



# MAREA

MIDATLANTIC RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOC.  
P.O. Box 84 • Kutztown, PA 19530

## MAREA NEWSLETTER

March, 2009

Dear MAREA members and friends,

Spring has arrived and with it hope for a more sustainable future for all of us. We here at MAREA are filled with hope as we plan the September 2009 Pennsylvania Renewable Energy Festival and Sustainable Living Festival and as we feel the ranks of our membership growing and the excitement, enthusiasm and momentum building.

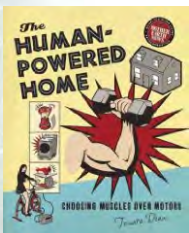
**“Harvest the Power”** is the theme of this year's festival and embraces all that we believe and all that we have. In these uncertain economic times, we see great power and wealth in a vibrant and diverse community truly able to sustain itself. We “harvest the power” in our own backyards as we plant our gardens and support our local farmers. We “harvest the power” as we learn about nonpolluting and regenerative forms of energy and share that technology with each other. And we “harvest the power” as we come together in grassroots activity, realizing that **democracy is not a spectator sport**.



### New MAREA Website Launched.

Happenings since the January newsletter have included launching of a MAREA-dedicated website: [www.themarea.org/](http://www.themarea.org/) (we will still maintain a separate website for the festival, and kudos to board member Dave Bascelli for designing and maintaining both), sponsorship of several exciting projects and workshops and two well-attended public meetings.

MAREA lent financial support to the upcoming May 3, 2009 electric car show in Macungie, [More About the Car Show](#) a first-ever event infusing a little “green power” into the town known more for an endless parade of antique, classic and muscle car venues. We offered support to the United Sludge-Free Alliance for a March 10 teach-in covering the dangers of spreading effluents on agricultural lands. Some 175 persons attended and plans are underway for a followup program in May. And we agreed to be a fiscal representative (lend our 501c3 status) to the Wild



Persimmon Farm Journal, a local effort to link food sheds across the country and the farms that feed them to a dynamic and interactive website.

A brief “sneak preview of what's in store for the 2009

festival includes speakers Tamara Dean, whose specialty is human-powered machinery, and



Thomas Greco, who will talk about local currency systems. Musical guests lined up so far include Makoto Taiko, Friends of Tom, Arianne Rox, Janet Spahr, Big Beat Tornado, Ethan Cramer and David Besag. A planned “eARTh” (earth-art) show has also received tremendous response.

### Other MAREA Community Happenings:

- We continue to work out the details of a solar-installation service project in conjunction with four Habitat for Humanity homes going up in Reading.
- March 28, Solar Cart Building, open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at TEK Park.

### Special Guest Marilyn Anthony Speaks at MAREA Meeting

Marilyn Anthony, Southeastern Regional Director for Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable



Agriculture (PASA) [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org) was a fitting speaker for our March public meeting. PASA is made up of more than 5,000 members of the farming-and-eating community

across the state and region, and the group's recent conference theme “Finding Your Foodshed”

seemed to resonate deeply with our own “Harvest the Power.”

No stranger to the local-food scene, Marilyn has worked regionally as a chef and caterer and has served on the boards of both the White Dog Café Foundation and Weaver’s Way co-op. She explained to the packed room that sustainable farming is about working with nature, encouraging biological diversity above and below the ground, and about cultivating lasting community relationships. From a farmer’s perspective, she said, sustainable agriculture is about “not being in control, but about being reactive in an intelligent and direct way.” From an eater’s perspective, she said that besides local food purchases being more environmentally and socially responsible, “it just tastes better.”

Working with nature is not about turning back the clock on progress, she said, but rather about taking the best that science has to teach us through careful observation of the health of the whole system and developing (and supporting through our purchases) farming methods that will sustain us over time. Sustainable farming, she said, is about reinvention, rediscovery and constant adjustment and improvement.

*Sounds to us like a great recipe for life!*

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**- President's Corner -**

**“Organic Charmers”  
with Archie Follweiler**

I felt empowered at the February MAREA meeting at Tek Park in Breinigsville. I had the pleasure of surveying the faces and gazes of the attendees about 90 healthy soulful folks from all highway directions.

“Where is [MAREA Executive Director] Bill Hennessy?” I inquired.

“He went home to get an Allen wrench for the Skystream turbine,” someone shouted.

“Why did he bring the turbine?” said I.

“He wanted to show how the water entered the seal and corroded the computer panel.”

And so it goes; a vibrant community of individuals gathered once a month to teach and learn from each other.

Looking at the 70-pound turbine on the upside-down pallet on Hennessy’s sawhorses, I could only smile. Having survived a heart attack, building his own home and promoting (and now leading) MAREA, Bill still single-handedly hauled-in the turbine, snacks

including self-described “magic brownies” (but please don’t get the wrong idea), and still found the time and energy to run home and grab a wrench so as not to miss a “teaching moment.” He’s a true “organic charmer.”

MAREA board member Karen George was the initial speaker, providing a Master Gardener’s wisdom on how self-sufficiency begins in our own backyards. “It’s the soil that’s important,” she said, also counseling on proper watering techniques, the multiple benefits of rotating crops, companion planting, and the reiterating healthy soil as the soul of a successful garden. Another true “organic charmer.”



Marilyn Anthony, southeast regional coordinator for Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture

(PASA), gave a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on food quality and the growth of her organization in Pennsylvania [see related story]. She reminded us several times that she does not farm and was not



raised on a farm. She is a communicator (and, like all of us, she eats). She showed passion for her topic her role as regional representative for PASA. She took questions, and gave answers honestly and clearly (both during her presentation and as people lined up to speak with her afterward). She’s a true “organic charmer.”

William Little entered from the adjoining room like a young Robin Hood joining his Merry Men.



Initially I didn’t know his name and hadn’t seen him since the Festival. He was the young man who drove the Gem (electric) Car around the Energy Festival for three days straight, collecting trash, organizing the recyclables, replacing trash liners and generally working continual. His laptop screen sports a proud picture of William in the Gem Car waving to photographers (proud to serve). And his new

“moptop” (hair style) is modern and classy. A worker bee from New Jersey, William first attended the festival with his school a couple of years ago. During the recent public meeting, William was again ready to serve, assisted with some computer/projector/flash drive issues and generally helping presenters get on with the show. And he shared his sense that this group was not only gathered to absorb information but to network, to meet and greet one another, to share and to bond. He was right on...and a true “organic charmer.”

MAREA monthly public meetings are informative by design (see calendar for schedule). We are an educational organization promoting renewable energy and sustainable living. But as with most organized gatherings e.g. churches, business organizations, service clubs it is not only a time to learn about specific issues, it is for fellowship and to learn about people in our community. We are the Organic Charmers, imperfect as we move through life but perfect for MAREA.



## Contact Us

Send your workshop ideas to:

Bill Hennessy: [wjhennessy@dejazzd.com](mailto:wjhennessy@dejazzd.com)

Newsletter contributions/suggestions to:

Dan Sullivan: [bedandy@dejazzd.com](mailto:bedandy@dejazzd.com)

Festival speaker, vendor and entertainment suggestions to:

Archie Follweiler: [kutztowndad@hotmail.com](mailto:kutztowndad@hotmail.com)

Dave Bascelli: [bascelli@ptd.net](mailto:bascelli@ptd.net)

## Be part of the solution!

## Calendar of events

### MAREA Board Meetings:

The second Tuesday of each month.

### Public meetings:

Last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Tek Park, 9999 Hamilton Blvd., in Breinigsville.

[\[GET DIRECTIONS\]](#)

### March 28 - Solar Cart Open House, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at TEK Park

Stop by and take a look at our solar carts, even help build one!

### March 31 - Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. TEK Park

"Sunflower Seeds--Fuel and Food" Sam Yoder discusses the MAREA sunflower seed oil press project that provides tractor fuel, cooking oil and animal feed from homegrown sunflowers. A demonstration of the press will follow the talk.

### April 28 - Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. TEK Park

"Introduction to Solar Water Heating" Dan Brown gives an overview of solar water heating and outlines the solar water heater workshops this summer at Habitat for Humanity in Reading.

### May TBA - Solar water heating installation workshop at Habitat for Humanity, Reading.

### May 26 Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. TEK Park

Scott Delaney of Intelligent Energy East, explains the Pennsylvania renewable energy credit system.

### June TBA - Solar water heating installation workshop at Habitat for Humanity, Reading.

### June 30 Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m. TEK Park

Jason Zerbe, Enersys engineer, shows the Altergy Freedom Power™ fuel cell system, a residential fuel cell system that is eligible for federal income tax credits.

### July TBA - Solar water heating installation workshop at Habitat for Humanity, Reading.

## Come to the 2009 festival!



Located in Beautiful Kempton, PA

[www.paenergyfest.com](http://www.paenergyfest.com)

[www.themarea.org](http://www.themarea.org)

Please forward this newsletter to you friends and relatives and encourage them to [\[JOIN MAREA\]](#)

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