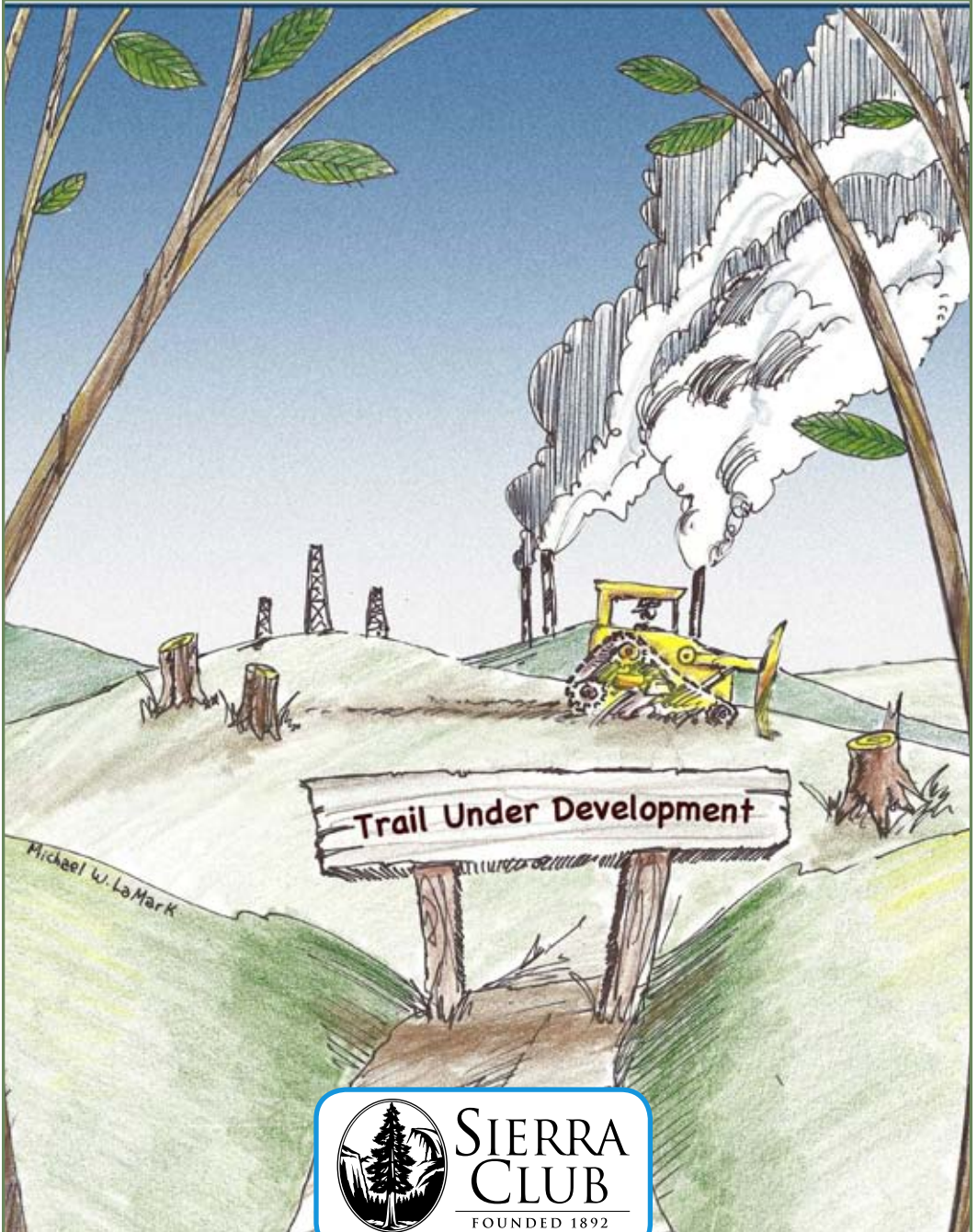


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Our Wilderness: THREATENED!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud receives National Sierra Club Award

by Leon Glicenstein



Dr. Johnsrud accepting her award.

On Friday, May 4, 2012 on behalf of the National Sierra Club and its "No Nukes Activist Team," Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud was recognized for her nearly fifty years of successful nuclear opposition. The Friday ceremony was part of a weekend Strategy Summit of the team, which was attended by approximately eighty people from around the United States and Canada

Diane D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) began the awards ceremony with a tribute, which included some video clips of Judy's presentations. NIRS is a national organization for which Judy wrote the original proposal and grant, and has served as its board chairperson. D'Arrigo talked a little about her serving as chair of the National Sierra Club's Nuclear Waste Task Force in the 1990s. Other people followed by relating their personal stories about how Judy got them involved as nuclear opponents. They included Kevin Kamps of the national organization Beyond Nuclear, where Judy sits on the board of directors; Robert Alvarez

of the Institute for Policy Studies and Mike Ewall of Energy Justice Network.

Their remarks were heartfelt and showed the breath of works that Judy accomplished, which began with defeating Project Ketch in 1967. Project Ketch was proposed by the Atomic Energy Commission --the forerunner to the present Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- to explode 1,000 atomic bombs, underground beneath Pennsylvania to create storage containments for natural gas. That success led to her creation of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power in 1970, and to their original intervention against the licensing of Three Mile Island, and many more. Judy successfully participated in many other projects outside of Pennsylvania. She is a well-respected hero to the nuclear opponents in the United States and around the world.

The No Nukes Activist Team decided that a plaque was too impersonal, and so they commissioned textile artist Margaret Gregg of Virginia to create a quilt for Judy. Robin Mann, President of National Sierra Club Board, made the presentation to Judy. The text at the bottom of the quilt reads "PROTECTING LIFE FOREVER."

Judy devoted her life to fighting for the end of the era of nuclear power. She worried about what the future of our species would hold with an ever thickening environment of the radiation surrounding us. (The idea of hormesis - that low dose radiation is good for you - has long been disproved even though the industry wants to keep it alive.) She saw first-hand the health problems, not just cancers and leukemia, of the children of Chernobyl and doesn't want that to happen here, or anywhere. She was an expert on the biological and health effects of exposure to radiation, and may have been a victim

of radiation exposure herself. She was an educator who would teach groups, large and small, throughout the United States and abroad, about the problems of nuclear power, radiation in general, food irradiation and nuclear waste, as well as other related subjects. She fought against the release of radioactive materials into our environment or the recycling of radioactive materials, which could find their way into products: everything from children's toys to the coins in our pockets to larger items that could be around us every day and thereby be constantly exposing us to unknown amounts of radiation.



Putting their heads together are (from left to right) Judith Johnsrud, Robin Mann, and Mike Ewall.

To repeat one of Robin Mann's comments at the presentation, who quoted PA Chapter Director Jeff Schmidt:

"Judy was an important member of our PA Chapter's volunteer leadership, right up till her retirement in 2009.... She inspired many people, inside Sierra Club and beyond, to work to halt the dangerous release of radionuclides into the environment. I have no doubt that Judy has been the most important anti-nuclear advocate in Pennsylvania's history." And, as National Sierra Club recognizes, beyond.

At one time Judy put together a partial list of Citizen Nuclear Successes in Pennsylvania – and Judy was involved in all of them:

1. Ketch Plowshare Project defeated
2. The Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactor in Meshoppen, PA, defeated
3. Energy Parks defeated (ten candidate sites: 20,000 megawatts, 10 coal plants and 10 nuclear power reactors)
4. Quehanna decommissioned: aircraft engine, Penn State reactor, wood products irradiation
5. The Newbold Island Reactor defeated
6. Fulton 1 & 2 reactors canceled
7. Waltz mill reactor, accident clean-up, decommissioned
8. Quakertown Hatfield food irradiator stopped
9. Apollo fuel fabrication, nuclear laundry stopped with subsequent clean-up
10. Parks Township plutonium fuel fabrication stopped
11. Parks Township radwaste incinerator stopped
12. Parks Township Ordinance enacted
13. Below Regulatory Concern legislation approved by the state
14. Appalachian Compact Low Level Radioactive Waste disposal
15. Kiski Valley Water Pollution Control Authority Incinerator Ash Lagoon Closed
16. Saxton Experimental reactor decommissioned

Leon Glicenstein has been a life-long friend and supporter of Dr. Johnsrud.