

Environmental Preservation



Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington, IA will begin a partnership with ACRES for America, a non-profit trust that promotes land conservation and wildlife habitats. Deciding to sell 100 acres of prime real estate just thirty miles north of New York City, means the Sisters turned down many millions of dollars from housing developers in favor of preservation. They understand their decision as a radical conversion and liken their vow of poverty to water which renounces its own form and gives form to everything else.

The Dogwood Alliance



Southern forests are being decimated at alarming rates. In the past 60 years we have lost 33 million acres of natural forests in the southeastern US and many of these are coastal wetland forests that once offered protections from hurricanes. What is happening? Intense European demand for wood pellets to supply a demand created by a new energy policy by power stations to decrease carbon emissions. Over five million wood pellets were exported just last year.

The Dogwood Alliance seeks to protect and educate the public regarding this devastation of our natural resources.

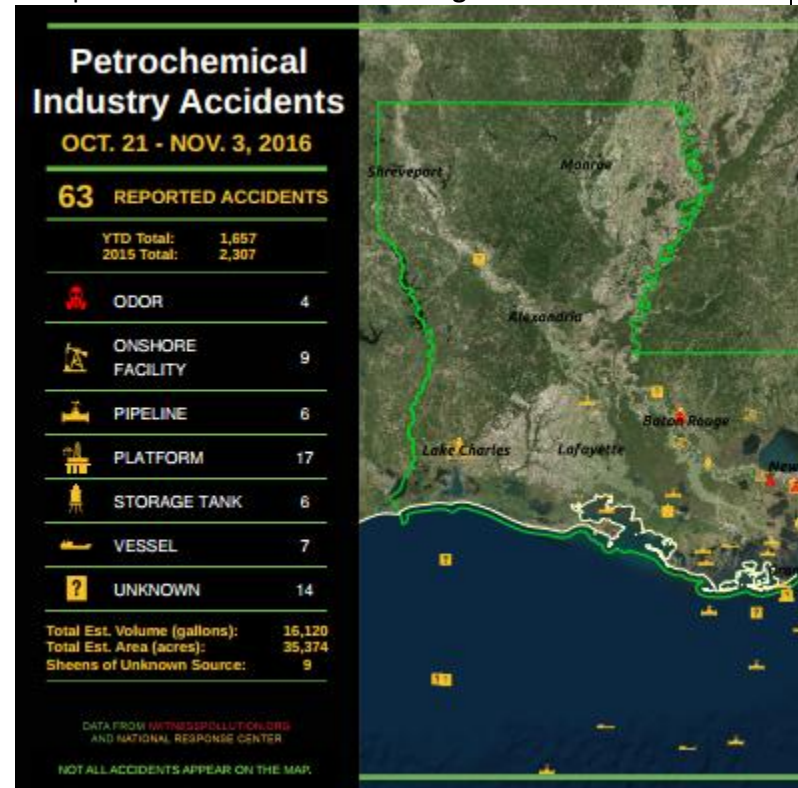


Water.org

Access to clean water for drinking, cooking and washing is the goal of Water.org. The average walk for many women and children in rural Asia and Africa is 3.7 miles to access clean water. Unfortunately they are much better off than 11% of the world's population (783 million people) who have no access to clean drinking water.

It is estimated that by 2030, the existing demand may decrease access to the richest 60% of the population. Water.org helps communities design and construct sustainable water supplies. Because of the UN developmental goals over 2 billion people have gained access to clean water.

For updates see **Louisiana Bucket Brigade** online



During a two week span in October the Coast Guard Response Center received reports of over 60 petrochemical spills along the Louisiana coastline. Most of the companies involved cited equipment failure as the reason for the accidents.

The Plastic Island

A tiny uninhabited island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, thousands of miles from any other land, is Midway Atoll. A favorite nesting area for albatross and other seabirds, the island is slowly filling with plastic. Of the estimated five trillion large pieces of floating plastic floating in our oceans, many come to rest on the shores of Midway Atoll. Even mixed among the sand particles on the Atoll are micro-plastics, many of which can be eaten by fish. More often, the birds which do come to the island also die there, because their stomachs contain undigested plastic pieces which bring slow death by starvation.