Quaker Earthcare Witness
Representatives Report to SAYMA 2011

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) continues to hold Earth in the Light that she be healed of her afflictions. QEW notes that many of the problems facing the Earth come from our lack of care in our individual and collective behavior, particularly the impact of the high-consumption lifestyles that we lead.

The organization's theme for 2010 was activism. How can we as Quakers get involved in programs of ecological sustainability that actually create a difference for the future of the Earth? We have moved in several directions. We work closely with FCNL on their ecological lobbying. We continue promoting FWCC's program on Global Change. QEW's own Mini-Grant program for Quaker groups provides matching funds for creating green projects in their communities. We are also working to strengthen our ties to other Quaker yearly meetings, larger Friends organizations and faith groups doing similar work for the Earth.

We held our Annual Gathering in Houston in October 2010. There we said adieu to our long term General Secretary Ruah Swenerfelt as she retired to pursue other activities. We also welcomed our new General Secretary, Anne Mitchell, a Quaker from Toronto. Anne has been very active with Canadian Yearly Meeting and has promoted ecological sustainability in Canadian governments through activities with Quaker organizations.

The QEW theme for this year and next is Food & Biodiversity. We will be having our Annual Gathering in Chicago in October 2011. Marcia Cleveland of FCNL will be speaking with us. There will be workshops related to growing food, use of food and food's relationship to the bio-diversity of Earth's biosystems.

Both SAYMA's representatives to QEW are presenting workshops at SAYMA yearly meeting this year. David Ciscel's topic is "How on Earth do we live?" and Roy Taylor's topic is "FWCC on Global Change." David and Roy have been very active on the Steering Committee of QEW, helping QEW in fundraising, planning it activities and working with Quakers throughout North America.

For more information on attending QEW's activities, please look at our web site: http://www.quakerearthcare.org/ You can also contribute to QEW on that web site.

6/3/2011
David Ciscel & Roy Taylor