

## EcoFest 2013—Good Clean Fun!

April 20th please plan to attend the 4th annual Eco-Fest in New Bohemia in Cedar Rapids. Eco-Fest 2013 will be the premiere Earth Day event in Eastern Iowa—this year's theme is Good Green Fun! The Fest is now supported by over 20 area groups—both arts and environmental. This year's festival will be even more fun and more focused than last year—all of the venues are right along 3rd Street SE, between Bottleworks and The Chrome Horse. Nearly all of the events are free and open to the public. The events will include:

- FREE Eco-Friendly Music all day long in the New Bo Market area
- FREE Environmental Movies all day at CSPS
- Fun Learning Stations along 3rd street with entertaining environmental messages
- Walking tours of the New Bo District
- Litterball and other outdoor games for kids
- An Eco-Friendly vendor market
- Much, much more!

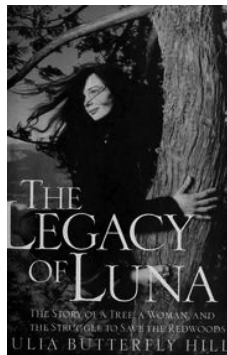
It will be a great day of environmentally themed, but fun activities and will be a good time for the whole family! For more information on any of these events, please look for ecofestcr on Facebook, or go to our website at [ecofestcr.wordpress.com](http://ecofestcr.wordpress.com)

Many community groups are working together to make this the best Eco-Fest ever, including The Cedar Wapsie Group of the Sierra Club, Trees Forever, Prairiewoods, Linn County Conservation, Solid Waste Agency, New Bo Market, Green Iowa Americorps, The Epicenter, The Tapestry, Legion Arts, The City of Cedar Rapids, Linn County, The Restore, Eco-Lips, The Indian Creek Nature Center and many more.

Please help us get the word out about this great event. Tell your friends and family. We hope you'll join us for some "Good Green Fun!" at Eco-Fest 2013 on April 20th.

### Julia Butterfly Hill, famous redwood defender, speaks at Mount Mercy April 22

Julia "Butterfly" Hill, who lived in a redwood tree in California from 1997 to 1999 to protect the tree from logging, will speak at Mount Mercy University on Monday, April 22, at 1:00 p.m. Her lecture will take place in the Chapel of Mercy at Mount Mercy as part of the University's Earth Day commemoration.



Hill's efforts to defend the redwood named Luna were successful and led to an agreement for the permanent protection of the tree and surrounding forest. Hill survived a near-fatal car accident in 1996 when she was rear-ended by a drunk driver. After a long recovery, Hill has dedicated her life to environmental sustainability. Since her successful effort to defend the redwood, Hill has founded the Circle of Life Foundation and the Engage Network. She is the author of the 2000 best-seller, *Legacy of Luna*.

Hill's visit to Mount Mercy is an opportunity for the community to participate in the growing movement for better health and sustainability.

## 2013 Mark Your Calendars! 2013

- April 20, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.... **The Eco-Fest in NewBo**
- April 28, 2 p.m..... **Roadside Clean-up at the corner of North Center Point & County Home Rd.**
- May 4 & 5..... **Spring Outing, Morgan Creek Park**
- July 20 ..... **Green Day, Cedar Rapids Farmers Market**

To get more information on the rest of our year's events send your email address to [mikewyrick@gmail.com](mailto:mikewyrick@gmail.com).

### Cedar Wapsie Group Officers

Mike Wyrick, CHAIR 319-350-1063   <a href="mailto:mikewyrick@gmail.com">mikewyrick@gmail.com</a>	Vince O'Connor, TREASURER, WEBMASTER
Elwood Garlock, POLITICAL CHAIR	Jo Busch, BOARD MEMBER
Rob Hogg, ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CHAIR	Chris Heald, BOARD MEMBER
Pam Mackey-Taylor, CONSERVATION CHAIR	Harold Hensel, BOARD MEMBER
Michele O'Connor, OUTINGS CHAIR, SECRETARY	Marlene Julich - BOARD MEMBER

For more information on additional Sierra Club events, please look for us on [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).



### This Earth Day, Tell Congress – “Do Something On Climate Change In 2013”

By Rob Hogg

Across Iowa, more and more Iowans are speaking up for climate action. Climate change is real, caused primarily by human activity, and is a serious threat to our future. After the heat and the drought of 2012, after all of our recent floods, and after climate disasters like Hurricane Sandy, we know that we urgently need to take action against climate change and to promote clean energy and transportation solutions for our health, our economy, and sustainability.

On February 15, over 100 Iowans – including many Sierrans – visited 21 Senate or Congressional offices in 10 cities across Iowa. We delivered over 300 letters, postcards, and petitions to the local offices of our congressional representatives and senators. Our effort was covered by the Iowa City Press Citizen, the Fort Dodge Messenger, WHO Radio in Des Moines, KWVL-TV in Waterloo, and KCRG-TV in Cedar Rapids.

During our visits to the offices of our Congressional representatives and Senators, we asked them to take at least one of the following nine actions this year to address climate change:

1. Make the renewable energy tax credit permanent
2. End billions in fossil fuel subsidies and divest from fossil fuels
3. Stop the Keystone “Export” pipeline
4. Stop oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean
5. Extend greenhouse gas regulations to existing coal plants
6. End the clean water and clean air exemptions for fracking
7. Adopt a carbon tax or revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend
8. Help states and localities reduce future climate disaster damage
9. Invest in natural resources to help native species survive climate change

Now, it is time to do it again. In the week around Earth Day, we are asking young people, parents, and grandparents to lead and ask our Congressional representatives and Senators for climate action. Events are being planned in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Des Moines, Dubuque, and other communities across the state and across the country.

In Cedar Rapids, advocates will meet outside the office of Congressman Bruce Braley, 310 3rd Street SE, in downtown Cedar Rapids, on Wednesday, April 24, at 3:00 p.m. We will be showing our support for climate action and asking for a meeting with Congressman Braley about climate change. April 24 is an early dismissal day in the Cedar Rapids schools if students would like to participate. This event is educational for the youth involved, and an effective way to show the growing public support for climate action.



Another way to get involved is to join Citizens Climate Lobby. It is organizing district-by-district across the country in support of a carbon fee and dividend proposal. It is holding its annual national conference and lobby day on June 23 to 25 in Washington, DC. CCL members participate in a monthly phone call on the first Saturday of each month, and commit to taking at least one climate advocacy action each month. To get involved, or to learn more, visit [www.citizensclimatelobby.org](http://www.citizensclimatelobby.org).

If you would like to get more involved in climate advocacy, please come to the event on Wednesday, April 24, at 3:00 p.m. at Congressman Braley's office, or send an email to [robhogg@earthlink.net](mailto:robhogg@earthlink.net).