Report on **Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)**

By SAYMA Representatives David Ciscel & Roy Taylor

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a network of Friends in North America who are taking spirit-lead action to address the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

This has been an active year for QEW. QEW has a new Clerk, Shelley Tannebuam, from the Strawberry Creek Meeting in California. Our two staff members, Anne Mitchell, Executive Secretary, and Louis Cox, Publications Coordinator, are busy working with Quakers around the world and creating new publications. Anne attended a conference of Quaker leaders in London England earlier this spring. Members of the QEW steering committee Mary Gilbert, Judi Lumb, and David Millar have traveled to work on environmental issues around the world related to United Nations initiatives and to the FWCC meetings in Kenya. In addition, QEW members have increased their cooperation with other wider-Quaker organizations. In particular, QEW has worked with FCNL on their new Earthcare Center. QEW has an active educational program at the FGC Gathering, including this year's Gathering in Rhode Island in July.

The themes for QEW for the past two years have been Food and Biodiversity. Each October, QEW holds its annual educational conference in Chicago. This past year QEW had speakers on food production and biodiversity in the urban environment. This year's fall conference will be from October 4 to 7, 2012 in Chicago with a continuing theme on food, food quality and food production for a sustainable future. Roy Taylor, SAYMA Representative to QEW, has been one of the primary organizers of these conferences. Everyone is welcome at the conferences. If you become interested in the work of QEW, it is possible to join the steering committee after being active in the organization. This fall is also the 25th anniversary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Reports and representatives from over the years will be at the fall conference.

QEW also has an active mini-grant program to encourage Friends meetings to engage the ecological crisis in small ways. QEW will provide up to a $500 grant to a Friends Meeting that plants tress, starts a garden, or increases the sustainability of the meetinghouse. See the QEW web-site for details on how to apply.

Communication with QEW is easy to accomplish. QEW has an active web-site where you can read all the latest materials created by and for Friends related to the environmental crisis. The two main publications, BeFriending Creation and Quaker Eco-Bulletin, are available in downloadable e-form on the web-site. There are also many booklets and pamphlets available. And it is possible to donate to QEW on the web-site also. The web-site is at http://quakerearthcare.org