortages. Most exports from the Ukraine have already ended, as Russia has blockaded the Black Sea ports in an effort to starve the people into submission. This has forced Europe to reassess the imports it gets from the Ukraine, but poorer countries such as Egypt will suffer shortages.

The stupidity of the huge and increasing US military budget needs more discussion. Nuclear weapons spending increased by 50% during the Trump administration. Nations have refused to take steps to dismantle nuclear weapons because they are a symbol of human power. Readers will notice that this misuse of human power has a parallel in the climate crisis, which also reflects the stupidity and misuse of human power. We are trapped in this “We must be in charge” mode, when clearly we are not. The Earth is taking over the climate crisis; but the future of nuclear brinkmanship is dark. The arsenals we have built now have large numbers of small precision nuclear warheads that can be accurately targeted, as well as old massive nuclear warheads that Carl Sagan feared might trigger a nuclear winter. Watching Russian nuclear threats and US counter threats over the Ukraine, I am shocked to realize that a few hours of strike and counter-strike would “solve” our refusal to dismantle them. But millions would die in the nuclear disaster and the damage to the Earth is unknown. What will it take for the militarists to wake-up and stop planning for this destruction of the Earth?

c) Global Climate Challenges and the Truth

(May 21st, 2022)

Printed as: Lost in the Webs of Lies

[Weekly Planet: Global climate challenges and the truth | Perspective | rutlandherald.com](#)

This past week in Vermont in mid-May, temperatures are into the 80's. I was still watching out for frosts in early May, so the speed of the transition has been stunning.

My spinach and lettuce wintered over under glass and a wide range of cool weather crops (peas, chard, kale, broccoli and brussels) are growing well. I have planted seed potatoes, and on May 11 all our summer and winter squash were planted, since forecast minimum temperatures in the next 10 days range are over 40 °F. We watered a lot during a week of dry days until the rains came. Growing our own food is valuable, as the global commercial agricultural system is a many-sided disaster impacting forests, soil quality and generating methane to drive climate change.

As commercial food exports from the Ukraine have been cut off, some have realized it would be really wise for the peoples in Africa to shift back to the rich variety of indigenous foods they traditionally grew for themselves. We are fortunate in Vermont that so much can be grown locally: most vegetables and herbs as well as milk, yogurt and cheeses, and grass-fed sheep and goats. For me it is also a gift to discuss crops with farmers at our local markets, and a delight to see the thoughtful long-term development of Vermont farming.

But on a global scale, climate breakdown accelerates and new climate extremes are being reached everywhere. Nations promised in 2015 to work to keep the mean global temperature rise below 1.5°C, but promises have not been kept, and this threshold may be crossed in the next five years. Record temperatures in S. Asia, reaching up to 120°F, have made life desperate for millions in India and Pakistan, where few can hide inside with air conditioning. Spreading droughts are increasing wildfires.

In the US, huge fires near Las Vegas, New Mexico have so far blackened more than 465 sq. mi (300,000 acres). It was a prescribed burn lit by the Forest Service that got out of control in a region of extreme drought! The NOAA drought map from 3 May 2022 shows large regions of severe to exceptional drought in the western US, while Vermont and the North-East have been spared for now.

Very little is now under our control in both the natural and human worlds. Let us step back and restart with the Truth that sets us Free, since the living Earth system, after waiting for decades for humanity to stop destroying the Earth for profit, is taking over the climate system. The Creation and the living Earth system are inseparable from the Truth that sets us Free, even though this is heresy to human power, trapped in lies. Everywhere we look, human society is lost in these webs of lies. These come from politicians, the fossil fuel empire, ‘business as usual’ capitalism’s consumer growth model that is destroying the Earth, all the way to Putin’s war to destroy Ukraine, based on his personal web of lies.

In the Vermont world, I have spent five months rescuing the West Haven Community Solar Array from bankruptcy, neglect and theft by the ‘Clean Energy Collective’ a corrupt business that stopped maintenance and stole all the assets of the Array. Readers know that truth and integrity are central to business, but pretense is easy since advertising has trained us to accept many levels of deceit. But in the climate world, the direct intervention of the living Earth system removes these fake choices. We have to wake up fast, take a deep breath, dump the social webs of lies, and cooperate with both the Truth and the difficult reality ahead.

The stunning extreme event in late March was in Eastern Antarctica. Our COP26 politicized world has believed that the melt of the vast thick cold ice-sheets of Eastern Antarctica was centuries into the future. So for now we can just go on making money! The Earth however is exploring how to deal with the human menace.

On 19 March 2022 a new temperature record was set at the Concordia weather station on the E. Antarctica plateau that was 70°F (40°C) above the 30-year climatology, just by sending warm air down from the deserts of Australia. Shocked scientists simply said: “If you had told me 3 days ago this would happen, we would never, never have believed you.” For the first time a small ice sheet broke off from E. Antarctica. Overnight, we glimpsed a new world, where a 20-30 ft global sea-level rise from the combined melt of the Greenland and Antarctic ice-sheets becomes a possibility in the next few decades. There is nothing we can do about it, except connect more deeply with the living Earth system, and reverse course at once. The Antarctic is warming more than four times as fast as the Northern Hemisphere.

Everything is interconnected, including the latest political maneuvers by lying politicians to force women to have children they cannot support to keep our population of capitalist consumers growing. Lost in their lies and bullying of women, these fake Christians cannot even glimpse the Truth and love of Jesus that sets you free to act on behalf of the Creation, not human stupidity.

It is better that we step into the sunshine and connect to the living Earth instead. Every spring the hummingbirds bring us joy when they return to the feeder we hang up on Mother's day.

d) Climate Disasters and Religious Absurdities (July 2nd 2022)

https://www.rutlandherald.com/opinion/perspective/weekly-planet-climate-disasters-and-religious-absurdities/article_b75391a0-5f87-5072-9531-fb094f52ef6e.html

CO₂ levels in the atmosphere have risen to nearly 421 ppm, 50% higher than the 280 ppm in the pre-industrial era. We need to stand up and openly confront (with humor if possible) the many dark sides of our society that work to increase atmospheric CO₂. There are many groups based on the abuse of human power which refuse to protect people and the living Creation. Almost everywhere we look, consumer advertising, lying politicians and amoral capitalism are trying to make money from destroying the planet. The Republican Party is still accepting bribe money from the fossil fuel companies to deny climate change, as part of this criminal attempt to destroy the Earth for profit.

The US has had record wildfires this year as temperatures rise with rising CO₂, followed by regions of record exceptional drought from Texas, New Mexico, Utah and Nevada to California. Reservoir levels are critically low and threaten both water supplies and power generation. In contrast, the Yellowstone region in northern Wyoming had extreme flooding earlier this month with river levels 2.5ft higher than ever recorded. This flood caused massive damage to roadways, and isolated some communities.

In a sane world, these climate change costs would all be directly billed to the criminal oil companies and politicians. Another idea might be to mandate that lying politicians and oil company executives work for a month every summer as firefighters.

In the global world, fascist Putin is bombing Ukrainian cities and murdering tens of thousands of civilians and soldiers, sadistically trying to capture this former part of the Soviet empire by destroying it. Sadly there are corporate leaders, fearful of falling profits and the loss of their fossil fuels, arguing that Ukraine should 'negotiate' by surrendering territory. Russia cannot be trusted since they did not keep a similar deal made 7 years ago. Since they have now resorted to even more sadistic war-crimes, this appeasement is beyond stupid, but it is connected to our global fossil fuel addiction.

Capitalism and the fossil fuel empire are obsessed with current profit, and destroying life of Earth (including our children) is just a future byproduct. So the real living Earth system, the Creation itself, which is responsible for all life on Earth is taking over the climate system and targeting our human infrastructure. The indigenous Aramaic speaking Yeshua (known to us as Jesus) always backed the Creation over human power and human rulers, so one might think that Christian religions would follow.

Sadly the reverse is true. Amoral capitalism leans for support on religions, where power is often protected by its own webs of lies. For example, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) pretend their opposition to women's rights is Christian, even though the indigenous Jewish teacher Yeshua clearly respected all women at a time when their rights were very limited. In the SBC, congregations that appoint female ministers are expelled. In contrast, male clergy that sexually abused and rape teenage girls and young women are protected, and put on a secret list with currently 700 clergy. If an abused women or a congregation protests, the clergyman can be moved to a new church with fresh innocent women and girls to be sexually abused. Clearly the SBC is run by male chauvinists that have rejected

the teachings of Jesus. Instead this anti-Christian neo-fascist organization pressures right-wing politicians to take away the rights of women.

Locally in the North-east the United Methodist Church has wonderful loving outreach programs that feed and help people. However a separate Global Methodist Church is being launched, led by theologically conservative Methodists. Stripped of their euphemisms, theological conservatives are male-chauvinist echo chambers, who reject LGBTQ inclusivity in the church, including same-sex marriage and gay ministers. Essentially they flatly oppose the indigenous teachings of Christ to love everyone; and hate progressive reconciling congregations as ‘non-traditional’.

Here we see the continuation of the dark side of Christianity, which is more than a thousand years old. For many centuries, male Catholic priests supervised the killing of millions of indigenous people; both in fear because they had a much better understanding of the teachings of the indigenous Jesus, and to seize their land. Of course, the Roman Catholic Church from the very beginning was created in direct opposition to the teachings of the indigenous Yeshua. The indigenous Aramaic teachings were destroyed at the Council of Nicea in 325AD and replaced with a simple creed that met the human power needs of the Imperial Roman Emperor. For seventeen hundred years the Earth has suffered immensely from the subsequent abuse of human power. It is bizarre that the Roman church has never accepted responsibility for its anti-Christian and anti-Creation power structure, even though Pope Francis appears to understand it.

Now the living Earth, the Creation, simply says: “Embrace the indigenous view and rejoin Creation, or lose the industrial world to climate catastrophes”. Our rulers and corporations are lying in a desperate effort to conceal this truth, but this is the Truth that will set us Free.

e) Truth against webs of Lies

(August 8th 2022)

https://www.rutlandherald.com/opinion/perspective/weekly-planet-truth-against-webs-of-lies/article_70a3dc1e-3630-5ce3-b08d-3f9b5c8358b0.html

This past month has been one of extreme weather across the globe. The US has had a continuation of the western drought, extending up into Oregon where temperatures were above 105°F for several days. With high temperatures came several wildfires. In the UK temperatures rose above 40 °C (104°F) for the first time, and 34 weather stations broke their all-time records. The UK temperature map matched the one that the Met Office predicted a couple of years ago for 2050. The Met Office chief of science and technology Stephen Belcher said with British understatement: "I wasn't expecting to see this in my career, but the UK has just exceeded 40°C"

The still more extreme heat wave in southern Europe is a warning of how far we've pushed the planet's climate into dangerous territory, and how unprepared we are for what's coming. Santarem in Portugal reached 46.3°C (115.3°F) and Alamos in Spain hit 45.6°C, approaching temperatures in the Sahara. These record extremes are related to a split in the jet-stream with a region of upper level low-pressure air that was stalled off the coast of Portugal for days. It is known as a “cutoff low” because it was cut off from the normal mid-latitude westerly winds; and it is pumping hot air northward from the Sahara. Wildfires are burning in many countries. These temperatures have never been seen in the weather records over Europe which extend back two centuries.

In previous Planet columns I have discussed examples where the living Earth, the Creation, appears to be taking over the climate system to specifically damage our fossil fuel infrastructure which ‘business-as-usual’ refuses to dismantle. Eastern Australia is experiencing new record floods in Queensland and New South Wales after devastating wildfires in the same region. This is where the Australian coal mines are located. The latest catastrophic flood around Sydney was July 2-4, 2022. A huge storm cell brought a year’s worth of rain (about four ft) in three days to some areas and led to the evacuation of 85,000 people, as their homes were flooded. Sydney is surrounded with coal mines so the Earth’s reason is obvious. Companies were mining more the 10 billion tons of coal per year and enjoying cash profit margins of about 45%. No-one is discussing the connection - instead the claim has been made that Australia is not responsible for the climate consequences as the coal is burnt elsewhere!

On one level society understands that accelerating climate crisis is out of our control unless we rapidly cut the burning of the fossil fuels. This we have refused to do for decades because it is so profitable. So the living Earth, which **is** responsible for all life on earth, is taking over and targeting our fossil infrastructure, as well as planning to flood our coasts. So far we refuse to discuss the implications of this, since we pretend we are the smart species in charge. In reality we live buried in webs of lies, which have been very obvious this past month.

The US Supreme Court was stacked by Trump with fake Christians (see last month’s discussion) who are rapidly rewriting US law, mostly in favor of traditional male chauvinist conservatism. Women’s abortion rights were abolished, states efforts to restrict voting were supported and the right of the EPA to manage climate change was removed. These are all based on lies about women’s rights, state rights and the rights of life on Earth. Of course managing climate change would be unfair to capitalists who have been free to make money destroying the planet for decades.

This month the Jan 6 committee exposed in detail the webs of Trumpian lies related to the false claim that he won the 2020 election (that he and his government knew was a lie). He then organized and ordered the Jan 6 attack on the Capital by a bunch of armed supporters in a failed attempt to stop the counting of the votes that showed Trump had lost. He advised them to kill the vice-president if possible, and refused to bring the riot under control, since his plan was to overrule the US constitution. With a mid-term election coming, the dark fascist wing of the Republican Party continues to support Trump’s self-centered lying agenda, even though they know it is false! They are afraid of this lying bully, so they have to reject every trace of the “Truth that might set them free”! This is the tragic political context in the US.

Fortunately the Creation is in charge not the political idiots, and we can assume that the interests of the Creator will sweep aside the webs of lies. This is obvious to all true Christians, as well as all indigenous people, true Buddhists, and so on; so we can hope that some will glimpse the Truth and take the side of the Creator, even as climate extremes sweep the planet.

f) The new Climate System

(Oct 1st 2022)

[Betts: The new climate system | Perspective | rutlandherald.com](#)

The two record storms of the past week, Fiona hitting eastern Canada and Ian hitting Florida, illustrate well the new climate system. On the one hand storms are getting stronger as the Atlantic warms because

we have refused for decades to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Of course, society has been deceived by the fossil fuel empires and right-wing politicians have greedily accepted bribes to deny climate change. Nonetheless radically new climate extremes are happening all over the world.

But something more dramatic is happening that is beyond the imagination of society, because we believe we are the only intelligent species on earth so “we must be in charge”. This is a sick joke because we are using our intelligence to make trillions destroying the planet and its abundant life. This make us foolish as well as smart. One simple illustration earlier in January this year was the massive volcanic eruption of Tonga–Hunga which sent a huge tidal wave across the Pacific. Our satellites tracked it precisely so we could warn people on the Pacific coast of its arrival time. But scientists on the coast noticed that living creatures on the coast moved uphill long before they could see the tidal wave coming! How do they know without access to our satellite data? The living Earth tells them: they listen and they move. We have our marvelous technology but we are the only species on the planet that does not listen to the Creator aka Mother Nature.

This is now a deep problem for us because Mother Nature is taking over the climate system after waiting forty years since we knew disaster lay ahead in the 1970s. Mother Nature is responsible for all of life on Earth and she cannot let one smart but stupid species, humanity, destroy life for paper profits.

Hurricane Fiona, by then a powerful extratropical storm, clearly targeted Eastern Canada last week. Last summer and fall, extreme weather systems targeted British Columbia on the west coast, burning forests, and flooding and closing the trans-Canadian highway and railway. A new the all-Canadian temperature record was set by a stunning 8degF. Canada insists on developing its fossil fuel industries to make billions destroying the Earth, so we can assume the Earth will continue to target Canada.

Hurricane Ian damaged Cuba to the south as it maneuvered in to target Florida. It slowed down and amplified to nearly a category 5 storm. It struck the west coast, crossed the state and then moved out over the Gulf. Strong winds, storm surges and massive rainfall have wrecked Florida as I write. The Governor DeSantis must be one of the Earth’s targets as he is a ‘climate change denier’, he doesn’t support renewable power and is willing to destroy anything in Florida to puff up his ego and neo-fascist agenda. Unfortunately for politicians and other ‘important people’, Mother Nature/Creator can read our minds.

Las night I went to a meeting organized by Standing Trees to discuss the plan by the Forest Service to clear-cut the mature standing trees in the Telephone Gap forest project north of Rutland. I suggest we stand up and protest to politicians and the Forest Service since the destruction of life in this mature forest may bring a sharp response which Rutland won’t like!

Many can grasp this takeover by Mother Nature, but few know her extraordinary intelligence because it was not in our curriculum! So few know we can also listen to her, since few of us are indigenous. Just slip into meditation in the woods, and *then surrender further knowing that she can read your mind*; and smile on you because you have decided to join her.

g) Truth that sets you Free

(Oct 15th 2022)

https://www.rutlandherald.com/edition/page-c8/page_2b5e51cd-e198-554e-b785-4b4466b0d907.html

The Truth will set you free – to act on behalf of the living Creation

In the west, we attribute this to Yeshua (Jesus) the indigenous Aramaic speaking Jewish teacher, who was making a statement about reality from the indigenous perspective. It is globally true regardless of religious beliefs, because **it is true for the Creation or in more colloquial terms Mother Nature, the living Earth herself.**

This Truth sets you free from the webs of lies of politicians, advertising and all the misuse of human power and greed. This is a vast challenge for our society, so I am going to spell out some of these webs of lies. With clarity it becomes easier to step into the Truth of the Creator's world and feel the refreshing power and warmth of the Freedom to act wisely. I realize that even once we see, it takes time to unravel the webs that have been designed to trap us.

The list of course is long. Politicians are interested in power, not the truth, so often they feel they have to lie. Some like Trump set new records with tens of thousands of lies, because his agenda was to destroy democracy in America, get rich and puff up his unimaginably sick ego. But all politicians may lie or shade the truth because they are afraid that telling the real truth could lose them votes. Many are being bribed to lie; and the media and especially the electronic media are free to lie to confuse the public, and collect money for their sponsors.

Virtually all advertising uses skillful lies to persuade you to buy something that you may not need, or believe something that allows rich individuals or corporations to profit. In fact our capitalist system is based on exploiting individuals and the earth itself to make money for wealthy individuals and corporations. At the top end is the fossil fuel empire who are making trillions destroying the planet and future generations of life using massive webs of lies to deceive.

Of course everything is 'legal' because it is cheap to bribe politicians to pass protective laws or deny climate change. However it is still a staggering crime against Mother Nature; and as I said in my 1 October article, she is now using the climate system to respond emphatically.

As an amusing aside, right-wing politicians claimed the targeting of Florida by hurricane Ian was really the democratic Deep State's weather machines punishing Republican governor Ron DeSantis. Remarkably this fantasy is only one lie from the Truth. This was on Mother Nature's agenda, since she can read the evil mind of DeSantis!

Many of our western religious groups have lied for centuries to protect their own power, wealth and doctrines. The indigenous Aramaic speaking Yeshua (Jesus) had to be killed because he stood for the Truth rather than the power of Jewish and Roman rulers. At the Council of Nicea in 325 AD, Christianity was rewritten to meet the power needs of the male Roman Emperor. The true Aramaic gospels were destroyed and the Catholic Church was created with of course male priests. Over many centuries indigenous people were killed for their land and because the priests were horrified that the indigenous leaders understood the teachings of the indigenous Jesus far better than they did! A few like St Francis understood the living Creation, which is why Pope Francis took his name.

Now we have bogus Christians on the US Supreme Court, who feel free to rule against women's rights, voting rights and climate change etc. They are backed by groups like the Southern Baptist Convention, which has a list of some 700 male chauvinist leaders who are allowed to rape teenage girls to train them in proper submission to men! All these fake Christians are terrified of the teachings of Jesus about the Truth. They cannot face the Truth that would set them free, since they would have to step away from their lying webs into the world of Mother Nature and the Creation as Jesus did.

These tragic webs of lies are all around us, but we can step into the world of the Creation and Mother Nature and see the Truth – along with so many wise teachers around the world. It is breathtaking to experience the freedom to act on behalf of the Creation and each other. Just step into Vermont's forests and listen to the trees and surrender deeply to the Creation.