

SEJ Journal

The Quarterly Publication of the Society of Environmental Journalists

Vol. 1 No. 3

In this issue

SEJ NEWS

■ SEJ President Jim Detjen introduces Amy Gahrn, the Society's first records manager; Lists organizations that have paid for member dues, but not identified for whom they paid page 2

FEATURES

■ Science Angles. Steve Nash reviews the problems associated with a pet turtle craze, compliments of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and traffic in rare plants and animals sought by collectors page 7

■ Winners of major journalism awards announced, although no one cops a Pulitzer this time for environmental reporting page 8

VIEWPOINTS

■ Chris Darling of U.S. Citizens Network on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development offers update on 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil page 9

REPORTERS' TOOLBOX

■ Monty Fowler offers suggestions on indispensable reference texts, both expensive and free page 10

NEW MEMBERS

■ List of new members as SEJ roll tops 500 page 12

CALENDAR

■ Scientific conferences, symposia and conventions listed page 14

THE GREEN BEAT

■ Contact list of Green Beat correspondents, by state page 17

■ A state-by-state roundup of dominant issues, exceptional reporting, and developments in academic programs and newsrooms page 18

Environmental reporting on the chopping block?

War and Recession

Reporters still optimistic on job security, future

By JULIE HAUSERMAN

It was late 1990 and the publisher was getting nervous. The news hole was shrinking. The business pages looked as gloomy as the view from a Baghdad bomb shelter.

At a time of hiring freezes, travel cutbacks and shrinking advertising revenues, could the environmental beat fall to the budget axe?

In December, I posed this question to environment writers across the country at both large and small papers from Maine to California.

Their answer was a resounding — and comforting — no. Sure, times are tough,
(Continued on page 5)

A reporter's reflections on Kuwait's devastation

By RAE TYSON

KUWAIT CITY — It was a frustrating journey from Washington, D.C., that should have taken two days but lasted nearly a week, thanks to a myriad of bureaucratic obstacles. But I had finally reached my destination: Kuwait's ravaged Al-Bersan oil field.

What a sight it was. Even though I had been writing about the oil fires for weeks (and had seen plenty of video images), nothing had prepared me for the environmental destruction.

Saddam Hussein had indeed scorched the earth.

Oil fires by the hundreds raged out of
(Continued on page 6)

U.S. Senator Tim Wirth, host of experts slated for first SEJ National Conference

U.S. Senator Tim Wirth, one of the Senate's leading experts on environmental issues, will speak at SEJ's first national conference in Boulder, Colo., the weekend of Oct. 4-6.

The conference will bring together some of the nation's leading experts on global climate change, air and water pollution, the environmental impact of the Persian Gulf War, nuclear weapons plants, wildlife, electromagnetic radiation, solid wastes and many other issues.

The conference, which is being held at the Clarion Harvest House Hotel, will provide journalists with many practical tips on digging information out of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and other

government agencies. It will also feature experts who can show how to use computer databases and satellite photos in researching stories; how to decide which scientists to believe; how to make sense out of numbers; and how to write clearly and effectively.

"Our aim is to make this conference as useful as possible for both beginners and veteran reporters," said SEJ President Jim Detjen. "We realize that travel budgets are lean because of the recession. We hope that everyone who attends will return home loaded down with practical reporting tips, dozens of story ideas and examples of some of the finest environmental writing in the nation."

Among the scheduled speakers are
(Continued on page 3)

Amy Gahrn hired to manage SEJ member records

A new name appears in this issue of SEJournal, a name you will soon become familiar with. It is Amy Gahrn, who has been hired by SEJ to serve as the society's records manager.

As SEJ's first employee (she will be working part time) Amy is in charge of keeping track of our members and making sure your needs are met. Until now the society has lacked a centralized record to make sure you are being sent copies of the SEJournal, have been mailed a membership certificate and have paid your dues.

Amy has begun the time-consuming task of compiling records kept by our treasurer, vice president, secretary, newsletter co-editors and myself during SEJ's first year and organizing them onto one computer database. With these records we hope to publish a membership directory this summer and increase the efficiency by which the society is run.

Amy, 24, is well qualified to carry out this task. A native of Haddon Heights, N.J., she graduated magna cum laude from Temple University in Philadelphia in 1990 with a bachelors degree in journalism and a minor in general science. She has a strong interest in environmental journalism and has written about endangered species, the cleanup of hazardous wastes, oil spills, industrial landfills and other subjects.

She has worked for a London magazine, a Philadelphia book publisher and as a technical editor for an environmental consulting firm. She is also a computer whiz — knowledge that will prove valuable as SEJ grows from an all volunteer group into a fully functioning professional society.

During less than one year we have grown from little more than an idea into a journalism organization with more than 500 members. Our officers have made every effort to conduct the society's business as best as we can but we admit that there have been inefficiencies. These are to be expected when our officers live in different cities and conduct the society's business after hours and on weekends.

So, if you have not yet received a membership certificate or copies of the SEJournal, please let Amy know. Write to her at 6200 Wayne Avenue, Apt. A305, Philadelphia, PA 19144. She can be reached

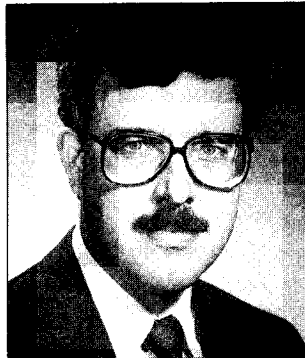
at 215-849-3841.

In fact, if you have any complaints about the society, please let Amy or me know. The only way we will be able to correct misspelled names, incorrect addresses or other problems is if you inform us. Don't suffer in silence. Write or call.

•••

Planning for our first national conference (see front page) is well under way. Because we have limited funds and because this is a recession year, we are attempting to put together a convention on a very modest budget. Nobody is being paid. And with a very few exceptions most

Report from the society's president



By Jim Detjen

of our speakers will be paying their way to the conference.

If you are planning to come and believe you have something valuable to say to other SEJ members at the conference, please let me know. If you have suggestions for either speakers or panels, please write. We'll do our best to accommodate your wishes, if at all possible.

One way to augment the society's income is to sell our membership list to environmental groups, publishers and other

groups. The National Association of Science Writers earns more than \$12,000 each year in this manner. While we don't anticipate earning anything like this (we are a much smaller organization) we have decided to sell our membership list for \$100 to interested people or groups. If you know of someone who would like to buy our list (printed on ready-to-use mailing labels), please write to Amy Gahrn.

•••

You can help us correct one problem that has cropped up as we have merged the records kept by our treasurer and myself. As each of you have been accepted as members we have sent you a bill for your dues. The problem is that some of your organizations have sent in checks without listing who the dues were for. And consequently, we aren't 100 percent sure of everyone who has paid.

Please check the following list of names or organizations that have submitted checks. If you spot your name or the organization which sent in your dues, write to Amy and let her know:

Elizabeth Atcheson (San Francisco), William DeBuys (N.M.), John Fett (WI), Joan Giangrassie (Chicago Tribune), Gledhill-Farley, Grant Green (CA), Joel Hirschorn (Wash., D.C.), Holtzman, Wise & Shepard, W. Johnson (Wash., D.C.), Kansas State University Foundation, Blaire Larsen (UT), Lynda Lester (CO), Daryl Wayne McCollister (TN), Amy P. Munster (VA), Ho C. Nelson (PA), Kathleen Rude (IL), Benjamin Diederik Schalkwuk (Brown Brothers, NY), Pavel Stecha (NY), Jean Stephens (VA), Sally Thurin (MN), Times-Mirror Magazines, David Vis (NJ) and Mary Whitaker (NV).

And if you have not yet submitted your dues, send them to Amy. She will mail you a receipt, if you need one.

Greenwire establishing network of stringers

Greenwire, the new environmental news wire unveiled May 1, is seeking reporters willing to submit copy in exchange for free access to the service, said executive publisher Philip Shabecoff.

Published by the American Political Network of Falls Church, Va., Greenwire is a five-day-per-week, 12-page electronic briefing on national and international

coverage of environmental issues, with some analysis pieces produced specifically for the service. Shabecoff describes it as a digest, rather than a newsletter.

With an annual subscription price of \$3,000, Greenwire's target audience is professionals and business executives. But reporters who cover the environment would

(Continued on next page)

Conference...(From page 1)

Stephen Schneider, one of the nation's leading experts on global warming, and Amory Lovins, an energy conservation expert from the Rocky Mountain Institute.

On Friday, Oct. 4, two special workshops are being planned. The first will feature experts who can provide an overview on toxicology, ecology, risk assessment, environmental laws and other topics. It is sponsored by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, the nation's leading organization of environmental scientists.

A special workshop on using computer databases, such as the Toxic Release Inventory, to extract information from the EPA will also be held Friday. This practical how-to-do-it session is being organized by Bud Ward, director of the Environmental Health Center in Washington, D.C.

In addition, special tours are being scheduled on Friday to the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, the Solar Energy Research Institute and Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

On Friday evening, NCAR will host a special reception for SEJ members. Wirth, who played a key role in strengthening the nation's air pollution laws, is scheduled to speak at that reception.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, NOAA will sponsor a breakfast reception for SEJ members during which agency officials will discuss their research on global climate change.

Award-winning environmental films and examples of some of the best environmental broadcasts on television are being planned for Friday and Saturday nights. A role-playing scenario of an environmental emergency is being arranged by Paul Day, the environmental reporter for KCNC-TV in Denver. And copies of dozens of environmental series' from magazines and newspapers will be available to all who attend.

Some of the panels being planned include:

- How to do environmental projects at small-market newspapers and television

stations.

- How to use satellite photos, computer databases and other new technologies to improve your reporting.

- How to track the emerging environmental issues of the 1990s.

- How to find scientific experts and determine which expert to believe.

SEJ's annual meeting will be held during the conference and a board of directors will be elected. SEJ members will also have a chance to do sightseeing at Rocky Mountain National Park and some of the region's other scenic attractions during Colorado's spectacular autumn.

The cost of the two-and-a-half-day conference is \$70 for SEJ members and \$100 for nonmembers. United Airlines, the official conference airline, is offering conference rates of 40 percent off coach fares and 5 percent off discount fares. You or your travel agent can make reservations by calling the United Airlines meeting desk at 1-800-521-4041 and referring to meeting identification No. 510WA.

Those attending the conference can register at the hotel for \$79 a single room and \$89 a double room each night. The normal cost of these rooms is \$104 for a single and \$115 a double.

To register for the conference, please fill out the form on the next page and mail it to Leslie Aaholm, Public Relations Office, University of Colorado, Campus Box 9, Boulder, CO 80302. To reserve discount rooms at the hotel fill out the form on the bottom of the next page and send it to: Clarion House Harvest Hotel, 1345 28th St., Boulder, Colo. 80303.

SEJournal

SEJournal (ISSN: 1053-7082) is published quarterly by the Society of Environmental Journalists, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone: (202) 408-2725. Membership \$30 per year. ©1991 by the Society of Environmental Journalists.

Co-editors: Kevin Carmody, Bowman Cox.
Assistant Editors: Rick Weber, Susan Nelson.
Graphic designer: Sean Everhart.

SEJournal will accept unsolicited manuscripts from members and non-members. Please contact co-editors Kevin Carmody, (804) 978-7240, or Bowman Cox, (703) 528-1244, for information on submission guidelines and style requirements. Mail letters-to-the-editor and news briefs to Carmody, c/o The Daily Progress, P.O. Box 9030, Charlottesville, VA 22906. Send calendar items to Janet Raloff, Science News, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Send address changes and all correspondence regarding membership matters to SEJ Records Manager — Amy Gahrn, 6200 Wayne Ave., A-305, Philadelphia, PA 19144, (215) 849-3841.

SEJ Board of Directors: President, Jim Detjen, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, (215) 854-2438; Vice President, Rae Tyson, *USA Today*, (703) 276-3424; Vice President, Teya Ryan, Turner Broadcasting, (404) 827-3987; Secretary, Robert Engelman, Scripps Howard News Service, (202) 408-2725; Treasurer, Noel Grove, *National Geographic*, (202) 857-7268; Dennis Anderson, *St. Paul Pioneer Press Dispatch*, (612) 228-5524; Kevin Carmody, *The Daily Progress*, (804) 978-7240; Bowman Cox, Pasha Publications, (703) 528-1244; George Dwyer, ABC News, (202) 887-7982; Julie Edelson, *Inside EPA*, (313) 769-7780; Tom Meersman, Minnesota Public Radio, (612) 290-1474; Paul Nyden, *Charleston Gazette*, (304) 348-5164; and Janet Raloff, *Science News*, (202) 785-2255.

SEJournal is printed on recycled paper.

Shabecoff...(From page 2)

find the service invaluable in tracking developments and trends on issues they're dealing with, said Shabecoff, the former New York Times environmental reporter.

Shabecoff is developing a network of journalists around the country and world to submit environment stories from their newspapers. In turn, those reporters will get to tap into Greenwire, which is accessed by dialing into the Greenwire computer and downloading that day's copy.

Greenwire correspondents in other

countries will be paid for their services.

Shabecoff recently resigned from the New York Times — after 14 years on the environment beat and 32 years with the paper — when he was reassigned to cover the Internal Revenue Service.

Shabecoff says he has filled a fair number of the stringer positions, but is still looking to plug some holes. Reporters interested in the deal can contact Shabecoff at (703) 237-5130 to check if he is still looking for somebody in that area.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM
Society of Environmental Journalists
First Annual Conference
Boulder, Colorado
October 4-6, 1991

Name: _____

Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone (Work): _____

Name/Title as it will appear on badge: _____

For planning purposes, please indicate which of the following free special events you are interested in attending October 4:

- 1) Workshop on computer databases and using the Toxic Release Inventory to obtain EPA records: 1) _____
- 2) Workshop on environmental sciences sponsored by the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry: 2) _____
- 3) Tour of environmental research projects at Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colo.: 3) _____
- 4) Tour of National Center for Atmospheric Research: 4) _____
- 5) Tour of Solar Energy Research Institute in Golden, Colorado: 5) _____
- 6) Tour of National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Labs: 6) _____

Please enclose registration fee when you mail in this form. The cost is \$70 for SEJ members and \$100 for non-members. Please make checks payable to the Society of Environmental Journalists and send your check and registration form to: Leslie Aaholm, Public Relations Office, University of Colorado, Campus Box 9, Boulder, CO 80302. Phone: 303-492-6431.

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
For SEJ National Conference
October 4-6, 1991

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please check the days you are planning to attend:

Thursday, Oct. 3	Single (\$79) _____	Double (\$89) _____
Friday, Oct. 4	Single (\$79) _____	Double (\$89) _____
Saturday, Oct. 5	Single (\$79) _____	Double (\$89) _____
Sunday, Oct. 6	Single (\$79) _____	Double (\$89) _____

Please send this hotel reservation form to:

Clarion Harvest House Hotel
1345 28th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80303

Jobs...(From page 1)

they said. Sure, we may not have the money this year for that big investigative project. But cut the environment beat altogether?

No way, they said.

Then the Gulf War arrived.

The war swept domestic issues onto the back pages and specialty reporters off their beats, especially at small and mid-size papers. They were needed in the seemingly endless quest to localize the war with a human-interest angle.

"During the war there were no local stories on the front page, unless it was someone talking about their son being in the Gulf," said Steve Stuebner, environment writer at the Idaho Statesman in Boise. "That shut down most all in-depth reporting, even Sunday stories."

Yet Stuebner's experience since the war seems to be shared by a majority of the reporters interviewed: "It's pretty much back to business as usual," he said, "and morale has improved."

The economy seems to be stabilizing too.

The environment beat at the Houston Post had been left vacant since late 1990 when veteran reporter Harold Scarlett retired. On April 1, former San Antonio Light military writer Stephanie Glass started on the beat.

"I get plenty of time to delve deeply, with no pressure to produce daily," Glass said. "It's part of a new approach at the paper."

Here's what the other reporters had to say about the status and security of the environment beat:

"I think editors perceive the environment as one of the topics people are going to be interested in during the '90s," said Monty Fowler, environment writer for the 48,000-circulation Herald-Dispatch in Huntington, West Virginia.

"Obviously, until things get better in the news industry, there's going to be pressure to do more with the same amount of people or resources," said Fowler.

More recently, the Herald-Dispatch has restricted travel by car to the counties adjacent Huntington. "I makes it a little difficult, trying to write about a landfill you've never seen," Fowler said. "But elimination of the travel budget was a way

to avoid layoffs, and I'd consider that preferable."

Compare that scenario to the one enjoyed by Tom Harris, who has the job we'd all kill for. Harris, 57, is senior environment writer for the Sacramento Bee.

Including Harris, the Bee has three-and-a-half people who cover the environment. ("We have to dance delicately not to step on each other," Harris says.) Harris devotes at least six months each year to investigative projects, projects that have, in the past, included international travel.

"It's considered one of the cushiest jobs at the paper," Harris said.

Far from the reality of layoffs and hiring freezes that's hitting other newsrooms, Harris said the Bee was hiring during the last two months of 1990.

Obviously, Harris said, it doesn't look as if the Bee has any intention of giving up the environment beat.

Things look a little different at the Casper Star-Tribune in Wyoming. Environment writer Dan Whipple was promoted to city editor, so the environment and energy beat at that 45,000-circulation paper has been empty since late 1990.

"We want to hire somebody, but we're financially constrained at this point," Whipple said last winter. "We're a small paper with a small staff."

In May the paper advertised the position in Editor & Publisher and Whipple expects to fill the position by September.

At the Knoxville (Tenn.) News-Sentinel, environment writer Betsy Kauffman worries that if environment writers are asked to pitch in on other beats, there will be no way to do the sort of thoughtful analysis that editors seek for Sunday centerpieces.

"At times, the beat is so slow, editors might figure it's not important because the issues aren't resolved — they'll think it's something they can just 'get in' when someone's free to do it," Kauffman said.

But things are also looking up in Knoxville. "Since we don't have the war taking up the front page every day, there's more interest again in environmental issues."

Maine has lost its longest-running environment writer. Bob Cummings, a 20-

year veteran of the beat at the Portland Press-Herald and Sunday Telegraph, was offered the option of early retirement as part of newsroom cutbacks, and he took it.

"I would not have had the opportunity to leave quite so profitably had we not had such tough times," Cummings said.

Cummings, 61, said the paper has no intention of giving up environmental coverage. In fact, his replacement — Dieter Bradbury — started Feb 1, several weeks before Cummings hung up his note pad.

"The environment's become a fad again," Cummings said. "If anything, our environment coverage has increased over the last two years. The beat's been endangered several times during the last 20 years. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, when there was less interest, there were certainly discussions about whether I was a luxury they could get rid of."

Randy Loftis, environmental writer for the The Dallas Morning News, said the environment issue "has gotten to the point where the big papers just can't back out of it now."

"I get calls from all over this part of the country from people wanting me to do stories," Loftis said. "If they were told the paper doesn't have anyone to cover the environment, there would be letters to the editor."

Bob Anderson, of the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, agrees: "I'm on the front of our metro section just about every day of the week," Anderson said. "It's just too important an issue in Louisiana. Our year-end poll showed that 80 percent of those polled viewed the environment as very important or important."

Christine Kukka, of the Maine Times, an alternative weekly, said the recession has caused limited cut-backs at her newsroom, where environmental coverage "has always been real bread-and-butter." But she said it is spawning new story ideas.

"With the recession ... all the big industries are seizing on the idea that 'the reason we're having these economic problems is all these stringent regulations.' We're asking, will the big companies use the recession to gut some hard-won victories?"

(Continued on page 11)

Tyson...(From page 1)

control: the heat — even several hundred yards away from a burning well — was unbelievably intense. Some highways were nearly impassable, covered by lakes of accumulated crude oil.

The air was so foul that even a mask offered scant relief.

But my persistence had paid off: I was finally here in Kuwait, covering what may be this year's biggest environmental story. What's more, I had managed to track down an elusive team of U.S. scientists who were in the Middle East to assess the health risks facing Kuwaitis and soldiers alike.

I framed my questions mentally as I watched the group of scientists set up air testing equipment in the middle of this burning desert.

Can you guess what happened next? I certainly didn't.

When I approached a team of EPA and NOAA scientists, they refused to talk.

"Call Washington," they said. "We're not authorized to talk to the press."

And so it was in Kuwait, on an assignment filled with its share of surprises and setbacks.

The idea for a trip to Kuwait was itself borne of frustration.

Even as allied forces were pounding Iraqi positions with relentless air attacks — and Baghdad was responding with Scud missiles, I had been waging a quiet battle of my own in the USA TODAY newsroom.

Like many of you, I had been writing about oil spills and well fires and reporting on the gloomy prospects of global atmospheric impact. But it was a tough story to cover from a distant newsroom: in fact, it reminded me of the difficulties we had several years ago when we tried to accurately write about the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union.

I lobbied relentlessly, hoping, at a minimum, to have a reporter already in the Middle East reassigned to cover the emerging environmental holocaust.

That's when they decided to send me instead.

Now, a month later, I'm on a plane heading home to Virginia and I'm honoring an earlier promise to share my experiences with members of SEJ.

My preparations for the trip began in early March with trips to Georgetown University Hospital for a series of

Saudi Arabia. Along with two other USA Today reporters, we spent five days in Dahrán preparing for the grueling drive to Kuwait and waiting for the necessary credentials from the Kuwaiti and Saudi governments (see Ramadan above).

I rented a four-wheel-drive Isuzu Trooper (a lifesaver, as I learned later), then spent days stockpiling the necessary food, camping gear and spare automotive parts we thought necessary for the trip.

My USA Today colleagues, Jack Kelly and Debbie Howlett, got their visas before I did, so they left for Kuwait in another rented car, leaving me to stew while my visa application stagnated on some bureaucrat's desk (see Ramadan above).

Preferring not to make the harrowing, 300-mile trip alone, I hooked up with an old friend and colleague, Ken Wells, a reporter in the Wall Street Journal's London bureau. He, too, was waiting for his credentials.

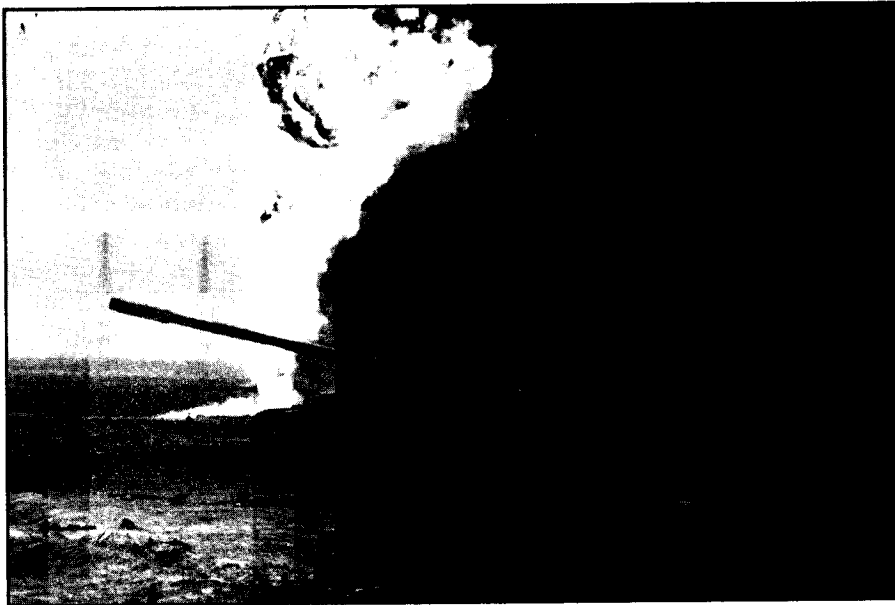
I hadn't seen Ken since we both covered the Valdez oil

spill and now we were both heading to Kuwait to cover another environmental disaster. We spent a fair amount of time debating over which assignment was worse.

(We concluded that Kuwait was tougher because of this unbelievable fact: **THERE IS NO BEER ANYWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** At least in Alaska, there was plenty of alcohol to lubricate reporters' after-hours gatherings).

The trip to Kuwait City was unforgettable. I told Ken it was the first time I had ever driven through a blinding (black) rainstorm while dodging bomb craters and abandoned Iraqi tanks. He was too scared to respond.

Once in the Kuwait International Hotel, we found that conditions had improved somewhat in the days since allied forces



A familiar scene: Damaged Iraqi tank silhouetted by burning oil well

Photo by Rae Tyson

precautionary inoculations followed by a visit to the Saudi embassy for a visa.

I'm not sure which was more painful. Let me explain.

Muslims worldwide were observing Ramadan, a month-long religious celebration. Throughout Ramadan, hours for most offices and businesses were curtailed drastically with most open only a few hours each day.

Ramadan observance delayed my visa in Washington by three days — and affected my work habits dramatically.

Once I got to Saudi Arabia, for example, I also learned that restaurants are closed from sunrise to sunset to coincide with the traditional Ramadan fasting period. So we fasted too.

My initial destination was Dahrán,

Cover Story

had liberated the country.

A generator was providing electricity for the hotel and the kitchen had somehow managed to offer rudimentary buffet service three times a day. We put away our candles, lanterns and stockpiles of canned food.

But water supplies were still lacking: cold showers were offered for just an hour in the morning. And, for consumption, we relied solely on the 20 cases of bottled water we hauled from Saudi Arabia.

Kuwait City itself had been heavily vandalized by Iraqi troops. The once magnificent city was littered with abandoned cars, Iraqi tanks, bunkers and tons of accumulated refuse.

There was also an air of paranoia, even though Iraqi troops had long since retreated. Kuwaiti military checkpoints dotted the region and I don't think any of us ever got used to having a nervous 18-year-old soldier point an automatic weapon at our car.

The fear may have been self-imposed, however. Western journalists were greeted with warmth and friendliness throughout Kuwait. Eventually, we learned that most of the armed aggression was aimed at Palestinians, not journalists.

We also learned how much journalists have grown to depend on telephones since Kuwait had no local phone service at all throughout my stay. When you wanted to ask a question or conduct an interview it had to be in person, which was a chancy proposition at best (see Ramadan above).

About mid-way through my stay, AT&T did restore limited outgoing international service, which meant we could transmit stories electronically instead of dictating over the satellite phone at \$40 per minute. To help compensate for all of these difficulties, the Kuwaiti Information Ministry made guides/translators available. They certainly helped us immensely.

Once settled, I concentrated my reporting on the burning oil wells — and the attempts by a trio of Texas firefighting companies to extinguish those fires.

The firefighting efforts were based at a Kuwait Oil Co. facility in Al-Ahmadi, a city of 60,000 about 35 miles south of Kuwait City. I made the 70 mile round trip at least twice a day so I could monitor firefighting activities.

It would have been easier to stay there longer each time but the oil smoke was so foul I could only stand to breathe it for a

few hours at a time. One day when two teams — Red Adair and Boots & Coots — were both actively capping and extinguishing wells I stayed out there over six hours without a break.

Even though I constantly wore a mask, the overexposure extracted a toll: It took three days and half a bottle of Tylenol to get rid of my headache.

The oil firefighting story was a big one for most of the reporters and network correspondents there with me. In fact, one of the firefighting teams got so annoyed at the interruptions, they quietly moved to a new site just so they could work in peace.

Though it was an incredibly interesting story to cover, it also was obvious that major logistical problems slowed firefighting progress considerably. Essential equipment was slow to arrive from the states; workers were forced to improvise at every turn.

What's more, Bechtel had the awesome engineering responsibility of delivering water supplies to the oil fields, which were at least 10 miles from the gulf.

And, reporters, equipment operators and firefighters alike were slowed by another wartime reality — the desert was filled with Iraqi land mines and unexploded allied bombs.

One firefighter confided that he feared land mines more than anything else about the task he faced. I'm not a firefighter, but the thought of hitting a land mine certainly influenced my driving habits considerably.

After several weeks in Kuwait, it was agreed that interest in the story was starting to diminish. With that decision, I got the necessary travel visa from the Saudi embassy and headed south to Jubail, Saudi Arabia, for my first hot shower in weeks. I also got to do some stories on the Persian Gulf oil spill, which was trapped alongshore just north of the city. From there, I drove back to Dahrn to return my oil-covered Isuzu Trooper, then boarded a plane to the island of Bahrain and a connecting flight home by way of Frankfurt.

Now, as I finish off this piece in the comfort of my own home, NPR just reported a major oil spill off the coast of Italy. Sounds pretty bad to me.

Hmmm, I wonder if

Rae Tyson covers the environment for USA Today.

Science

By
STEVE NASH **Angles**

A review of story ideas and highlights from scientific journals and symposia.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles have sparked a frenzy for pet turtles, the New York Turtle and Tortoise Society says. Result: an illegal black market for baby turtles that can infect children with salmonella. Unwanted turtles of any size, dumped, may become pest species or spread diseases among native types — it happened to the endangered western desert tortoise, says the society's Allen Salzberg, at (718) 275-3307.

International story, local angle ... wild plants and animals, some of them rare, are under pressure from collectors or cash customers. Your neighborhood fanciers of reptiles, insects, coral, tropical fish, ivory, exotic birds, even snails (a couple of Everglades species were collected to extinction), can make serious inroads on wild populations.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Technical Bulletin notes that up to 20 percent of one population of rare Colorado butterflies was taken by collectors in a single season.

The white-topped pitcher plant gained popularity at a florists' trade show in Holland. Now this Southern wetlands species, already marginal, is increasingly harvested for a several-million-dollar market. Mexican and other cycad species are dwindling via over-collection. The pink ladyslipper, an Eastern U.S. orchid, has been pursued into scarcity in some regions. The ones on sale are nearly always snatched from the wild. Many rare cacti and succulents have been stripped from Southwestern and Mexican sites.

Sources for starters: botanist Bruce MacBryde at F&WS (703) 358-1708; Faith Campbell, director of the plant conservation project of the Natural Resources Defense Council, (202) 783-7800; and the World Wildlife Fund's TRAFFIC program, (202) 293-4800. Nina Marshall is the program officer for plants; several staffers can tell you about animals.

See the journal *Oryx*, published by
(Continued on page 11)

But no Pulitzers this year —

Environmental reporting still winning share of awards

The 1990 Pulitzer Prize competition was a wash for environmental journalism, as not a single example of environmental coverage earned a prize or even weighed in as a finalist.

That contrasts with last year, when three Pulitzers were awarded for coverage or commentary on the environment. A year ago there were also two non-winning finalists, for feature photography and explanatory journalism.

Yet, a look at the results of other major journalism contests suggests environmental reporting hasn't slipped too seriously in the media awards hierarchy, which may reflect national journalistic priorities.

Four of the prestigious Sigma Delta Chi Awards went to environmental series or reports, one fewer than last year. Investigative Reporters and Editors, and National Headliners each honored two environmental pieces, while environmental stories won in single categories in the George Polk Awards and National Magazine Awards.

The most widely honored piece of reportage on the environment during 1990 was a series by Eric J. Greenberg in *The News Tribune* of Woodbridge, N.J.

Using FOIA documents, Greenberg's series revealed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, officials of Edison, N.J., and a commercial developer covered up a military toxic waste study and the discovery of unexploded munitions at the U.S. Army's former Raritan Arsenal at the time the land was being approved for residential development.

In the end, Greenberg's reports stopped a \$1 billion waterfront development on the site, which was also contaminated by mustard gas and cyanide. Among the competitions honoring Greenberg's series were Sigma Delta Chi, IRE, and the Stokes Award.

Other multiple award winners were the *Alabama Journal*, for a series on the state's rivers, and *Family Circle* magazine, for reports on toxic waste.

Here are the 1990 winners of national journalism awards, as announced this spring, for reporting on environmental subjects:

SIGMA DELTA CHI AWARDS

- **Public Service In Newspaper Journalism (Under 100,000 circulation)** — *The News Tribune* of Woodbridge, N.J., for a series by Eric Greenberg, as described above.

- **Public Service in Television Reporting (Top 40 markets)** — WRAL-TV in Raleigh, N.C., for a documentary about pollution in the Neuse River. "Troubled Waters," produced by Bill Leslie, Phyllis Parish and Bob Sadler, detailed damage to the once-pristine waterway caused by inadequate sewage treatment, dredging, draining of wetlands and hazardous waste dumping.

- **Public Service in Magazine Journalism** — *Family Circle* for its reports on health risks posed by toxic waste in Jacksonville, Ark. The article by Editor-at-Large Stephanie Abarbanel — "Toxic Nightmare on Main Street" — is peppered with personal accounts of illnesses juxtaposed with denials by city officials that any problem exists.

- **Washington Correspondence** — Marie Cocco and Earl Lane of *Newsday* for their four-part series detailing how the federal government has perhaps become the nation's worst polluter. The series, "Uncle Sam, Polluter," assembled paper-trail evidence not consolidated by any federal agency, thus revealing that the cost of cleaning up federal property likely will dwarf the federal bailout of failed savings & loans.

NATIONAL MAGAZINE AWARDS

- **Public Interest Reporting** — *Family Circle* and Stephanie Abarbanel for previously described article.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS & EDITORS AWARDS

- **Newspapers less than 75,000** — Eric Greenberg, *The News Tribune*, for previously described series.

- **Magazines** — *Family Circle* and Stephanie Abarbanel for previously described article.

GEORGE POLK AWARDS

- **Environmental Reporting** — Adam Seessel of the *The Independent Weekly* in Durham, N.C., for an investigation of a state government cover-up of defects at a hazardous waste facility.

NATIONAL HEADLINERS

- **Outstanding News Reporting, Circulation under 50,000, 2nd Place** — The *Alabama Journal* staff for a series describing the growing damage to Alabama rivers, the cozy relationships between state agencies and industrial polluters, and the state's procrastination in posting signs warning against eating fish contaminated by toxic metals and chemicals.

- **Column Writing, 2nd Place** — Scott Allen, *The Patriot Ledger*, Quincy, Mass., for a series of columns on various environmental topics.

SCRIPPS HOWARD NATIONAL JOURNALISM AWARDS

- **Meeman Award, Circulation Above 100,000** — *Orlando Sentinel*, for three separate reports: A text and photo package on the plight of the manatee, a series on the poor survival rate of dolphins in captivity and a special report on the source of pollutants that threaten the Everglades. Staff members participating in those projects were special projects editor John Huff; reporters Jeff Brazil, Sean Holton, Cindy Schreuder and Craig Dezern; and photographers Red Huber, George Romaine and John Raoux.

- **Finalists:**

- *Seattle Times* staff for ongoing coverage of the economic and environmental conflict over setting aside millions of acres of forest land to preserve the Northern spotted owl.

- *Newsday* and writers Earl Lane and

Earth Summit set for Brazil in 1992

Marie Cocco for previously described series.

— The Sacramento Bee and reporter Tom Knudson for the series "Golden Land, Shattered Earth," that explores the environmental impacts and politics of mining in the West.

● **Meeman Award, Circulation Under 100,000** — The Alabama Journal staff for the previously described series.

● **Finalists:**

— The Bremerton (Wash.) Sun for a team reporting effort led by environment writer Christopher Dunagan, outdoors reporter Seabury Blair Jr., and reporter Jack Swanson. The paper's continuing 9 month series explored different human activities — from fishing to logging — and their effect on the ecosystem of Hood Canal, the only glacial fjord in the continental U.S.

— Poughkeepsie Journal for an editorial series by Meg Downey and Mary Beth Pfeiffer urging creation of the Hudson River Valley Greenway, a proposed network of parks and cultural and historical sites from New York City to Albany.

— The Idaho Falls Post Register staff for a series on the Endangered Species Act and what it means to the future economy and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest.

● **Excellence in Broadcast Journalism: Large Market Radio** — WCBS Radio, New York, and reporter/producer Art Athens for a 10-part series on sick building syndrome, including tips on recognizing symptoms, determining the source of indoor air pollutants and getting the problem corrected.

THOMAS STOKES AWARD

● **Winner** — Eric Greenberg of The News Tribune for previously described series.

● **Honorable mention:**

— Marilyn Mitchell, Alisa Stingley and Susan Traylor of The Times, Shreveport, La., for a series documenting a legacy of air, land and water pollution in Louisiana.

— Tom Knudson, The Sacramento Bee, for the previously described series.

By CHRIS DARLING

In June 1992, a bold experiment in a new level of world government, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The agenda of the conference — known as the Earth Summit — addresses how to protect the environment while providing for present and future human needs.

The five major goals of the conference are international treaties on: global warming; protection of plants and animals; protection of the world's forests; the creation of Agenda 21, an environmental and developmental agenda for the 21st Century; and adoption of an Earth Chapter that would provide an ethical foundation for restoring balance in human relationship with the Earth.

Additionally, conference participants — which will include heads of state — will seek to create financial mechanisms for implementing new environmental initiatives, transferring technologies to the Third World and reforming international institutions.

The UNCED Secretariat in Geneva headed by Maurice Strong is at the center of it all. Mr. Strong was the Secretary General for the first U.N. Conference on the Environment in 1972 and has taken an aggressive role by proposing Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter as goals of the conference.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will play a major role in the conference. NGOs will be able to participate fully in all meetings before and during the UN-sponsored conference. NGOs will be operating on an equal footing with national governments.

There are a myriad of both governmental and NGO meetings scheduled in preparation for the conference but the main advance work is happening at the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings. Two have already happened and two more are scheduled for Geneva in August and in New York City in March 1992.

The PrepComs are run by the conference's chairman Tommy Koh of Singapore, an experienced and thoughtful diplomat who is good at building consensus.

At the PrepComs, discussion has been split into three working groups. The first working group, chaired by Sweden, deals with atmosphere, climate change, land resources, forests and biodiversity. The second group, chaired by Nigeria, deals with oceans, freshwater, wastes and toxics. The third group, chaired by Czechoslovakia, deals with legal and institutional reform.

The United Nations Environment Program is working to draw up a treaty on biodiversity and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) is drawing

Viewpoints

Is a regular feature of SEJournal, offering a forum to non-journalists who deal with environmental issues and the media.

up a climate change treaty.

The United States, with its emphasis on oil production and consumption, as opposed to conservation and alternative energy sources, is perceived as the greatest obstacle to a substantive global warming treaty.

The February meeting of the INC for a climate change convention, held at Chantilly, Va., was the first time that the U.S. acknowledged the importance of action, as opposed to further study, in dealing with global warming. Nonetheless, all its proposals for action were so weak that they effectively blocked negotiators from agreement on anything but the most broad and meaningless generalities.

It is widely known that White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, with his strongly pro-business orientation, is orchestrating the delaying tactics at the climate change negotiations. Anytime that the U.S. takes a conservative position in anything dealing with the conference many involved wonder whether Sununu has interfered again.

A major tension in conference negotiations is between the developed countries, represented by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the Third World, represented by the Group of 77 (now actually 129), which is chaired by
(Continued on page 11)

Key reference books can breathe life into the beat

By MONTY FOWLER

Who is SARA, and when is she going to call in a PRP to get with her TAT? The answers are at the end of this story.

In the meantime, admit it, the world of environmental reporting is probably filled with more confusing acronyms, unpronounceable words and 10-syllable phrases than just about any other beat.

Some good reference books can make the difference between writing a story in what I call EPAspeak even you don't really understand, and one that brings it down to the normal reader's level of understanding

and concern.

Reference and guide books can look intimidating at first glance, especially those that tell you about chemicals and their effects.

Reporters' Toolbox

Is a regular feature of SEJournal, in which experienced reporters provide tips on gathering news about environmental issues.

But for most of us, especially those journalists who have trouble dealing with

numbers (Hey, who doesn't?), reference books are necessary tools.

The bad news is, some of the ones you may want to get are on the expensive side.

The good news is, some of the others are free or almost so.

The one I have found most helpful in dealing with chemicals is Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary.

Since it is organized like a dictionary, it is fairly easy to find what you are looking for. Just be wary of substances that have similarly-spelled names but very different properties.

A basic library for environmental journalists...

This is not intended to be the end-all source list.

What it can do is provide a relatively cheap way to build up your knowledge of the environmental field.

A word about prices: some of these are cheaper ordered through your local bookstore; or, if you're near a university, medical school or regional EPA office, they may have some titles available for copying.

Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary, 11th edition. N. Irving Sax and Richard J. Lewis Sr., Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York, \$61.95. Call 1-800-926-2665 or write 115 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003 for ordering information. Anybody, even someone who flunked high school chemistry, can use this dictionary. Even if the price seems steep, it is invaluable for looking up complex chemical names and gives you a breakdown on its properties, how it's made, hazards and uses. Products listed by chemical and trademark names. A Fowler "Best Buy."

Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials, 7th edition. N. Irving Sax, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., New York, \$395 for three-volume set. Exhaustive detail on hundreds of substances, but designed for people with a medical-technical bent.

Emergency Response Guidebook. U.S. Department of Transportation, FREE if you can wheedle one

from your local fire or ambulance outfit, or call your state Office of Disaster Emergency Services/Emergency Preparedness. Indispensable for decoding the diamond-shaped hazard placards on the sides of trucks, trains and all hazardous materials shipments. Get the 1990 version, it replaces the 1987 edition. A Fowler "Best Buy."

Chemicals, Press and the Public: A Journalist's Guide to Reporting on Chemicals in the Community. Environmental Health Center, National Safety Council, 1050 17th St. N.W., Suite 770, Washington, DC 20036, single copies FREE. Good sections on SARA "Right to Know" and Toxic Release Inventory, plus how to hook into the U.S. EPA's TRI computer listings, how to cover chemical emergencies and how to evaluate the information. Good sources list. A Fowler "Best Buy."

The Strip Mining Handbook: A Coalfield Citizens Guide. Friends of the Earth, 218 D St. S.E., Washington, DC 20003, \$9.95. If you live in a coal mining area, get this book. Breaks down complex laws into easily understandable segments and not only tells what to look for, but how to spot violations and follow up on them with regulators.

Chemecology. Chemical Manufacturers Association, 2501 M St. N.W., Washington, DC 20037, (202) 887-1100, FREE subscription. Useful trade publication for keeping track of what's happening around the country, especially with hazardous wastes.

Environment Writer. Environmental Health Center, National Safety Council, 1050 17th St. N.W., Suite 770, Washington, DC 20036, (202) 293-2270, FREE subscription. A newsletter that has tips on story ideas, reviews of relevant articles from a variety of fields. A Fowler "Best Buy."

The Next 100 Years: Shaping the Fate of our Living Planet. Jonathan Weiner, Bantam Books, FREE at the Library, otherwise \$21.95. Very readable, comprehensive discussion of global warming, the greenhouse effect and how everything is interconnected to everything else.

50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth. The Earthworks Group, P.O. Box 25, Berkeley, CA 94709, (415) 841-5866, \$4.95. Don't laugh. There is some good factual data in here that can be used to spice up any environmental story.

Citizens Guide for Environmental Issues: A Handbook for Cultivating Dialogue. National Institute of Chemical Studies, single copies FREE. Excellent source of layman's-language definitions, geared for ordinary people. Has sections on hazardous waste, health and safety, air and water pollution, community safety and solid waste. Also summaries of major federal environmental laws. Source list slanted to West Virginia, but helpful nonetheless. Call (304) 346-6264 or write NICS, 2300 MacCorkle Ave. S.E., Charleston, WV 25304. A Fowler "Best Buy."

As a companion to that, when covering chemical accidents or Superfund cleanups, a copy of the federal government's Emergency Response Guidebook is almost essential.

With this pocket-sized guide, you can decode the diamond-shaped placards or stickers that are supposed to be on the side of every train, truck, car or drum containing a hazardous material.

The back of the book tells emergency personnel, and by extension you, what action to take for various types of material, along with a special section for especially hazardous substances.

I would recommend having several copies on your desk and, if possible, equipping every photographer's car with a copy, since they are usually the first to run out into harm's way. The invaluable information in the Guidebook can make sure they come back.

After that, there are a variety of inexpensive source books (see box, previous page) that can help flesh out your knowledge.

Also, it never hurts to call the public relations people at your regional EPA office, and ask them to send you any of their plethora of pamphlets that might be useful.

Now for the answers:

SARA, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, gave the Superfund toxic waste site cleanup program more life. Its most significant addition was Title III, Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know, which requires companies to report to the federal government every year how much of more than 300 toxic substances they emitted.

PRP, potentially responsible party, is a company tagged by the EPA as one that might at one point have owned, operated or contributed waste to a Superfund site, and so under federal law could become liable for the entire cost of the cleanup.

TAT is EPA speak for Technical Assistance Team, a group of outside experts hired to help clean up Superfund sites.

Monty Fowler is environmental and health reporter for The Herald-Dispatch in Huntington, W.Va. He has covered Superfund site cleanups, environmental lawsuits and West Virginia's emerging environmental movement.

Summit...(From page 9)

Ghana.

G-77 is primarily interested in ways that developed nations will support and pay for development of poorer nations and has basically said that it will pay more attention to the environment if OECD and other rich nations will pay more money.

OECD nations are leery of paying more money, particularly the U.S. The success of the conference depends more on resolution of tensions between the developed and underdeveloped nations than probably any other single factor.

NGOs and Third World governments are often unable to send representatives to conference preparatory meetings so those countries are nearly always under-represented.

Under-representation by Third World countries and NGOs could be a major barrier to the conference's success and several small funds have been established to help pay for their travel expenses.

Another important conference group are the world's indigenous people who are represented by neither the industrialized nor Third World countries. They have begun attending preliminary sessions although so far mostly North American Indian tribes have been able to come.

A major part of the conference preparations are writing national reports that are due July 31. These reports are reviewing environment and development policies of the last twenty years and discussing their implications.

Nash...(From page 7)

Britain's Society for the Preservation of Flora and Fauna, and New Scientist for leads, as well as the British journal Traffic and specialized publications like the Cacti and Succulent Journal and the American Orchid Society Bulletin.

More background: Fitzgerald, S. 1989, International Wildlife Trade — Whose Business Is It? World Wildlife Fund, 459 pages; D. Fuller and S. Fitzgerald, eds., Conservation and Commerce in Cacti and Other Succulents, 1987, World Wildlife Fund, 264 pages.

Medicinal uses are a problem. There's a lucrative international market for bear

In the United States, the President's Council on Environmental Quality is overseeing preparation of the national report. A draft of that report will be discussed with non-governmental experts around the country this spring.

The major non-governmental player in the United States is the U.S. Citizens Network for UNCED, which exists to promote awareness of the conference and is seeking to influence the Bush administration to take more progressive and less pro-business stands. If the Network is dissatisfied with the U.S. national report — which seems likely — it is prepared to issue an alternative national report.

Chris Darling is a member of the U.S. Citizens Network on United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. He is based in Baltimore, Md.

Jobs...(From page 5)

As for things here at the Tallahassee Democrat, a 60,000-circulation Knight-Ridder paper in Florida's capital, we've got cutbacks and a dismal budget.

Maybe I'm naive, but I don't think my beat is in jeopardy. A headline that ran on our reader survey story last year said it all: "Top reader priority: Color it Green."

Naturally, I hung it over my desk.

Julie Hauserman covers environment for the Tallahassee Democrat

and other animal parts. Wild ginseng, in high demand, now has some legal protection. Taxol holds promise for treating ovarian cancer, but it takes 360 tons of dried Pacific yew bark to yield the 55 lbs. of taxol that the National Cancer Institute seeks for tests. If the tests are a success, environmental groups say, the species could be threatened (The Economist, 2/9/91).

Tips for this column should be sent to Steve Nash, 10006 Stonemill Rd., Richmond, VA 23233. Nash is a freelance writer and teaches environmental reporting at the University of Richmond.

New Members

The following list represents new SEJ members recorded from Dec. 1, 1990, to May 1, 1991.

Memberships recorded after May 1 will appear in the Fall issue of SEJ Journal.

Alabama

- Glynn Wilson, Gulf Coast Newspapers, Gulf Shores

Alaska

- Richard Mauer, Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage

Arizona

- Loraine M. Stiles (Academic), University of Arizona, Tucson

California

- Denny Bozman-Moss (Academic), Santa Rosa Junior College, Healdsburg
- James H. Hayes (Academic), Brock Center for Agricultural Communication, San Luis Obispo
- Christine Kent, Crittenden News Service, Novato
- Connie Koenenn, Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles
- Laura L. Mahoney, Bureau of National Affairs, Playa del Rey
- Gary J. Polakovic, The Press-Enterprise, Riverside
- Frankie Lee Slater (Associate), Champions Inc., Santa Monica
- Susan Sullivan, Riverside Press-Enterprise, Riverside
- Cyndia Zwahlen, Los Angeles Daily News, Woodland Hills

Colorado

- Susan Hale Abbot, Mediacom, Ft. Collins
- Peter Caughey (Academic), University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder
- Reed Glenn, (Freelance), Boulder
- Jan Knight-Sinner, Fort Collins Coloradoan, Fort Collins
- Lynda M. Lester (Associate), National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder
- Lawrence Mosher, High Country News, Paonia
- Kristopher R. Passey, The Daily Journal, Denver
- Betty R. Rosenberg (Academic), University of Colorado, Boulder
- Jim Scott (Academic), University of Colorado, Boulder
- Timothy Andrew Wieland (Academic), KUCB Radio, Boulder
- Kris M. Wilson (Academic), University

of Colorado, Boulder

Connecticut

- Leslie Clark, Greenwich Time, Greenwich
- Carl Frankel, Market Alert Publications, Bethlehem
- Carolyn Ladendorf, Business & Legal Reports, Madison
- Dianne Selditch (Associate), Freelance, Old Greenwich

District of Columbia

- Charles Campbell, Associated Press
- Betsy Carpenter, U.S. News & World Report
- Winthrop P. Carty, Global Edition
- Wilson Dizard III, McGraw-Hill Nuclear Publications
- Pat Durkin (Associate), Freelance
- William W. Eby, Agri-Pulse Communications
- Gretchen Flock (Associate), JT & A Inc.
- Glenn Garelik, Time Magazine
- A. Adam Glenn, Broadcasting Publications
- Bruce S. Kaufman, Bureau of National Affairs
- Elizabeth Lee, Global Edition
- Richard Minter (Associate), Competitive Enterprise Institute
- Helene C. Monberg, Western Resources Wrap-up
- Gwen Moulton, Bureau of National Affairs
- William G. Schmitt, Kiplinger Washington Editors
- Terri Shaw, Washington Post
- Nancy Shute, Freelance
- Linda Starke (Associate), Freelance

Florida

- Valerie Berton, The (Daytona Beach) News-Journal, DeLand
- Nick Bogert, WTVJ-TV, Miami
- David B. Newport, Florida Environments, High Springs
- Chuck Weber, WPEC-TV, West Palm Beach

Idaho

- Roland "Rocky" Barker, Post Register, Idaho Falls
- Glenn Oakley (Associate), Freelance photographer, Boise

Illinois

- Lorraine Seeley Buell (Associate), Freelance, Skokie
- Earon S. Davis (Associate), Freelance, Evanston
- William W. Frerichs (Associate),

Freelance, Wheaton

- Todd Sloane, City & State Magazine, Chicago
- Candace Stuart (Academic), University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago

Indiana

- Scott Abel (Academic), National Institute for Advanced Reporting, Indiana University, Indianapolis

Iowa

- Brian James Button (Academic), Iowa State, Ames

Kansas

- Michael J. Dorcey (Academic), Kansas State University, Manhattan
- Jean A. Hays, Wichita Eagle, Wichita
- Gina Kellogg Hogan, Engineer's Digest, Overland Park

Kentucky

- Diane Cameron Lawrence (Associate), WFPL-FM, Louisville
- Jim Malone, Daily Independent, Ashland

Maryland

- Daphne White (Associate), Freelance, Takoma Park

Massachusetts

- Stephanie Ocko (Associate), Freelance, Brookline
- Peter P. Thomson, Living on Earth, Cambridge

Michigan

- Jeff Alexander, The Muskegon Chronicle, Grand Haven
- Thomas Grose, TJFR Publishing, Sterling Heights
- Robert E. McTyre, Michigan Chronicle, Detroit
- Gwen Shaffer (Academic), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- Suzanne Wood, The Lansing State Journal, Lansing

Minnesota

- Debbie Bihler, Business Ethics Magazine, Chaska

Missouri

- William Allen, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, St. Louis

Montana

- Bert Lindler, Great Falls Tribune, Great Falls
- Stephen M. McQueeney (Academic), University of Montana, Missoula

New Members

● Lilly Tuholske (Academic), University of Montana, Missoula

New Hampshire

● Nelson H. Lawry, (Freelance), Rollinsford

New Jersey

● Phyllis Gottlieb (Academic), Rutgers University, New Brunswick
● Jonathan A. Gottscho (Academic), Bernardsville
● Michael T. Olohan (Associate), Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service, New Brunswick

New Mexico

● Chuck McCutcheon, Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque

New York

● Libby Bassett (Associate), Freelance, New York
● Marc Breslav (Associate), Freelance, Garrison
● Glenn Coin, Observer-Dispatch, Utica
● Christine M. Dorsey (Academic), Ithaca College, Ithaca
● Roxane Farmanfarmanian, McCall's, New York
● Craig Llewellyn LaMay (Associate), Gannett Foundation Media Center, New York
● Daniel Markham, WTN News Corp., New York
● Pamela Meyer, National Geographic, New York
● Yvette Moy, New York Daily News, Bayside
● James Quigley (Academic), Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Flushing
● Paul Raeburn, Associated Press, New York
● Susan Reed, People Magazine, New York
● Leslie Ware, Consumer Reports, Mt. Vernon
● Denny Wilkins, Middletown Times Herald-Record, Middletown
● Roxanne Zimmer (Academic), College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle

North Carolina

● Jack Horan, Charlotte Observer, Charlotte
● Mary Newsom, Charlotte Observer, Charlotte

Ohio

● Bret Atkins, WCMH-TV, Columbus
● Saimi Rote Bergmann, The Alliance Review, Alliance
● Scott Burgins, Cincinnati Enquirer,

Cincinnati

● David Donald (Academic), Kent State University, Kent
● Earle M. Holland (Academic), Ohio State, Columbus
● Pamela Jane Lockwood (Academic), Ohio University, Athens
● Michael Malley, Huebcore Communications, Cleveland
● John D. Miller, Freelance, Cleveland
● Sarah Williams (Academic), Ohio State University, Columbus

Oregon

● Stephen Ponder (Academic), University of Oregon, Eugene

Pennsylvania

● Carl W. Brown Jr., Reading Eagle, Reading
● James Burris, The Mercury, Pottstown
● Samuel P. Hays (Academic), University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
● Martin C. Pflieger, The Morning Call, Allentown
● Michael Silverstein (Associate), Freelance, Philadelphia

Rhode Island

● Timothy S. Kelley, WLNE TV 6, Providence

South Carolina

● Stephanie A. Neal (Academic), University of Georgia, Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, Aiken

Tennessee

● Anne B. Paine, The Tennessean, Nashville
● L. Carol Ritchie, Nashville Banner, Nashville
● Daniel Schaffer (Academic), University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge

Texas

● Jane J. Ayers, Freelance, Austin
● Walter Borges, Texas Lawyer, Austin
● Robert D. Cullick, Houston Chronicle, Austin
● Katherine S. Feibleman, The Baytown Sun, Baytown
● Vic Kolenc, El Paso Herald-Post, El Paso

Utah

● Donald E. McIver (Academic), Utah State University, Logan

Vermont

● Karen Conner (Academic), Institute for Social Ecology, Plainfield,

Virginia

● James W. Howe, Land Letter Newsletter, Arlington
● Amy Suzanne King, Inside Washington Publishers, Arlington
● Michael H. Martz, The Richmond News-Leader, Richmond
● Ed Miller, Shenandoah Free Press, Woodstock
● Rick Weber, Inside Washington Publishers, Arlington

Washington

● David Boardman, The Seattle Times, Seattle
● Peter Donaldson (Academic), Bellingham
● Christopher B. Dunagan, The Sun, Bremerton

West Virginia

● Lee Chottiner, Dominion Post, Morgantown
● Ken Ward Jr., The Charleston Gazette, Charleston

Wisconsin

● Kristann Conrad (Academic), Madison
● Dr. Robert Griffin (Academic), Marquette University, Milwaukee
● Mike Ivey, Capital Times, Madison
● Meta Reigel (Academic), University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
● Christine L. Thomas (Academic), University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point

Wyoming

● Ann M. Boelter (Academic), University of Wyoming, Laramie
● Michael Milstein, Billings Gazette, Cody

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Bangladesh

● Moinuddin Naser, Holiday (newspaper), Dhaka

Canada

● Robert Semeniuk (Associate), Freelance, Vancouver, BC
● Tony Leighton, EcoSource, Guelph, Ontario

Spain

● Jose-Carlos Perez-Cobo (Academic), University of Basque Country, Victoria

Taiwan

● Joseph Rupp (Associate), Freelance photographer, Peitou

Calendar

MAY

19-23. **Society for Ecological Restoration Annual Conference.** Will focus on restoration of national forests, third-world tropics and phosphate-mined lands. Orlando, Fla. Contact: SER, 1207 Seminole Hwy, Madison, WI 53711 (608) 262-9547.

20-21. **Bugs, Mold & Rot: Identifying and remedying moisture damage in existing residential structures.** Sponsored by Building Thermal Envelope Coordinating Council, its speakers have promised new and unexpected findings on indoor air quality. Washington Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. Contact: Neil Sandler, National Institute of Building Sciences (202) 289-7800.

20-24. **International Conference on Modeling and Mitigating Consequences of Accidental Releases of Hazardous Materials.** Sponsored by EPA, American Meteorological Society and American Institute of Chemical Engineers. Fairmont Hotel, New Orleans, La. Contact: Center for Chemical Process Safety, AIChE, 345 E. 47th St., New York, NY 10017.

JUNE

3-5. **Conference on Great Lakes Research.** Sponsored by International Assn. of Great Lakes Research, will include sessions on zebra mussels, restoration of Lake Erie, toxins and human health. North (Amherst) Campus of University of Buffalo. Contact: David Webb, University of Buffalo news bureau (716) 636-2626.

11-13. **Technologies for a Greenhouse-Constrained Society,** sponsored by the Energy Department, will focus on three issues: energy efficiency, biomass and nuclear power. Oak Ridge, Tenn. Contact: Joe Culver, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (615) 576-0226.

11-13. **Third Forum on Innovative Hazardous Waste Treatment Technologies,** sponsored by EPA. Fairmont Hotel, Dallas. Contact: JACA Corp., 550 Pinetown, Rd., Ft. Washington, PA 19034 (215) 643-5466 or Thomas R. De Kay at EPA (202) 475-6691.

12-13. **Air Quality Congress.** Sponsored by Environmental Engineers and Managers Institute and Association of Energy Engineers, it will include sessions on CFC-phaseout technologies, indoor air pollution, meeting Clean Air Act

requirements. Hynes Convention Center, Boston. Contact: Association of Energy Engineers, 4025 Pleasantdale Rd., Suite 420, Atlanta, GA 30340 (404) 925-9633; FAX: (404) 381-9865.

13-14. **Covering the Environment: A Workshop for Journalists,** sponsored by University Extension, University of California — Davis. The program is designed for general assignment journalists who find themselves sometimes reporting on complex environmental issues without the background they need to do a thorough job. University campus, Davis, Calif. Contact: Connie Alexich at (916) 757-8878. To enroll, call (800) 752-0881, or outside California (916) 757-8777.

16-21. **Air and Waste Management Association annual meeting,** including 55 papers on indoor-air quality; 140 papers on ozone, hydrocarbons and air toxics; 45 papers on toxic chemicals; 95 papers on incineration; and 95 papers on by-products and waste minimization. Vancouver, British Columbia. Contact: Jon Fedorka, A&WMA, P.O. Box 2861, Pittsburgh, PA 15230 (412) 232-3444.

19-22. **Symposium on History of Agriculture and the Environment,** sponsored by U.S. Department of Agriculture and Agricultural History Society. National Archives Building, Washington, D.C. Contact: Douglas Helms, Soil Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, DC 20013 (202) 447-3766.

JULY

10-12. **HMC-Northeast '91,** Boston, sponsored by Hazardous Materials Control Research Institute. Contact: HMC-Northeast '91, 9300 Columbia Blvd., Silver Spring, MD 20910-1702 (301) 587-9390; FAX (301) 589-0182.

10-12. **UCLA International Conference: Impact of Natural Disasters.** Will focus on developing approach to disasters — including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, droughts and environmental problems — at all levels. UCLA, Los Angeles. Contact: Samuel Aroni, GSAUP, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (213) 825-7430; FAX (213) 206-5566.

15-19. **1991 Summer Toxicology Forum,** sponsored by Toxicology Forum Inc., will include talks on food labeling, reproductive toxicology, dioxin and animal

cancer tests. Aspen, Colo. Contact: Charlene Anderson (202) 659-0030; FAX (202) 789-7594.

21-26. **Health Physics Society Annual Meeting.** Will focus on effects of radon and other forms of radiation. Washington, D.C. Contact: Ed Tupin (301) 443-2850 or Nancy Newman (301) 496-5774.

SEPTEMBER

23-27. **11th International Symposium on Chlorinated Dioxins and Related Compounds.** Research Triangle Park, N.C. Contact: University of North Carolina School of Public Health, CB #8165, Miller Hall, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27599-8165 (919) 966-4032; FAX (919) 966-7141.

OCTOBER

4-6. **Society of Environmental Journalists First Annual Conference.** Boulder, Colo. Contact: Leslie Aaholm, Public Relations Office, University of Colorado, Campus Box 9, Boulder, CO 80302, (303) 492-6431.

6-8. **Environmental Carcinogenesis and Its Prevention: The Head and Neck Cancer Model Conference.** Hershey, Pa. Contact: Carol D. Harreld, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, TX 77030 (713) 792-2222; FAX (713) 794-1724.

14-18. **EMF Science and Communication Seminar,** Electric Power Research Institute's 5th annual conference on 60-hertz electric and magnetic fields. Red Lion Hotel, San Jose, Calif. Contact: Robert S. Banks Associates Inc., Attn: EPRI Utility Seminar, P.O. Box 14574, Minneapolis, MN 55414-0574 (612) 623-4646; FAX (602) 623-3645.

NOVEMBER

3-7. **Environmental Interfaces: Scientific and Socioeconomic,** 12th annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry. Seattle, Wash., convention center. Contact: SETAC at 1101 14th St., NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 371-1275.

5-8. **Health Effects of Gasoline.** Miami, Fla. Contact: David Diusbennett, American Petroleum Institute, 1220 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005 (202) 682-8333; FAX (202) 682-8270.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SEJ

Society of Environmental Journalists

1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005 • Phone: (202) 408-2725

Instructions:

1. Fill out application form as completely as possible. Attach additional pages if necessary.
2. You may attach a current resume or brief biography. Freelance journalists should attach three samples of their work.
3. Do NOT attach payment for dues. If accepted for membership, you will be billed for \$30 annual dues.
4. Mail to: Society of Environmental Journalists, 1090 Vermont Ave., N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, D.C. 20005.
5. Applicants will be notified in writing of the membership status granted.

A. To be completed by all applicants.

NAME _____ HOME PHONE _____

HOME ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

EMPLOYER _____ TITLE _____

WORK ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

WORK PHONE _____ FAX _____

(Note: Students applying for Academic Membership should provide address and phone during school year, and date of graduation)

DESCRIBE DUTIES (STUDENTS MAY DESCRIBE GOALS): _____

HOW LONG IN CURRENT POSITION? IF LESS THAN 2 YEARS, SUMMARIZE WORK HISTORY & DUTIES FOR THAT PERIOD:

AREA OF EMPLOYMENT: Newspaper Magazine Newsletter News Service Television News Radio News
Freelancer Educator Student Other _____

HAVE YOU DONE ANY FREELANCE OR SIMILAR WORK DURING THE PAST YEAR, EITHER ON PAID OR VOLUNTEER BASIS, FOR ANY ORGANIZATION, BUSINESS OR MOVEMENT NOT PRIMARILY ENGAGED IN JOURNALISTIC OR ACADEMIC PURSUITS AS DEFINED BELOW? YES NO IF YES, PROVIDE DETAILS AND DATES: _____

HAVE YOU DONE LOBBYING OR PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK IN THE PAST 2 YEARS? YES NO IF YES, FOR WHOM:

CHECK THE CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP (as defined in SEJ Bylaws) FOR WHICH YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE ELIGIBLE:

- ACTIVE** Persons primarily engaged in the gathering, reporting, editing, photographing, producing or cartooning of news for dissemination by regularly published, general circulation newspapers, magazines and newsletters, as well as radio and television stations and networks, news services and other media available to the general public.
- ACADEMIC** Persons on the faculty or enrolled as students of an accredited college, university or other school, who have an interest in environmental issues.
- ASSOCIATE** Those individuals, such as freelancers, who do not qualify for ACTIVE or ACADEMIC membership but who, in the majority opinion of the SEJ Board, will contribute to the attainment of the objectives of SEJ. (See section "C" of application.) Applicants must be substantially engaged in journalistic pursuits.

B. To be completed by applicants for active or associate membership.

IS YOUR EMPLOYER OR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY OR AFFILIATED WITH ANY ORGANIZATION OR MOVEMENT NOT PRINCIPALLY IN THE BUSINESS OF CONVEYING NEWS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC? YES NO IF YES, WHAT ORGANIZATION OR MOVEMENT? _____

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY ADVERTISING _____, PAID SUBSCRIPTIONS _____, MEMBERSHIP DUES _____, OR OTHER _____? IF OTHER, PLEASE SPECIFY _____

C. To be completed by applicants for associate membership.

HOW WOULD YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS CONTRIBUTE TO ATTAINMENT OF THE SOCIETY'S GOALS (i.e. ENHANCING THE QUALITY & ACCURACY OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING)? _____

D. To be completed by all applicants.

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISTS. I UNDERSTAND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETAINS SOLE AUTHORITY IN DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN ANY CATEGORY.

Signature

Date

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF SEJ? WE'LL SEND THEM DETAILS AND AN APPLICATION:
NAME _____ ORGANIZATION _____
ADDRESS _____
Street City State Zip

FOR USE ONLY BY SEJ MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Date received _____ Application complete _____ Form of payment _____
Date reviewed by committee _____ Recommendation _____
Class of membership granted / date of action _____
Effective date of membership: January 1, 19__ April 1, 19__ July 1, 19__ October 1, 19__

Green Beat Correspondents

Contribute to Green Beat

The Green Beat is designed as an idea exchange for environmental journalists and educators. It relies on information submitted by reporters about important issues, outstanding coverage, and developments in environmental education and the communications profession — on a state-by-state basis. To submit ideas, or copies of series for possible mention in The Green Beat, contact the SEJ correspondent for the appropriate state(s). They are:

Orlando, FL 32801, (407) 420-5787.

Georgia and South Carolina — Charles Pope at The (Columbia, S.C.) State, P.O. Box 1333, Columbia, SC 29202, (803) 771-8413.

Idaho and Montana — Stephen Stuebner at the Idaho Statesman, Box 40, Boise, ID 83707, (208) 377-6413.

Iowa — Cynthia Hubert at the Des Moines Register, P.O. Box 957, Des Moines, IA 50304, (515) 284-8000.

Hawaii — Peter Wagner at the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, HI 96802, (808) 525-8699.

Louisiana — Bob Anderson at The Morning Advocate, Box 588, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, (504) 383-1111.

Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont — Kevin Ellis at the Burlington Free Press, 191 College St., Burlington, VT 05401, (802) 865-0940

Maryland and Delaware — Tim Wheeler, the Evening Sun., 501 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21278, (301) 332-6564.

Michigan — Karl Bates at the Ann Arbor News, P.O. Box 1147, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1147, (313) 994-6701.

Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota — Dennis Anderson at the Pioneer Press-Dispatch, 345 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101, (800) 950-9080.

Missouri and Kansas — Mike Mansur at the Kansas City Star, 1729 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108, (816) 234-4433

Nebraska — Al J. Laukaitis at the Lincoln Journal, 926 P Street, Lincoln, NE 68501, (402) 473-7257.

New Jersey — David Vis at the Press of Atlantic City, Devins Lane, Pleasantville, NJ 08232, (609) 272-7254.

New York — Steve Orr at the Democrat & Chronicle, 49 Atkinson St., Rochester, NY 14608, (716) 258-2386

Nevada — Mary Manning at the Las Vegas Sun, 121 S. Martin L. King Blvd., Las Vegas,

NV 89106, (702) 383-7125.

Ohio and Indiana — Marcy Mermel at The Indianapolis News, 307 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 633-9233.

Oregon — Kathy Durbin at The Oregonian, (503) 221-8548 or Dan Postrel at the Salem Statesman-Journal, 280 Church St., NE, Salem, OR 97309, (503) 399-6737.

Pennsylvania — Ralph Haurwitz at The Pittsburgh Press, P.O. Box 566, Pittsburgh, PA 15230, (412) 263-1986; fax (412) 263-2014.

Puerto Rico/Caribbean Islands — Albi Ferre at El Nuevo Dia, Box 297, San Juan, PR 00902, (809) 793-7070, ext. 2165.

Tennessee and Kentucky — Tom Charlier at The Commercial Appeal, 495 Union Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, (901) 529-2381.

Texas and Oklahoma:

North Texas and Oklahoma — Randy Loftis at The Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, TX 75265, (800) 431-0010.

Central and West Texas — Robert Michael Bryce at the The Austin Chronicle, P.O. Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765, (512) 473-8995.

East and Coastal Texas — Bill Dawson at The Houston Chronicle, Box 4260, Houston, TX 77210, (713) 220-7171.

Utah and Wyoming — Jim Woolf at the Salt Lake Tribune, P.O. Box 867, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, (801) 237-2045.

Virginia and North Carolina — Cyril Zaneski at the Virginian Pilot, 150 West Brambleton Ave., Norfolk, VA 23517, (804) 490-7219.

Washington State — Karen Dorn Steele at the Spokesman Review & Chronicle, Box 2160, Spokane, WA 99210-1615, (509) 459-5000

West Virginia — Monty Fowler, The Herald-Dispatch, 946 Fifth Ave., Huntington, WV, 25701, (304) 526-2802.

Wisconsin, and Illinois — Chuck Quirnbach of Wisconsin Public Radio, 111 E. Kilbourn Ave., #1060, Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-8686 or (608) 263-7985.

Alabama and Mississippi — Sharon Ebner at the Sun Herald, P.O. Box 4567, Biloxi, MS 39635-4567, (601) 896-2355.

Alaska — Richard Mauer at the Anchorage Daily News, Box 149001, Anchorage, AK 99514, (907) 257-4200.

Arizona and New Mexico — Jon Sidener at the Arizona Republic, P.O. Box 1950, Phoenix, AZ 85004, (602) 271-8185.

Arkansas — Bobbi Ridlehoover at the Arkansas Democrat, Capitol & Scott Streets, Little Rock, AK 72201, (501) 378-3596.

California:

Northern California — Tom Harris at the Sacramento Bee, 2100 Q St., Sacramento, CA 95852, (916) 321-1001.

Bay Area/San Jose — Jane Kay at the San Francisco Examiner, Box 7260, San Francisco, CA 94120, (415) 777-8704.

Southern California — Lynn Deihl at KSBY-TV, 467 Hill St., San Luis Obispo, CA. 93405, (805) 544-2224.

Colorado — Joe Verrengia at the Rocky Mountain News, 400 West Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80204, (303) 892-5346.

Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts — Bob Wyss at the Providence Journal, 75 Fountain St., Providence, RI 02902, (401) 277-5176.

District of Columbia — Damon Chappie, Bureau of National Affairs, 1231 25th St., N.W., Wash., DC 20037, (202) 452-4408.

Florida:

North Florida — Beverly Keneagy at the Florida Times-Union, P.O. Box 1949, Jacksonville, FL 32231, (904) 359-4316.

South Florida — Mary Beth Regan at the Orlando Sentinel, 633 N. Orange Ave.,

The Green Beat

ALABAMA

► "For a week in December 1990, The Alabama Journal took its readers on a journey down the state's major waterways," explains the newspaper on the front of a 20-page reprint of the series. "What the Journal found was rampant pollution, dying ecosystems and a state government unwilling or unable to address the problems." The information was amassed and presented by a team of writers, editors, photographers and designers. The reprint of the series, which ran in the Montgomery paper from Dec. 17-21, is available from the Journal's managing editor, Jim Tharpe, at (205) 261-1516.

ARKANSAS

► Incineration of PCBs would never have happened in as populated an area as El Dorado if Adlene Harrison, former regional director of the federal Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas, were making that decision today, she said last December. Enesco Inc. received the second authorization in the nation to incinerate polychlorinated biphenyls in this Southern town of 25,000 population.

► Also in December, a review of state pollution control agency records revealed that a number of serious problems had been found by the state's on-site inspector at Enesco. One of the most serious conclusions the inspector made was that Enesco didn't have the ability to operate its No. 2 kiln within its permit limits. The records included reports of fires, numerous incidents of heavy emissions and improper storage. But Enesco hired the inspector and the reports stopped. For more information, call Bobbi Ridlehoover or Don Johnson at (501) 378-3485.

► A businessmen's committee to investigate potential industry use of the Quachita River Navigation System was formed in January in South Arkansas. They call the \$50 million navigation project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "obvious pork barrel" and have urged the state's Attorney General to sue the Corps, if necessary, to get the river managed for fishing and recreation, instead of navigation. For more information, call

Bobbi Ridlehoover at (501) 378-3485.

CALIFORNIA

► "Race, Poverty & the Environment" is a new newsletter launched by the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation and the Urban Habitat Program of Earth Island Institute to examine the issue of low-income minority groups facing pollution and political alienation in the United States. The four past issues had stories on minority battles and social change around the country, profiles on leaders, and career opportunities. The newsletter is published quarterly, available for \$8 a year. Order subscriptions from RPE, Earth Island Institute, 300 Broadway, San Francisco, CA 94133.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

► The Environmental Reporting Forum was formed in February to assist television and radio journalists in meeting the challenges of covering the environment. The Forum is a joint effort by two Washington-based media groups, the Radio-Television News Directors Foundation and the Media Institute. Funding for the new group is being sought from media companies, corporations, foundations and individuals. For more information, contact: Richard Kaplar of the Media Institute at (202) 298-7512, or David Bartlett at the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation at (202) 659-6510.

FLORIDA

► The St. Petersburg Times published a three-part series on the impact of agriculture on Florida's water supply. The stories concluded that waters flowing beneath and above ground carry millions of pounds of pesticide and fertilizer remnants each year. For copies, contact: David Rogers, 1-800-333-7505.

► The Tampa Tribune published a three-part series on the South's dwindling forests. The stories look at the timber industry and show how conservation efforts are forcing changes in logging practices on public lands in the South. For copies, contact: Booth Gunter, (813) 272-7600.

► The Orlando Sentinel has published three major reports on the environment. Stories

include a two-day series on dolphins, a four-day report on the Everglades as well as a special section on endangered manatees. For copies, call John Haile, editor, (407) 420-5411.

► Florida health and environment officials have launched a \$300,000 study to determine the source of mercury contamination in the state. High levels of mercury have been found in fish taken from one third of Florida's lakes, rivers and streams. Health officials have issued numerous advisories against eating fish from those waters, but have not identified the source of pollution. Possible sources of mercury contamination could be illegal dumping, batteries, power plants, incinerators and latex paints. For further information, contact: Jack Maynard at the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, (904) 488-4805.

► A proposal by the Interior Department to resume oil and gas leasing in the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida coast has met with resistance from environmental groups and Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles. The federal government wants by 1997 to lease 1.1 million acres of the Florida Panhandle, coming as close as 10 miles offshore. Chiles is urging that President Bush establish a 100-mile-wide buffer zone around Florida banning oil and gas drilling. A 30-mile buffer already is in place around Florida's peninsula and in the Panhandle as far west as Apalachicola, but it leaves about 160 miles of the western Panhandle unprotected.

GEORGIA

► The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Charles Seabrook reported in February on a novel plan by Gov. Zell Miller to curb pollution. Miller announced he would seek legislation requiring Georgia industries to pay \$25 for every ton of pollutants they pump into the air. The measure would generate up to \$9 million a year to enforce the state's air protection law. The same measure would make violators subject to criminal fines and jail for dirtying the air. Georgia industries now are subject only to civil fines when they exceed the maximum amount of sulfur dioxide, particulates, hazardous chemicals and other regulated pollutants. For Georgia's biggest polluters

The Green Beat

— coal-fired plants and paper mills — the costs of complying with the new legislation will run into millions of dollars annually.

IDAHO

► The Idaho Statesman in Boise and Idaho Falls Post-Register followed the deliberations of the Salmon Summit Committee over the past six months, culminating in reports on the group's stalemate over a recovery plan for five petitioned stocks of Columbia River Basin salmon. Due to major economic and social fallout from the listing of the spotted owl as a threatened species, Sen. Mark O. Hatfield set up the summit as a way to devise a recovery plan for imperiled salmon runs and possibly avert its listing as endangered species. The Mediation Institute of Seattle presided over the 30-member Summit Committee (*see next item*).

► On April 2 the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed listing Snake River sockeye salmon as endangered, a move that, if upheld, would require drastic changes in dams on the Columbia River that supply much of the Pacific Northwest with electricity. Sockeye is a type of Pacific salmon that spawns near the Continental Divide in Idaho. The NMFS will announce in June whether Snake River Chinook will also be proposed as endangered. Contact Steve Stuebner at The Statesman, (208) 377-6413, or Rocky Barker at Post-Register, (208) 522-1800, for more information, or see the April 3 New York Times.

► The Statesman and Post-Register covered a dispute between the U.S. Department of Energy and Idaho Governor Cecil Andrus over the Governor's ban on shipments of nuclear waste to the DOE's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Could be used as material for a national story on states trying to ban the DOE from turning them into a de facto nuclear waste dump. Contact Steve Stuebner at The Statesman, (208) 377-6413, or Rocky Barker at Post-Register, (208) 522-1800.

ILLINOIS

► Health and environmental risks from common home products is the focus of a new consumer awareness newsletter

published in Vernon Hills. The Conscious Consumer, published bi-monthly, examines such issues as whether recyclable or recycled products are better for the environment, the risks from household paints and solvents, and the biodegradability of trash bags. For a subscription or other information, call John Wasik at (708) 816-0306.

INDIANA

► The Bloomington Herald-Times published a three-part series about the health effects suffered by Bloomington Westinghouse workers exposed to PCBs from 1957 to 1977. Called "A Legacy of Worry: On the line, working with PCBs," the report ran Dec. 9, 10 and 11. Westinghouse has only recently begun notifying workers who were exposed to PCBs in the electrical capacitors manufactured at the plant that they should get a medical exam. Studies have shown people exposed to PCBs are four times more likely than normal to develop malignant melanomas and twice as likely to develop brain cancer, said reporter Laura Lane. Herald-Times reporters Lane, Steve Hinnefeld, Steven Higgs, Stephen Beaven, Jeff McFadden, Ann Kibbler, Tim Jackson, Jackie Scheckler worked on the series through nine months of planning, development and reporting. Copies are available from the newspaper at PO Box 909, Bloomington, IN 47402 or by calling (812) 332-4401.

► U.S. District Judge John D. Tinder struck down portions of an Indiana law targeted at eliminating the influx of out-of-state waste. The law required haulers to declare under oath where the trash was collected, and required a health or environment official from the state of origin to certify that the garbage contained no hazardous or infectious waste. Tinder determined that the requirements discriminated against haulers whose loads came from other states in violation of the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. Gov. Evan Bayh and legislators during this year's Indiana General Assembly are working on other ways to reduce the flow of the waste into Indiana. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., also has reintroduced legislation in the Senate that would allow states to restrict or

ban out-of-state waste if they have compiled long-term solid waste planning. For information, contact Marcy Mermel at The Indianapolis News, (317) 633-9233.

IOWA

► The state of Iowa has determined it will have to spend as much as \$400 million to clean up contamination from leaking underground fuel tanks. The large cleanup price tag indicates officials earlier underestimated the number of leaking tanks when they drafted the state's financial aid program, which has been called one of the most generous in the country. In response to these cleanup projections, state legislators are considering easing toxicity regulations, which were ordered by Congress two years ago, to cut costs. Financial aid programs in some states have already gone bankrupt. For more information on national cleanup requirements, contact: Gwen Brown at EPA (202) 382-4384. In Iowa, contact: Robb Hubbard of Williams & Company of Sioux City, (712) 252-4041.

► More than 90 percent of Iowa's lakes and streams fail to fully meet state water quality standards for specific uses such as swimming, fishing and drinking, according to a recently released report. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires all states to file biennial reports on the quality of ground water and surface water to satisfy requirements of the federal Clean Water Act. To find out how your state fared, contact: state natural resources officials or the EPA's Water Office at (202) 382-7400.

► The cost of cleaning up Iowa's worst toxic waste dump has exceeded \$11 million and the bulk of expenses, which includes a large portion for legal fees, has fallen directly into the laps of taxpayers. Contamination at Aidex, a former pesticide plant, occurred 15 years ago when a fire destroyed much of the contents of one of the company's buildings. Aidex later declared bankruptcy. The Des Moines Register used documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act to detail cleanup expenses, and found that a huge chunk of money went to lawyers rather than direct cleanup costs.

The Green Beat

KANSAS

► Despite its farm image, Kansas ranked 13th in the country in toxic releases, largely because of one chemical company in Wichita. Sixty percent of the state's pollutant discharges were deep well injections at Vulcan Chemicals. The Wichita Eagle has closely followed Vulcan, recently reporting Vulcan's pledge to discontinue the injections. The Kansas City Star also has explored the safety of the injections. Contact Jean Hays, the Wichita Eagle, (316) 268-6557.

KENTUCKY

► Andrew Melnykozych has been handling the environment beat at the Courier-Journal since last September. Melnykozych, 38, came to the paper from the Casper, Wyo., Star Tribune, where he worked as environmental reporter and manned the Washington bureau. In Louisville, his primary focus so far has been on solid-waste and air-pollution issues.

LOUISIANA

► The New Orleans Times-Picayune in February completed a series called "The Chemical Industry's Toxic Toll," which looks at the quantity of dangerous chemicals being discharged in Louisiana and what the effects have been on the air, ground water and residents in certain communities. Copies can be obtained from reporters James O'Byrne or Mark Schleifstein at (504) 826-3300.

► The New Orleans Times-Picayune series follows one by the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate entitled "Not a Drop to Drink," which details ground water pollution problems caused from industry, pesticides, leaking underground tanks, landfills, abandoned hazardous waste sites and other sources, and how those problems have affected individuals. Copies can be obtained from environmental editor Bob Anderson at (504) 383-1111.

MARYLAND

► Environmentalists and fishermen are seeking to overturn the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approval of

Maryland's water-quality standard for dioxin, which allows 100 times as much of the cancer-causing chemical into state streams as EPA recommends. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Maryland Conservation Council and three other environmental groups, plus several individual fishermen, filed suit against EPA Jan. 29 in U.S. District Court in Richmond, Va. The suit contends that EPA, by approving Maryland's dioxin standard, has endangered the health of people who fish the Potomac River downstream of a Westvaco paper mill in Luke, Md. Maryland's standard, adopted Sept. 12, 1990, sets a dioxin limit of 1.2 parts per quadrillion. EPA has proposed a limit of 0.013 parts per quadrillion, low enough to limit extra cancer risk to one in 1 million. Environmentalists say Maryland's dioxin limit was the weakest approved so far by EPA, but the agency on Feb. 25 approved Virginia's 1.2 ppq standard. Meanwhile, a bill has been filed in the Maryland General Assembly which would require the state to adopt EPA's recommended limit. Westvaco officials say reducing their dioxin discharge to that level would cost the firm \$100 million.

MASSACHUSETTS

► Diane Dumanoski, an environmental writer for the Boston Globe, has been directing much of her attention recently to the global warming issue. In particular, the Globe has spotlighted the Bush Administration's increasing isolation in relation to the rest of the international community in taking the issue seriously. A separate area she has been working on has been the increasing deterioration of zoos in the greater Boston area. For additional details, contact: Diane Dumanoski at (617) 929-3000.

► Gannett-owned television station WLVI, Channel 56 in Boston, since October has been airing a 30-minute program called Green Watch believed to be one of the few locally-produced broadcasts in the country that focuses on the environment. Recent reports looked at a potential oil spill in Boston Harbor, why the nation does not have an energy policy, and an investigation which showed that local landfills would take barrels of toxic waste without asking

questions about their origin. The program, with a staff of five, airs Sunday at 6:30 and 11:30 p.m. For details, contact: Lisa Schmidt, (617) 265-5656.

MICHIGAN

► When a tanker full of gasoline was ripped away from its loading pier and exploded in a ball of flame in Bay City, it made front pages across the country and closed the Saginaw River for a week. The Bay City Times did a special section to dissect the causes of the accident that killed one seaman and injured 11 others, and looked at how well local, state and federal agencies responded to the blast. "If it had been out on the bay instead of on the river, they wouldn't have been able to do anything," said Beth McKenna, environmental writer at the Times. Copies of the tabloid can be obtained from McKenna at the Bay City Times, 311 Fifth Street, Bay City, MI 48708.

► Michigan environment writers were encouraged to look for the economic underpinnings of environmental problems, such as air pollution and the solid waste crisis, at a seminar put on by the Foundation for American Communications. The April 26 session in Ypsilanti featured Robert Stavins of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and University of Michigan environmental law professor James Krier. For information about other FACS programs contact Julie Healey or Telford Work at (213) 851-7372.

► In anticipation of an alarming report on Great Lakes toxicity, the fishing tackle industry started circling the wagons in January and issued an appeal to outdoor writers to expose the report's author, the National Wildlife Federation, "for what it is." The NWF report, released Feb. 26, renews the organization's conclusion that Great Lakes fish are more of a health risk than consumption advisories might indicate. Written in conjunction with the Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy, "A Prescription for Healthy Great Lakes," sets forth a formula for restoring the quality of the lakes in 30 years, including a ban on 70 toxics, and protecting health with more stringent consumption advisories. Copies of the

The Green Beat

report are available from National Wildlife Federation, Public Affairs Department, 1400 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036-2266.

MISSISSIPPI

► The state is trying to determine if it has the power to regulate hazardous waste disposal sites on Indian lands. The Mississippi Band of Choctaws is seeking federal approval of plans to build a hazardous waste landfill in Noxubee County, but plans to authorize and monitor the landfill. Two other disposal projects have been proposed on Choctaw land. Some tribal residents disagree with the Tribal Council's decision to pursue a landfill. Mississippi presently has no commercial hazardous waste treatment or disposal operations and the state has formed a task force to site one under federal requirements for disposal plants. Contacts: The Mississippi Band of Choctaws, Chief Phillip Martin and William Richardson, economic development director, at (601) 656-5251; Tribal Council Member Hayward Bell, who voted against the proposal, at (601) 656-5251; the state Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control Director Charles Chisola at (601) 961-5100; and State Attorney General Mike Moore at (601) 359-3680.

► The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson examined "Mississippi's Troubled Waters" in a four-day series on surface and ground water pollution throughout the state. The three month investigation by environmental reporter Sharon Stallworth reviewed contamination from underground storage tanks, industrial waste water, overloaded waste water treatment plants, soil erosion and agricultural runoff. For a copy of the series, call Clarion-Ledger Librarian Susan Garcia at 1-800-222-8015.

MISSOURI

► State officials are perplexed over the inability of the Midwest Interstate Low-level Radioactive Waste Commission to select a dump site in Michigan, the host state for Missouri and five other states. Michigan has delayed siting a dump site, says the group's executive director, Gregg Larson. But Michigan says it's trying to be

prudent in its search for the proper site. Nonetheless, the result is clear: Missouri and other member states of the waste compact will have to hold radioactive waste at least through 1993. For more information, contact Larson in St. Paul, Minn. at (612) 293-0126.

► In a computer-assisted analysis of toxic releases, The Kansas City Star found that Kansas City area companies failed to decrease their discharges of toxic chemicals in 1989. Because Missouri does not put its reports on computer, the newspaper constructed its own data base for Missouri counties in the Kansas City area and compared the data to 1988 data from EPA. Contact: Mike Mansur at The Kansas City Star, (816) 234-4433.

NEBRASKA

► A comprehensive statewide solid waste management plan is being developed by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control. This is the first such plan for Nebraska, which, like many other states, is wrestling with the problems of waste disposal. Nebraska has more than 200 unlicensed landfills. Most are expected to close once the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency establishes new guidelines for landfills and their operations. The state Department of Environmental Control plans to soon hold public meetings across the state to hear people's concerns about solid waste management. A Kansas City consulting firm hired by the state for \$334,000 will write the comprehensive plan due later this year.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

► Dartmouth students started the first paper-free environmental "newspaper," distributing issues to readers on-line to individual computers. "We think we have the only completely electronic newspaper, but someday all newspapers will be distributed like this," says editor Clay Fong. Each issue contains four articles as well as regular departments, such as environmental news summaries and a calendar of events. A recent article provided an analysis of the environmental effects of the Gulf War. For more information, contact: Kathryn Clark (603) 646-2117.

OHIO

► Ohio environmental officials have begun flexing their laws to reduce the amount of trash coming in from other states. On Nov. 2, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Richard Shank revoked solid waste permits and the operating license of Crossridge Landfill in Jefferson County based on past criminal convictions of owner Joseph Scugoza. The state's Environmental Board of Review determined Dec. 20 that the agency could not revoke the permits without a hearing. However, the board told Shank he could deny future permits for the landfill, which is located near Steubenville. Shank announced he denied the permits Jan. 4. About 97 percent of the trash that had been accepted by the landfill originated outside Ohio. The action was taken using a 1988 law that prevents anyone who has been convicted of a felony within the previous five years from operating a landfill in Ohio. For more information, contact Jane Dailey at Ohio EPA, (614) 644-2165.

► The Akron Beacon Journal has reported that Ohio officials test only 50 fish a year to decide whether to issue fish consumption advisories. A proposal before the Ohio legislature would provide \$1.5 million more for the first two years to increase the number of fish tested. The tests cost \$1,200 to \$2,000 per fish. For information, contact Bob Downing at the Beacon Journal, 44 E. Exchange St., Akron, OH 44328 or (216) 996-3745.

OREGON

► While a fight is raging about logging in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, some areas already protected from the chainsaw face trouble of a different sort. Many wilderness areas, which by law are supposed to remain pristine, are suffering from overcrowding, littering, trail erosion and other damage. And the problem might get worse as a growing population puts more recreational demand on the nation's wild lands. In Oregon, the U.S. Forest Service has responded with a permit system that, when fully implemented, will limit numbers of visitors to three popular wilderness areas. Such systems already operate in California and elsewhere but they are new to much of the Northwest.

The Green Beat

The Statesman Journal in Salem has run articles about overuse damage in several prominent Oregon wilderness areas. Clips and more information are available from Dan Postrel, (503) 399-6737.

► A new study conducted for the Oregon Department of Energy shows a high level of public concern about the transportation of nuclear waste. More than 60 percent of Oregonians who were surveyed feared that radioactive waste transport might cause health or safety problems. The survey has some national significance: The U.S. Department of Energy is expected to use it in producing public information programs about nuclear waste transport. Large amounts of waste could hit the highways in coming years if the government sticks to its plans to open a disposal site for spent fuel now accumulating at nuclear power plants. Additional details, including copies of the survey documents, are available from Ken Niles at the Oregon Department of Energy, (503) 378-4906.

PENNSYLVANIA

► The Philadelphia Business Journal has published a two-part series on the uses and abuses of the Delaware River, "the region's most ecologically and economically vital waterway." Copies are available from environmental reporter Mike Fabey by calling (215) 238-1450 or writing him at the Philadelphia Business Journal, 718 Arch St., Suite 6 N, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

► The U.S. Office of Surface Mining has issued its annual report evaluating Pennsylvania's administration of coal mining laws. The report examines the state's regulatory and abandoned mine reclamation programs. For information or a copy, contact the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, 1951 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20240; or call (202) 208-4006.

► A story by the Philadelphia Inquirer's Mark Jaffe revealed that a surprisingly large number of states—20—have issued advisories on eating lake fish because of elevated levels of mercury. Scientists say that the source of the mercury is apparently coal-burning power plants, and that acid rain plays a role in causing the mercury to

enter the food chain. For a copy, write Mark Jaffe, The Philadelphia Inquirer, 400 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19101; or call (215) 854-2430.

RHODE ISLAND

► Environmental terrorism versus legal intimidation was the issue spotlighted in a story in Dec. 1990 in the Providence Journal Bulletin. The story told how a grass roots organization had tried unsuccessfully for three years to block a 20-acre development in Warwick, R.I. Now the developers are suing the organization for \$500,000, charging that the group engaged in "environmental terrorism" by imposing needless delays that cost the firm money. The community group says the legal action is a SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) aimed at intimidating environmental groups across the state from raising their voice to future projects. For details, contact Peter Lord, Providence Journal-Bulletin, (401) 737-3000.

► The Providence Journal-Bulletin has been publishing a series of stories titled "Living with Chemicals." The first, Feb. 10, used data from the federal Toxic Release Inventory and state air monitoring results to focus on one Providence firm that over the last five years has resisted regulators and is continuing to spew a stream of carcinogenic emissions into the air. Between Feb. 17 and 19 three more articles were published reporting that more than 8 million pounds of extremely hazardous chemicals are stored in Rhode Island. The Journal built a computer data base from various records to compile that figure. It also reported how local communities are failing to prepare for a chemical accident. For details, contact: Bob Wyss, Providence Journal-Bulletin, (401) 277-7364.

SOUTH CAROLINA

► South Carolina's continuing battle to close its borders to out-of-state waste of all types was a major story early in the year. The (Columbia, S.C.) State examined the legal, technical and political issues in a series of stories appearing over several months. The state's borders were flung wide open in January, perhaps permanently, by a federal judge who ruled that barriers to

chemical, radioactive and infectious garbage are unconstitutional. In a ruling with broad national implications, District Court Judge Matthew Perry threw out three critical state laws and regulations that were designed to restrict the flow of waste into South Carolina. Perry ruled those measures interfered with interstate commerce, and were thus illegal. The barriers were erected in response to a belief by many South Carolinians that the state was taking a disproportionate share of hazardous waste and that other states were slow in moving to build their own disposal facilities, principally North Carolina. The case was brought last year by the Hazardous Waste Treatment Council, a trade organization that represents 70 companies involved in waste disposal, including ThermalKEM Inc. and Laidlaw Environmental Services, two major companies operating in South Carolina.

► The future of the federal Energy Department's Savannah River nuclear weapons facility was the subject of a wide array of stories. Both the (Columbia, S.C.) State and the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle published stories about the future of the aging facility and difficulties returning a 1950s era nuclear reactor to service. Coverage was highlighted on Feb. 8 when the department unveiled long awaited plans that foresee a smaller, less-expensive nuclear weapons production network that by the year 2015 could shrink to seven major facilities. Both newspapers also reported in February that the department had opted to build a single, second-generation production reactor at a site to be determined and to permanently shut down an aging nuclear reactor at the Savannah River Site. The decision throws wide open the contest for the multibillion dollar reactor, a contest South Carolina and Idaho won in 1988.

TENNESSEE

► Anne Paine, although a general assignment reporter, continues to develop her specialty in the environment for the Tennessean, Nashville's morning newspaper. At the afternoon Nashville Banner, L. Carol Ritchie is the new full-time environmental reporter. Hot topics at the state capitol include the search for a

The Green Beat

new landfill, the proposed expansion of a resource-recovery plant and health concerns related to the electro-magnetic fields surrounding utility lines.

► Wetlands have become one of the predominant issues for Tom Charlier, environmental reporter for the Commercial Appeal in Memphis. Other environmental issues explored lately range from dioxin contamination in area rivers to lead-smelter pollution to composting.

TEXAS

► Highway construction has forced the golden-cheeked warbler on the endangered species list. On Dec. 27 the golden cheeeked warbler, a rare songbird that nests only in mature juniper trees in Central Texas, was given official federal protection. The listing of the bird on page 53157 of the Federal Register contained an interesting passage: "Highway construction has destroyed warbler habitat in Texas, and planned future construction would destroy and fragment additional warbler habitat. From 1989 to 2009, the number of lane miles in the State is projected to increase from 183,496 to 241,363 and the number of vehicles registered is projected to increase from 13,970,000 to 17,183,100. Over the next twenty years, the Texas State Department of Highways and (Public) Transportation ... plans to spend over sixty billion dollars on highway construction." The budget of the Highway Department has become increasingly controversial. One of the largest agencies in the state, the department gets more than \$1 billion per year from the state gasoline tax alone. The Texas legislature will review the department's budget this spring. Contact: Robert Bryce at the Austin Chronicle (512) 473-8995.

► After years of battling, the Formosa Plastic Co. has agreed to do a federal environmental impact statement on the facility the company is building on the coast near Point Comfort. Although the company will not halt construction on the \$1.55 billion plant, the EIS could give local fishermen and environmentalists the ammunition they need to halt the project. Contact Diane Wilson of the Calhoun County Resource Watch at (512) 785-2364 or Rick Abraham at (713) 529-8356.

► The Balcones Canyonlands Habitat Conservation Plan enters a critical stage. With all the biological work completed, state, local and federal officials are considering a comprehensive preserve system that will protect nine endangered species in and around the Austin area. The golden-cheeked warbler, the black-capped vireo and seven rare cave dwelling invertebrates will be protected by a 64,000 acre preserve system that will cost more than \$100 million. The costs of the preserve network will be borne primarily by the city of Austin with help from the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Contact Robert Bryce at the Austin Chronicle (512) 473-8995.

UTAH

► Bioremediation, a process that uses bacteria to clean up petroleum spills, is being used successfully to decontaminate a 26,000-gallon jet fuel spill at Hill Air Force Base in northwest Utah. The technology, say scientists, holds promise as a cheap solution to cleaning up leaking underground gasoline storage tanks. Reporters at the Standard-Examiner in Ogden have been following the progress, which is a cooperative research project of the military, Utah State University and several environmental firms. For more information, contact: Pat Bean at the Standard-Examiner, 455 23rd St., Ogden, Utah 84402, (801) 625-4224.

► The growing number of businesses specializing in environmentally safe products or plowing part of their profits back into environmental causes was the focus of a four-part television series entitled the "Greening of Utah." For more information contact: Rod Jackson, KTVX-TV, 1760 S. Fremont Dr., Salt Lake, Utah 84104, (801) 972-1776.

► The Army's proposal to build a \$14.4-million biological defense laboratory at the Dugway Proving Ground in western Utah is generating a great deal of controversy. Critics fear that disease-causing organisms could escape and endanger the public. The Army's experts say the laboratory is safe and needed to prepare for an attack with biological

weapons. For more information, ask the Army for its "Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Biological Aerosol Test Facility," or contact: Jim Woolf at The Salt Lake Tribune, P.O. Box 867, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110, (801) 237-2045.

WEST VIRGINIA

► The final installment of a massive U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study of air pollution and its relation to resident's health in western West Virginia, eastern Kentucky and southern Ohio was released in December. The first-of-its kind EPA effort utilized microscopic analysis of particulate fallout, resident's medical records, special air monitors and extensive data analysis to see if specific companies could be linked to health complaints from residents. While such links could not be found, the EPA concluded the area's air quality poses a risk to residents and regulations need to be strictly enforced. Copies of stories can be obtained from Monty Fowler, The Herald-Dispatch, 946 Fifth Ave., Huntington, WV, 25701, (304) 526-2802.

► The first test of a controversial new state law that allows residents to vote on whether they want large landfills in their counties occurred in November, when residents of Barbour County voted two-to-one to defeat a landfill that proposed to take more out-of-state trash in one day than the entire state generates in a month. Copies of relevant stories can be obtained by calling the Charleston Newspapers library, (304) 348-4888, or write to the Gazette-Mail at 1001 Virginia St., E., Charleston, WV, 25330.

WISCONSIN

► Wisconsin's on-going air pollution battle with Chicago and the U.S. EPA took another twist in mid-February, when EPA regional officials in Chicago refused to relax southeastern Wisconsin's air pollution classification. Wisconsin officials say the decision would hamper business growth in southeastern Wisconsin and mean mandatory carpooling and other changes for many motorists. Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson thinks the EPA decision is unfair, as it is his contention most of

The Green Beat

Wisconsin's ozone problem is the result of pollutants blowing north from the Chicago-Gary area. Thompson met with EPA Administrator William Reilly in early March, to appeal the regional decision. Environmentalists hope the federal agency does not back down, fearing the move could lead to lax enforcement of the Clean Air Act in other states. For more information, contact Don Theiler, Air Management Bureau, Wisconsin DNR, phone (608) 266-0603.

► The Milwaukee Sentinel reported in December 1990 that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources had cut back on the number of environmental impact statements it performs on proposed

developments. Conservationists argued the trend was weakening state environmental protection efforts. Wisconsin DNR responded that developers were meeting with state regulators early in the proposal process, and making suggested changes that headed off the need for costly impact statements. A committee of the Wisconsin legislature scheduled a late February hearing, to hear more about concerns raised by the Sentinel article. For more information, contact Sentinel reporter, George Stanley, at (414) 224-2162.

► Mining companies continued to advance their efforts to open Wisconsin's first metallic mines since 1982. In January, a state hearing examiner ruled that mining

permits should be granted to Flambeau Mining (its corporate parents are the Kenecott and R-T-Z corporations) to begin work on an open-pit copper mine along the Flambeau River near Ladysmith. Opponents hope court and legislative challenges can still block the project. Meanwhile, the Noranda Corporation and another firm, Wisconsin Mineral Resources, (a subsidiary of N-D-U Resources of Vancouver, British Columbia) have announced they would likely begin asking for state permits to open two other mines in northern Wisconsin. One of the projects would be in the Chequamegon National Forest. For more information, contact Thomas Evans, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey: (608) 263-4125.

SEJournal

Society of Environmental Journalists
1090 Vermont Ave. N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested