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# EARTHCARE TIMES

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Volume 8 Issue 3

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF

September 2003

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## Fall Retreat – November 8th

The seventh annual Creation Care Retreat will be on November 8th. The retreat provides an opportunity for Christians to fellowship together while learning more about Biblical creation care.

This year's program will be more informal than in year's past. The Brainerd Pickers will be with us for the morning. Other acoustic musicians are invited to attend and join in the picking and singing. The music will be intertwined with inspirational readings. Scripture, poetry and other readings will be included.

As usual we will have a "pot luck" lunch and all participants are invited to contribute.

After lunch we will have an inspirational nature hike through the forest of the gorge and along the river. The planned route is about 2 miles. It is not strenuous but the path is rugged and rocky. Good walking shoes or hiking boots are recommended. Biologist from Covenant College and Chattanooga State will be along to add insights and answer question.

Indoor activities are also planned for the indoors for those not wishing to participate in the hike.

Once again we will be guests of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust at their wonderful field station know as the Pot House. The station is deep in the heart of the fourth largest river gorge in the eastern U.S. but only minutes from downtown Chattanooga. The Pot House is situated on the banks of the Tennessee River and surrounded by 400 acres of forest. It is the perfect location for a time of refreshing, fellowship, worship, and inspiration. To reach the station from I-24 and downtown Chattanooga, go north on U.S. Highway 27 and take the Signal Mountain exit. Proceed toward Signal Mountain past the BiLo Grocery, turning left on Suck Creek Road (Tenn. Hwy. 27 West) at the base of Signal Mountain. Continue exactly four miles. After passing the Tennessee Grocery on the

## Book Review

by Laura Young, EarthCare Librarian

*Food Politics: How the Food Industry Influences Nutrition and Health* by Marion Nestle. (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2002).

Marion Nestle is well qualified to write about how the food industry influences government policy and consumer purchasing. She chairs New York University's Department of Nutrition and Food Studies and has served on advisory committees of the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration. "If we want to encourage people to eat better diets," Nestle writes, "we need to target societal means to counter food industry lobbying and marketing practices as well as the education of individuals." Particularly moving are her accounts of food industry's profit making strategies targeting children. "Pouring rights" agreements with public schools have resulted in large profits for soft drink companies, but the downturn is increasing obesity and other diet-related problems among young people. The food industry's lobbying, lawsuits, and opposition to government regulation have resulted in watered down legislation and in some cases deregulation. This is especially true with regards to the FDA attempt to regulate the food supplement industry. As a result, the standards for food supplements are much more lenient than for pharmaceuticals. Moreover, much of the funding for food supplement research comes from the food industry itself, a practice that usually influences the outcome. In another chapter, Nestle describes the controversies between food industry, government, and nutritionists that are seen in the compromises in the USDA Food Guide Pyramid. To a certain extent, the Food Guide Pyramid reflects the interest of the meat and dairy producers. Nestle also documents the struggles between the FDA and USDA. Readers will be more aware of what lies behind government policy, scientific research, and food industry's claims. Essential reading.. ☞

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left and crossing the bridge over Suck Creek, make an immediate left at the end of the bridge onto River Canyon Road, which runs parallel to the river. Proceed another four miles. Please watch your odometer. The distance is deceiving. The field station is a two-story log cabin on the left. The parking area is across the street and up the gravel driveway.

The conference is from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served. The dress is casual and participants are encouraged to be prepared to go outside even if the weather is inclement. Rain and cold and dreariness are part of creation as well. A magnifying glass or hand lens may be an asset. There is no charge for the retreat but because of limited space we must ask for reservations. E-mail [mail@earthcareonline.org](mailto:mail@earthcareonline.org) or call John Rossing at (706) 278-3979 or Jerry Faulkner at (423) 697-2560 to reserve your spot. ☩

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## Speakers Bureau Information

EarthCare maintains a listing of members that are eager to speak to your church or civic group. There are speakers with a wide variety of professional and academic backgrounds that are ready to speak on a variety of topics. In the next few newsletters, we will profile some of our speakers. To contact a speaker about a potential engagement e-mail [mail@earthcareonline.org](mailto:mail@earthcareonline.org) or call John Rossing at (706) 278-3979 or Jerry Faulkner at (423) 697-2560.

**Dr. Jerry Faulkner** is one of the founders of Earthcare. He is a graduate of Tennessee Temple University. He received a M.S. and Ph.D. in botany from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Faulkner has served as minister of education and as supply pastor for various churches. For many years he served as director of a deaf ministry. He has been on the faculty of Chattanooga State since 1994.

In addition to speaking on creation care in more formal settings, Dr. Faulkner is available to speak at retreats and camps where his experience in field biology and his integration of spiritual insights provides a unique encounter for participants. ☩

## Pope's Message to Symposium

VATICAN CITY, JUNE 11, 2003 Here is the text of a message from John Paul II to Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I on the occasion of the 5th Symposium of the Religion, Science and Environment Project.

This year the symposium focused on "The Baltic Sea: A Common Heritage. A Shared Responsibility." The Vatican press office published the text today.

The symposium took place on a ship sailing in the Baltic. The Pope's message was given to the patriarch by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, who spoke at the symposium's inauguration ceremony June 2 in Gdansk, Poland.

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To His Holiness Bartholomeos I

Archbishop of Constantinople

Ecumenical Patriarch

It gives me great pleasure to greet you and all those taking part in the Fifth Symposium of the Religion, Science, and the Environment project which this year devotes its attention to the subject: "The Baltic Sea: a Common Heritage, a Shared Responsibility." As the convention opens, it is a particular joy for me to know that you have gathered in my homeland of Poland, in the city of Gdansk. Through the presence of Cardinal Walter Kasper, President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, I wish to renew my solidarity with the objectives of the project and to assure you of my fervent support for the success of your meeting.

On a number of occasions I have commented on the growing awareness among individuals, and indeed the entire international community, of the need to respect the environment and the natural resources which God has given humanity. Your current Symposium attests to the desire to transform that growing awareness into policies and acts of authentic stewardship. I shall follow with interest your endeavors to realize the aims outlined in our Common Declaration of last year.

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It is imperative however that the true nature of the ecological crisis be understood. The relationship between individuals or communities and the environment can never be detached from their relationship with God. When man "turns his back on the Creator's plan, he provokes a disorder which has inevitable repercussions on the rest of the created order" (Message for the 1990 World Day of Peace, 5). Ecological irresponsibility is at heart a moral problem -- founded upon an anthropological error -- which arises when man forgets that his ability to transform the world must always respect God's design of creation (cf. Centesimus Annus, 37).

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*Ecological irresponsibility is at heart a moral problem*

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Precisely because of the essentially moral nature of the problems which the Symposium is addressing, it is proper that religious, civic and political leaders, alongside expert representatives of the scientific community, confront the environmental challenges facing the Baltic region. That the Symposium is taking place aboard a boat which will sail to many of the port towns on the Baltic Sea is itself a powerful reminder that the effects of ecological irresponsibility often transcend the borders of individual nations. Similarly, solutions to this problem will necessarily involve acts of solidarity which transcend political divisions or unnecessarily narrow industrial self-interests.

Your Holiness, in the Common Declaration on Environmental Ethics which we signed on 10 June last year regarding the safekeeping of creation, we outlined a specifically Christian interpretation of the difficulties which the ecological crisis presents. Christians must always be ready to assume in unison their responsibility within the divine design for creation, a responsibility which leads to a vast field of ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation. As we stated, a solution to ecological challenges demands more than just economic and technological proposals. It requires an inner change of heart which leads to the rejection of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. It demands an ethical behavior which respects the principles of universal solidarity, social justice and responsibility. As you yourself stated at the closing of the Fourth International Environmental Symposium in Venice, this calls for genuine sacrifice: "when we sacrifice our life

and share our wealth, we gain life in abundance and enrich the entire world."

Your Holiness, I wish to express my encouragement for your commitment to lead the Symposium of the Religion, Science, and the Environment project. I pray that Almighty God will abundantly bless this initiative. May he accompany you and your collaborators and guide you in the ways of justice, so that all creation may give praise to God (cf. Ps 148).

From the Vatican, 27 May 2003

IOANNES PAULUS II

[Original text: English; distributed by Vatican press office]

For more information about the symposium, visit their web site at

[http://www.rsesymposia.org/symposium\\_v/overview\\_baltic.htm](http://www.rsesymposia.org/symposium_v/overview_baltic.htm) ☩

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## **Solar Energy Makes Itself At Home**

Solar energy is clean, quiet, and reliable. See for yourself on the 7th Annual Tour in the Chattanooga/Sequatchie County/Cumberland Plateau area. Local homeowners and businesses will be open for visitors to take a first-hand look at practical uses of renewable energy.

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*2003 National Solar Tour  
Saturday October 4, 2003. 9:00 to 6:00 CST.*

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These buildings, featuring solar heating, solar electricity, alternative energy, and energy conservation, show practical applications alive and well in our community. The Sequatchie Valley Institute is sponsoring the tour and will be open to visitors. Call 949-5922 or email Carol-Kimmons@utc.edu or go to [svionline.org](http://svionline.org) for information on locations. There is no charge for the tour. ☩

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**SUBSCRIPTION**

Contact John Rossing:  
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(706) 278-3979

**SUBMITTING NEWS**

Please submit news items to  
faulkner@vol.com

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EarthCare, Inc. is a nonprofit  
Christian organization that  
exists to promote creation  
stewardship within the Christian  
community.

## Calendar

<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month</b></p> <p>EarthCare monthly meeting. 6:30 p.m. Chattanooga State. Call 697-2560 for more exact location.</p>	<p><b>October 4</b></p> <p>National Solar Tour. <i>See page 3 for details.</i></p>	<p><b>November 1</b></p> <p>Adopt-a-highway litter pickup. Meet at Central High School, Hwy. 58 at 9:00 a.m. (Rain date Nov. 15)</p>
<p><b>September 27</b></p> <p>Adopt-a-highway litter pickup. Meet at Central High School, Hwy. 58 at 9:00 a.m. For information contact Patrick Spiesser – 855-7488 Rain date Oct. 4</p>	<p><b>October 11 &amp;12</b></p> <p>Drop by the EarthCare booth at Prater’s Mill Country Fair, Varnell, GA</p>	<p><b>November 8</b></p> <p>EarthCare Fall Retreat <i>See page 1 for more information.</i></p>
<p><b>October 4</b></p> <p>Tennessee River Rescue 9:00-1:00 For information call the Tennessee River Rescue hotline 785-4177</p>	<p><b>October 20</b></p> <p>Household hazardous waste collection. 8:00-12:00. 3925 N. Hawthorne St. Chattanooga. 698-9531</p>	<p><b>Dec. 3 &amp; 4</b></p> <p>Southeast Green Power Summit. Emory Inn &amp; Conference Center. Atlanta, GA.</p>

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED