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## Ecotones: The Heartbeat of Huxley, 2003, Winter, Issue 07

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# ECOTONES

*The Heartbeat of Huxley*

Winter Issue 7  
March 3, 2003

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Ecotones is looking for an editor for next quarter! Call 788-8980 for more information.

## Ecotones Mission Statement:

Ecotones is a student publication devoted to providing a voice for the Huxley community and reporting on current events and issues affecting everyone. We appreciate comments and criticisms about any aspect of Ecotones or story and calendar ideas.

Visit us on the web! [www.ac.wwu.edu/~ecotones/](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~ecotones/)

Or email [eddy@cc.wvu.edu](mailto:eddy@cc.wvu.edu) to comment!

## Supplier of Biodiesel Sees it as Revenge Against Oil Companies

By Anna Maher

Bruce Barbour, a local Bellingham resident, said he started making biodiesel from used vegetable oil to use in his diesel engine cars shortly after the Olympic Pipeline incident in Whatcom Creek in 1999.

"My goal is to take over the pipeline and run biodiesel through it," he said. "If we had biodiesel in there nobody would have died. It's my own private revenge."

Barbour said biodiesel is not explosive and is very hard to ignite. He said it can be made from either waste or 'virgin' (fresh) vegetable

oil.

Barbour said biodiesel is very similar to diesel fuel, since biodiesel is made of plants while diesel is made from roots of petrified plants.

He said he plans to start his own business selling biodiesel fuel to various individuals, local Indian tribes that have expressed interest, and mass transportation systems.

"What I'm thinking of doing is starting a business that provides small biodiesel plants to individuals and cooperatives that don't have the time, money, or technical know-how to put to-

gether their own plants," Barbour said.

He said he was pumping his gas one day shortly after the pipeline explosion and decided it was stupid to support the industry. He said he tried to stop using cars altogether and realized it was not possible to travel the places he needed to without a car.

He heard about diesel fuel and took three months off work to figuring out how to make the fuel himself, and he said he has not been to a gas station since.

He said he gets his vegetable oil from various restaurants. Diego's Authentic Mexican Grill is a good source, he said, because they change their soybean fryer oil frequently and it is in good condition.

"I like it because when he comes I don't have to pay to dispose of the used oil," said



Photo courtesy of [www.bio-beetle.com](http://www.bio-beetle.com)

The first Biodiesel rental car in the world.

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## Continued From Page 1 - Biodiesel

Cathy Sitker, owner of Diego's.

Regan Smith, an environmental education major at Huxley, once worked at Diego's and heard about biodiesel from Barbour. She said she also has a friend who runs a biodiesel tour bus, about the size of the Western shuttle, in California. She said she is surprised that the fuel is not more popular today.

"In recent events America says it's trying to reduce its dependency on foreign petroleum oil," Smith said. "Biodiesel should be considered a solution."

She said she has done a lot of research on the topic,

thanks to resources given to her by Barbour, and she hopes to buy a car with a diesel engine.

"I don't want to continue to support corporations who are contributing to global warming and spilling oil into the oceans and so on," Smith said.

She said she plans to research a supplier since she does not have the room or the facilities to produce fuel. However, she said biodiesel is not readily available for private individuals since the majority of Americans do not have diesel engines.

"It takes some effort on the part of the consumer, which is not something that most people are willing to do," Smith said.

She said a consumer would want to buy a large

amount of the fuel so it would be a while before that individual would have to go out of their way to purchase it again. Unfortunately, she said storage of a large quantity of biodiesel is difficult to find, as it has to be stored at a fairly precise temperature

"It's kind of dicey, because you may get stuck using diesel which is polluting," Smith said. "However, the energy that goes into refining diesel is less than for gasoline. So there are some tradeoffs."

Barbour said biodiesel emissions include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide, but do not include carcinogens, mutagens and other harmful toxins that are present in diesel fuel.

Barbour said the drawbacks to diesel fuel are mostly related to its availability and price. He said diesel fuel created with used vegetable oil is cost-effective.

However, in order to supply enough for large fleets of buses, trucks and ferries the oil must be shipped from the Midwest where there is enough farmland for mass quantities of vegetable oil to be produced.

The costs of transportation are too high to compete with regular diesel fuel, he said. To counteract this cost he has applied for two grants, both of which will subsidize the cost of supplying partial biodiesel fuel to fleet operators at a competitive price.

# Question of the Week

## Is the United States' need for oil pushing forward the war with Iraq?



Steve Tiegs, general studies, senior:

"I would say it is, because we need so much to have our country run smoothly."



Katy Larsen, psychology, senior:

"It most likely is, because the United States is an international bully and (does) whatever to get what it wants."



Ryan Mummert, sports psychology, senior:

"No, the threat of biological and nuclear weapons towards Americans is why we are going to war and the fact that they support terrorist groups."



Yannik Lawson, environmental education, junior:

"Possible, but I think there is more behind it than just oil, like the fact that Iraq poses a threat to us."

# Huxley Looking For Two New Professors

By Laurel Eddy

The Environmental Science department is interviewing for a Toxicology/Chemistry and a Marine Science professor.

"Bill Summers retired as the marine scientist and Devon Cancilla's position is being filled because he has become the director of Scientific Technical Services," Environmental Science Chair's Assistant Diane Peterson said.

Students are invited to participate in the on-campus interviews and attend the seminars each candidate will present. All candidates will meet with students, faculty and staff at 2 p.m., except for Stace Beaulieu, who will meet at 10 a.m., and all of these meetings will be in E.S. 534. Each candidate will also present a seminar at 12 p.m. in varied locations (see below.)

Marine science committee member Steven Sulkin said good professors include students in their research, and that is part of what the committees are looking for. Peterson urged students to attend the seminars to see if the candidates are good teachers.

Biographical information on the candidates (except for Sue Kelly) was taken from bio-sketches submitted to Peterson.

## Toxicology

Evan Gallagher came to Huxley last week. He has been an associate professor at the University of Florida since 1996 and is the director of the Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory there. He received his Ph.D in aquatic biochemical toxicology from Duke University in 1991.

"He is an excellent researcher," said Wayne Landis, who is on the Toxicology search committee and knows Gallagher and candidate Sue Kelly and knows of candidate Sharon Hook. "He wants to get back into a program that has teaching and both (he and Kelly) really like the Northwest."

Gallagher has studied pesticide metabolism and resistance to oxidative injury in freshwater fish and bivalves, as well as the biochemical mechanisms of aflatoxin carcinogenesis and biological markers and effects of pollutant exposure in Puget Sound flatfish. He has co-authored three book chapters, 34 peer-reviewed publications and 80 abstracts/presentations.

Sharon Hook will meet with Huxley students, faculty and staff on March 4 and will teach a seminar in E.S. 410. She is currently a postdoctoral research associate at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography in Savannah, GA. She is also teaching in a Masters program at the Savannah State University. She received her Ph.D in coastal oceanography from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 2001.

"She has a real good research career in something that gets largely overlooked," Landis said. He said Hook studies plants and algae and is "very interested in mixing teaching and research."

Hook has studied how exposure route affects the toxic response of zooplankton to metals and how pollution affects reproduction and development in marine invertebrates. She is working on a fellowship to determine why grass shrimp embryos get less sensitive to genotoxicants as they develop.

Sue Kelly will meet with Huxley students, faculty and staff on March 12 and will teach in E.S. 418. She is currently an assistant professor at Piedmont University. She received her Ph.D from Duke University in 2000.

"She is a nice combination of someone who does teaching and does it well and does researching and does it well and is good at explaining her research," Landis said. "Not just a big brain."

He said Kelly was formerly a graduate student of his.

"She came here specifically to work with my program," he said.

Kelly has studied microcosms and has developed an Environmental Science major at Piedmont, Landis said. He said she is not in a research position at Piedmont, but is looking forward to a return to research. He said she has presented at several conferences and been published in two journals.

## Marine Science

Greg Crawford will meet with students, faculty and staff on March 6 and will teach a seminar in Parks Hall 104. He has been an assistant professor in oceanography at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA since 1997. He received his Ph.D from the University of British Columbia in 1993, where he focused on studying how the ocean responds to storms.

He has studied air bubbles in the upper ocean and Crater Lake in Oregon, a dormant crater that is now filled with a large lake, and said he considers himself an environmental physicist.

Stace Beaulieu will meet with students, faculty and staff on March 10 and will teach in E.S. 530. She is currently completing her postdoctoral research at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Woods Hole, MA. She received her Ph.D in biological oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1998.

She has studied the coupling of sea-floor to water-column processes, has promoted the development of sea-floor observatories and has conducted projects in the deep sea, the coastal ocean and in laboratory flumes.

Alex De Robertis will meet with students, faculty and staff on March 13 and will teach in Parks Hall 104. He is currently a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Newport, Oregon. He received his Ph.D in biological oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 2001.

He has studied coastal pelagic food webs and predator-prey interactions between planktivorous fish and zooplankton populations, and is interested in how light and currents affect planktivorous fish.

## What's Happening Around Bellingham and WWU

### ONGOING

The Mt. Baker Group of the Sierra Club seeks help with the "Salmon-Friendly Lawn" campaign. Send SASE to Sierra Club - Mt. Baker Group, P.O. Box 1722, Bellingham, WA 98227

Construction south of E.S. will involve ongoing arc welding for the next several months. Please use caution and avoid staring at the bright light.

NW Washington Seabird Census starting this winter. Contact John Bower 650-7217.

Call Greenways for more information about the Park Stewards Program or to consult a Bellingham Backyard Habitat Mentor at 676-5801 x24.

LEAD would like to hire a work-study student to assist in restoration parties, plan Earthweek events and provide office support. Contact lead@wwu.edu

Water Whys, a local show focusing on educating the public about water issues, airs Tues.-4 p.m., Sat.-10 a.m. and Sun./Wed.-8 p.m. on channel 10, and Sat.-5 p.m. on channel 24.

**Fridays, 4 - 5 p.m.**  
Peace Vigil in front of the Bellingham Federal Building, followed by open discussion at Port of Subs (5:15 - 6:15)

**March 3**  
North Cascades Institute's 2003 calendar will be published on their Web site. It is packed with more than 73 classes and other opportunities for kids, adults and teachers.

Northwest Ecosystem Alliance invites all those who want to speak out for the Northwest's national forests to come to Environmental Action Team public workshops being held from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Everett Public Library, 2702 Hoyt Ave, Everett on **March 4**; the Auburn Library, 1102 Auburn Way S, Auburn on **March 13**; and the Bellevue Regional Library, 1111 110th Ave NE,

Bellevue on **March 17**.

**March 5, 12-12:50 p.m.**  
Shelly Vendiola, a Swinomish/Filipina Native American activist, will lecture on "Indigenous Women and the Environmental Justice Movement" in Science Lecture 140.

**March 5, 5 p.m.**  
Geography club meeting AH 219.

**March 5, 7 p.m.**  
Northwest Ecosystem Alliance is holding a public forum on the Clearwater Creek hydroelectric project in the Whatcom County Council Chambers in Bellingham's County Courthouse.

**March 5, 7-9 p.m.**  
Dr. Fatheih Saudi, a Jordanian pediatrician, and Vivian Stromberg, MADRE's executive director who traveled to Iraq in 1991, will speak on 'Every Child Has a Name: No War Against Iraqi Families.'

**March 5**  
Outdoor Center Sunset Kayak.  
(Time varies) - \$15/\$20

**March 5, 12, 7-10 p.m.**  
Outdoor Center Bike Clinics \$15/\$25

**March 5-8**  
Andy Bach, Gigi Berardi, Mike Medler and Emma Spenner will present at the Association of American Geographers in New Orleans.

**March 6th, 7 p.m.**  
Mount Baker Wild! Public Meeting at the Bellingham YWCA 1026 North Forest St. Come and find out what Mount Baker Wild! is all about, watch a slide show, meet the members and learn how you can help protect roadless areas in the Mount Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest.

**March 8, 1 p.m.**  
A documentary of Whatcom Creek is showing at the Pickford Cinema. Tickets are \$4 at the door. It will also be shown for free at 2 p.m. **March 23** at the Whatcom Museum of History and

Art, 121 Prospect St.; and at the Bellingham Public Library, 210 Central, at 12 p.m. **April 10**.

**March 9, 1-3 p.m.**  
Greenways is planting shrubs on the new Laurelwood trail between Cottonwood and McLeod Sts. Meet at the trailhead on Cottonwood, with parking along Laurelwood St. to the south, or Greenwood St. Carpool, please!

**March 16, 1-3 p.m.**  
Greenways will be removing blackberries, ivy and herb Robert and planting native species in Lowell Park on Easton Ave. off of Highland Dr. Greenways will also be weeding the Byron and 34<sup>th</sup> buffer across from the Sehome parking lot.

**March 19-22**  
Northwest Anthropological Conference in Bellingham. The "Building Bridges" theme is designed to form connections with other disciplines. For more information, check <http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~anthro/NWAC.htm>

**March 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**  
Greenways will be planting forest trees and shrubs along the Railroad trail and pulling ivy. The site is near the intersection of Vining St. and Rhododendron Way, south of Alabama St. Park.

**March 31, 7 p.m.**  
Mt. Baker Group General Meeting in the Bellingham Library, Downstairs Lecture Room to discuss the lessons of a century of wilderness advocacy. Douglas Scott will be speaking.

**Scholarship deadlines for the 2003-2004 year are April 1, 2003.**  
Applications will be available on the web or in ES 539 by March 1, 2003.

**April 12**  
Association of Washington Geographers meeting at Everett Community College. For more info., check <http://faculty.washington.edu/krumme/AWG>

**WWU Triathlon May 10.** Get training!