

WEEKLY

OF WEST CENTRAL INDIANA

From the Staff of The Weekly

December 29, 2005

Celebrating 14 years

Volume 13, Issue 52

Vanity Theater features Indiana Energy Conference

By Ann Harvey

The Indiana Energy Conference is designed for people to explore our culture's relationship with energy. The purpose of gathering together is to discuss our experiences, share ideas, explore action, and build community. The event is free.

The conference begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday January 7 and meetings are scheduled for the following three Saturdays. Activities will include: several film screenings, DVD presentations by various speakers, discussion, networking activities and more.

The conference is inspired by the Second U.S. Conference

on Peak Oil and Community Solutions and issues of sustainable living, food production, population growth, modern culture, human relationships to the land and community building among many other things will be addressed.

Everyone is invited to join us

for several weekends of learning, connecting, sharing and doing.

Dates are Saturdays Jan. 7, 14, 21 & 28, beginning at 1 p.m. at the Vanity Theater, 122 South Washington St. in Crawfordsville.

Frank Cicela, a resident of rural Montgomery County shared that the seeds for the Indiana Energy Conference he organized were planted around two years ago.



Richard Heinberg

"I had finished

reading a book titled *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* by Thom Hartman. It provided a profoundly moving, circumspect and holistic view of current effects of human activity on the planet. Thom's writing is passionate, compelling and crystal clear. The first half of the book provided an overview of topics including: biology and diversity, ecology, human population pressures, energy, resource depletion, and climate change. The second half of the book is inspiring, hope-filled with ideas for

understanding and healing the broken relationships between people and planet," said Cicela.

Subsequent to reading LHOAS Cicela read a speech by a senior leader at Alcoa, CSI, where he is employed, who stated: "China, the world's most populous country, joined the club of net oil importers in the last decade, driven by forces of modernization and development that are expected to scale up over the near term. This of course is a scenario we in the United States are familiar with. Our own appetite for oil and gas is unabated, even as domestic production continues to decline. Worldwide, growing demand is expected to drive growth in oil and gas production to peak sometime in the next decade at more than 30 billion barrels a year."

Reading the above speech moved him to solicit sponsorship from his managers to attend *The Second U.S. Conference on*



John Ikerd

Peak Oil and Community Solutions held in Yellow Springs, Ohio during September of 2005.

His employer conditioned his participation at the conference on the fact that he would turn the experience around and share what he learned with colleagues and his community.

Cicela confided that he often finds himself vacillating between cynicism and idealism. Coordinating the conference ended up being a constructive outlet for this tension. Working with the Sugar Creek Players Board of Directors Cicela was able to secure the Vanity Theater as a venue.

Megan Quinn, the out-reach director at The Community Solution, generously donated performance rights of 2005 Conference Speaker presentations. Other film producers including Barry Silverthorn (End of Suburbia) and Jeff Barrie (Kilowatt Hours) waived or greatly discounted screening royalties of their films.

Richard Heinberg is a leading educator and international speaker on the coming global "oil peak" and author of the seminal work, *The Party's Over:*

Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies as well as *Power-down: Options and Actions for a Post-Carbon World.* He is also

a professor at New College in Santa Rosa, California, where he teaches courses on "Energy and Society"

and "Culture, Ecology, and Sustainable Community." He and his wife have implemented low-energy techniques in their own home, which has been renovated for energy efficiency and where they grow much of their own food.

Michael Shuman an attorney and economist, is vice president for Enterprise Development for the Training & Development Corporation (TDC) of Bucksport, Maine. He has written, co-written, or edited six books. He has written over a hundred articles on community economics, federalism, foreign policy, and philanthropy for periodicals like *The Washington Post*, *The*

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Stories

Energy

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Weekly Standard, Foreign Policy, Parade, New York Times, The Nation, and Chronicle on Philanthropy. Shuman specializes in community economics, business financing models, local investment strategies and North-South development cooperation. He speaks and consults around the country on ways to strengthen local and regional economies.

Steve Andrews is an energy consultant, freelance writer on peak oil, builder and co-founder of the Association for the Study of Peak Oil; U.S. He has taught solar and energy-efficiency classes at universities and colleges, and worked on the PBS TV series "Running on Empty" and frequently works with the state of Colorado on energy issues related to building, transportation, and land-use planning. He lives in a super-efficient, off-grid home that he built in Westcliffe, Colorado. He is working on the design of a system to evaluate alternative energy systems.

Andrews will give a realistic, unbiased assessment of the potential of various alternative energy sources. He also will ex-

plain how to measure the viability of popular alternatives and share ways of evaluating alternate energy sources, including net energy analysis, dollar costs, environmental impact, and others.

John Kerd was raised on a small dairy farm in southwest Missouri. He holds a BS, MS and PhD in agricultural economics and taught at four major Land Grant Universities for 30 years. Since retiring he spends most of his time writing and speaking out on issues related to sustainable agriculture with an emphasis on the economics of sustainability. He is the author of *The Case for Common Sense: The New Economic, Ecological, and Social Revolution and Sustainable Capitalism: A Matter of Common Sense*.

Kerd will critique the fossil fuel-based industrial paradigm that he sees as inherently exploitative and unsustainable. He will then describe the need for a sustainable economic system based on biological principles and discuss agriculture as a key element. Finally he will explain how social and ethical values can be reintegrated into capitalist economics.

Complete event details and descriptions can be found by visiting www.indianaenergyconference.org on the web.

John Easton, Cory Scanlan and Tim Richmond will speak on Bio-diesel: Basics, Benefits, and Brewing.

This presentation will provide a brief background of what bio-diesel is, the benefits of its use for the environment and consumers, as well as a hands-on workshop taking you through the steps of home brewing your own fuel.

We will have a home made bio-diesel brewing kit on-site for your inspection.

This will be an informal, open participation discussion. Our intention is to cover most of the frequently asked questions and discuss real-world results on the making and use of bio-diesel in the Midwest.

John Easton received his BS in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University in 1992. After leaving Purdue, John has been studying organic farming principles, permaculture, homesteading, sustainable living, and various other principles of environmentalism in everyday living. His interest

in alternative fuel options lead him to explore bio-diesel. John and his family currently reside in rural Montgomery County, outside of Crawfordsville, IN. He is currently commuting 450 miles per week to get to Fairfield Manufacturing, where he is the manager of new product development.

The recent purchase of a 2001 VW Jetta TDI was the first step in his plan of making bio-diesel in the garage. Even without Katrina level gas prices, using bio-diesel will give John annual commuting cost savings of \$1800.

Cory Scanlan and Tim Richmond have been brewing biodiesel from waste restaurant grease in Tim's garage for over a year. Both are graduate students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, attempting to one day achieve their PhDs in Analytical Chemistry. Air pollution concerns, increased oil prices, as well as mechanical curiosity drove the two friends to investigate biodiesel processing for their own transportation.

Cory drives a 2000 VW Golf TDI and Tim drives a 2002 VW Jetta TDI, both of which run fantastically on 100% biodiesel for most of the year.

Over the year they both have learned many things about processing their own fuel as well as some of the hurdles one can run into once a person takes responsibility for

the health and impact of their personal automobile.

Jim Kirkhoff will talk about Motor Efficiency for Industry and the Home. This seminar will discuss a variety of topics about electric motor efficiency and government legislation for efficiency standards. We will look at different motor designs, where these motors are typically used, their cost (initial purchase and long term operating cost) and overall efficiency.

This information will be presented to better educate on the long term cost of a motor so that consumers can both make decisions, about what motors will provide the greatest cost and environmental benefits.

Jim received his B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University in 1992. Since then, Jim has been working in engineering and sales positions for capital equipment manufacturers to the electric motors, appliances and power generation industries. Jim is currently product manager for Joyal (a Division of Alliance Winding Equipment). Eric Lynch.

For more information contact Frank Cicela, 1205 E. Elmore St., Crawfordsville, IN 47933 or call 765-362-7077.

There is limited seating at the Vanity Theater so registration is important.

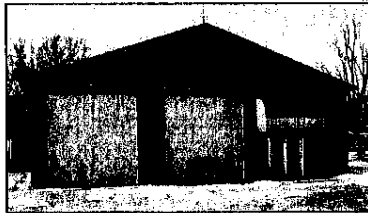
Visit the web at www.indianaenergyconference.org for further descriptions and complete details.

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The Weekly is published every Thursday in Crawfordsville, Indiana. It is a controlled circulation publication available at various locations in Crawfordsville, Darlington, New Ross, Ladoga, Roachdale, Russellville, Waveland, New Market, Linden, New Richmond, Wingate, Waynetown, Hillbono, Rockville, Ewington, Bainbridge, Marshall, Veedsburg, Greenscille, Lafayette and West Lafayette. Subscriptions are available for \$48 per year. Advertising rates and information may be obtained by calling 765-361-0100.

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