

Fred-Talks

July 2015

Introduction to this Newsletter Issue

Hello again! Welcome to my newsletter.

I hope you enjoy it or at least find it amusing. Or, perhaps, even irritating?

This is my 14th monthly Fred-Talk. I did not write anything for February through June. Other things required my time. However, I am "back in the saddle again".

I am currently analyzing leg band data from over 40 years of Brown Pelicans sighted on the southern California coast. I am also working on a new book, and giving a few lectures.

All new issues will be designated by

month and year of issue. That should make some readers happy. I have been told that nomenclature used earlier was a bit confusing.

If you would like to be added to my Fred-Talks subscription list or be removed from it, please let me know by email.

I occasionally bring up issues that are someone else's point of view, but are points that I think should be discussed. If you have other views, I would be happy to include your comments in the next Fred-Talk, with or without your by-line, as you wish. Send me an email.

Fred G. Duerr, Ph.D.
fgduerr@gmail.com

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Brief Biography of Fred Duerr, PhD | 1 |
| Reminisces of an | 2 |
| More Reminisces | 3 |
| What is Drinking | 3 |
| Book I have read | 4 |
| Time for the 99% to Give Back to the | 4 |
| Are We Running | 5 |
| Gross Commercial- | 6 |
| Are Student Loans | 6 |
| Miscellaneous | 6 |



Daughter's Handiwork



Brief Biography of Frederick G. Duerr, Ph.D.

I was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1935. I lived in St. Paul until my parents moved to Withrow, Minnesota (population 64). Withrow is approximately 25 miles from St. Paul. I attended Stillwater, Minnesota High School until the end of my junior year. I then attended the University of Minnesota until I earned my Doctor of Philosophy Degree (PhD) in Comparative Physiology.

My interests were and are in music and in science. Having decided that I was not good enough to be a musician, I majored in science. I have always been interested in what makes critters tick, and why they live where they do and not somewhere

else. My research has often been directed toward metabolic relationships between parasites and their hosts.

I was tenured at the University of South Dakota, the University of Saskatchewan, and the University of North Dakota. Since retirement I have taught at several community colleges, and lectured at the Oregon State University Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon.

I have published, solely or with others, about 25 research papers, a book on water, and this monthly newsletter.

Website

www.chemeco.com

Newsletter Archive

www.chemeco.com/Newsletter.htm

I am running out of time and there is so much to learn!

Dr. Wierd

Reminiscences Of An Old Scientist



I recently received a group photo of three friends. These people and I were graduate students together at the University of Minnesota. Two of them, Dr. Robert Seabloom (Mammalogy, at right) and Dr. Omer Larson (Parasitology, at left), and I were faculty members of the University of North Dakota. The third person, Dr. Frank Nordlie (Aquatic Ecology and Ichthyology, center) is professor emeritus at the University of Florida.

Two things bother me about this photo.

1) This is a picture of old geezers. In my mind, they should look like the young men of my memories. It is a good thing that I cannot see the old geezer (me) who is looking at this picture. Can it be that I look like an old geezer and not the young man in my mind?

2) The picture tends to make me think how the philosophy of biological science has changed during the past fifty years. I am a comparative physiologist, and yet my college buddies included ichthyologists, parasitologists, mammalogists, biochemists, and medical practitioners.

All of us showed a common interest in life in all its aspects. We talked about each other's work and latest developments in science. We would help each other in the development of ideas and certainly never considered our colleagues as competitors for a Nobel ("no-ball") prize.

My observation of current scientific academia shows students and faculty who isolate themselves in cubicles, guard their data from prying eyes, and try to get their name on as many publications as they can. I suspect the drive for funding from offcampus sources encourages that sort of behavior. Acquisition of grant monies seems more important to them and their administration superiors than acquisition of knowledge.

Occasionally I use the analogy of a jigsaw puzzle to describe this phenomenon. It seems to me that some scientists lose sight of the puzzle and concentrate only on a particular piece. I think that the person who assembles the pieces and writes a review of the literature is the real Scientist.

My oldest daughter (president elect of the AGU Earth and Space Information Focus Group) tells me that I just do not understand. She thinks that the mass of data is just too much for an individual to grasp. I disagree with her, although I admit that it is unfortunate that we do not have enough time to learn it all. Maybe a piece of the pie is better than none.

More Reminiscences

A Chinese partner and I once started and operated a Chinese restaurant in Grand Forks, North Dakota. It was large, had room for 221 guests, and a bar.

At one point in time we employed twelve Chinese chefs from Chicago, Illinois. The wait-staff were primarily wives of air force personnel from the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

Shortly after opening the restaurant, the Chinese chefs decided that Grand Forks was not metropolitan enough and wanted more salary so that they could commute back and forth from Grand Forks and Chicago. The restaurant could not survive with that salary increase and laid these people off. They didn't want to leave either, for their existing salary was a lot more than they could receive in Chicago.

My associate asked me to help convince the chefs to leave permanently. I asked four of my college student friends (mostly music students) to help persuade the chefs to leave. At the scheduled meeting between the chefs and my associate and me, my students, dressed as shown in the picture, arrived. The violin case

actually contained a violin. The chefs left Grand Forks without another word, the restaurant remained successful, and I sold it about 6 years later.



The "Goon Squad" graduated and went on to better and greater things. But that is another story.

What is Potable Water?

MANKIND can live weeks without food, but the average person requires six to eight cups of fresh water per day just to survive. Furthermore, this fresh water must be free of disease causing organisms and poisonous chemicals.

However, what if an earth quake, tsunami, hurricane, tornado, or other severe environmental condition destroyed your regular source of drinking water? Or, what if your regular source of drinking water was interrupted for a few hours or several days?

It is my opinion that everyone should have a rudimentary knowledge on surviving a temporary or permanent shortage of drinking water. Therefore it is my intention to write a short series in subsequent Fred-Talks about home processes to make water potable.

I also lecture on this subject at Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. I would be happy to send to anyone a short pamphlet on this subject, via email. There is no charge, Just let me know. Email me at fgduerr@gmail.com.

I have written several papers in scientific journals on chemical and environmental characteristics of water. I can send a list of them should you wish.

I have also written a small paperback book on water. It is available in bookstores and on Kindle and Amazon.

WATER by Fred Duerr
ISBN 1482773872



My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.

Thomas Jefferson

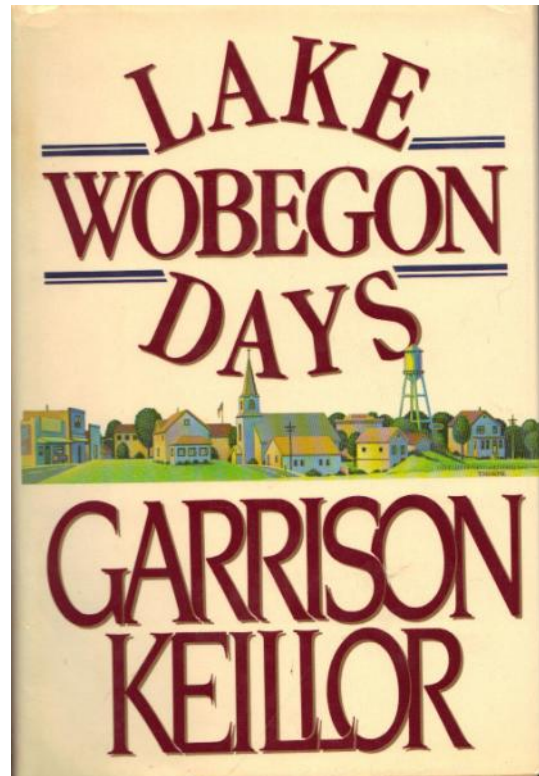
Books I Have Read Recently

A few years ago someone gave me this book called "Lake Wobegon Days" by Garrison Keillor. I put the book on a shelf and forgot about it.

I was aware of Keillor's sense of humor, but I thought it was "old hat." The humor was what I grew up with in Minnesota and I thought I had already heard it all. Or at least, enough. Besides, Keillor's high school always beat the dickens out of my high school at athletics. And besides, we both attended the University of Minnesota at about the same time.

I picked the book up the other day when I was looking for something to read. I found it was delightful and sent me down the road of memories. What is more, the book is a good history of early Minnesota. It is not only amusing, but could be used as a social history text of the upper Midwestern part of the United States for the first half of the 1900's.

I found "Lake Wobegon Days" to be a good read and highly recommend it.



Is It Time For The 99% To Give Back To The 1%?

In a recent article in Forbes magazine, the author (Harry Binswanger) states that it definitely is time. He continues to say that although it is popular to think that the successful are obliged to "give back to the community", that idea is perverse. The wealth of high earners is not taken away from the community, but provides the community with jobs, goods, and services. There is nothing to give back to the community because there was nothing taken away.

Americans frequently state that they "make" money. That is, money can be made from scratch. They create it using the power of their brains. Most other societies concentrate on "earning" money. This infers that money is finite and is in the possession of someone else. Thus it must be obtained through some sort of

work or gift.

Although some people, such as thieves and/or politicians, obtain money by exploiting someone else, proper human interactions are win-win.



The less we know the more we suspect.

Henry Wheeler Shaw

(Continued Next Page)

Are We Running Out of Water?

Years ago some wise old codger told me that “It ain’t what you know that gets you in trouble, it’s what you know that ain’t so!” Then he chuckled about the ignorance of most people. I have heard that same saying from many different people many times and with many variations over the years. However, life has taught me that while the old saying may have merit, it does not go far enough. Most people are, indeed, ignorant of many important things that should have been taught to them as children.

Recently, a high school teacher told me that most of her 11th grade class did not know that the Earth was about 71% covered by water, and that, of this water, only about 1% was suitable for agriculture or other human needs. Furthermore, students did not know the difference between fresh water and potable water. However, most people do know that one cannot survive when one drinks only seawater.

Charles Fishman, in a post titled “Five Myths About Water” in the Washington Post, stated that everyday 45,000 gallons of water is made available to every person on Earth via rain, rivers, lakes, etc. The author suggested that any danger of us running out of water is a myth. He also commented on bottled water, disagreements about water rights between peoples, water usage in America, and human consumption of water. All-in-all this was an interesting article, but was too abbreviated.

What Mr. Fishman did not stress or even mention is that water sources on land are distributed unequally. Due to atmospheric and geographic factors, some areas on Earth have an excess of useable water, and other areas do not have enough water, or are even deserts. Examples of water plentiful areas would be the coastal Pacific Northwest regions of Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia. An example of the one of the driest

places on Earth would be the Tacna-Arica region of Northern Chile.

Furthermore, water availability is rationed in certain places. Without owning the water rights of some properties in Colorado, you can own a sizable acreage with a river and not be allowed to utilize the water in any way. Some urban residents are not allowed to use rainwater collected from rooftops to water their lawns or gardens.

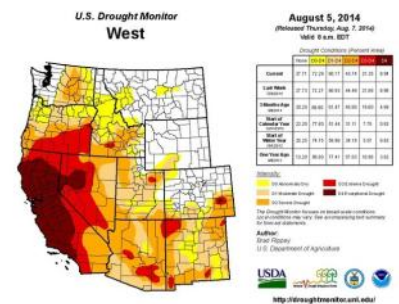
Much of the food grown in California comes from areas watered by canals carrying Colorado River water to the fields. There have been many disputes between farmers and citizens of cities and states over who can use canal water. If drought hits agricultural lands, or if irrigation canals dry due to lack of snow or rain at their source, then food production can be jeopardized, and people can go hungry, starve, and instigate civil strife.

Water is necessary for life itself. Man cannot live without a regular intake of water. Furthermore, the water should be free of toxic wastes and disease causing organisms. I think it is imperative that all people have, at minimum, a rudimentary knowledge of water and its importance.

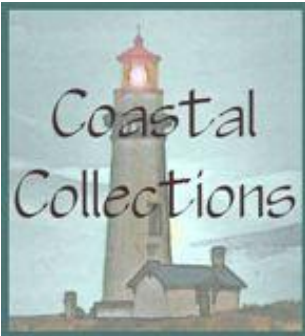


Almost dry canal in California

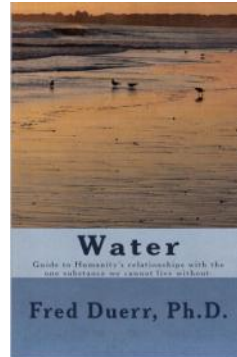
US Drought Map



BOOKS-BOOKS-BOOKS



Diana and I have somehow acquired several thousand books on a multitude of subjects. Click on the image at left to take you to our website, where you can search our inventory of books for sale at Biblio.com



I have written a small, 54 page primer on water. It is designed to give basic information to the general public. It is available at Amazon, com. As a paperback book (**Water**, by Fred Duerr), **ISBN: 1482773872** and as a Kindle, **ASIN: BOOCM13KSA**

Click on the book image to the left to take you to my page on Amazon.com.

Are Student Loans A Bad Deal?

Recently I received a letter from a collection agency suggesting that if I didn't pay the balance on my student loan, they would "stand me on my head and pound sand up my ass." It seems that there is a balance of \$2,500 on a student loan I took out over 30 years ago with Sallie Mae. With the interest and fees and fines, the amount of money they are asking for is \$30,000.

I have written many letters to them stating that this is not my loan. They never answer my letters, but every so often I get another bill from Sallie Mae or whomever. Well, anyway, I don't have the money, and if I did I think I would take up drinking and spend it all on booze. The result of all this is that they (whomever they are) take a chunk of my monthly social security check to apply to what they say I owe them.

My suggestion to students is to never take out a student loan from the Federal Government. Education is worth getting and worth the time and money spent obtaining it, but there are much better ways to pay for it. Obtaining a student load from the Federal Government is probably the worst way.

Fred-Talks Archives

Go to www.chemeco.com for a list of previous Fred-Talks.

Free Potable Water Manual

I have written a very brief pamphlet on how to find potable water. You may obtain your free copy by clicking [here](#).

Subscriptions To Fred-Talks

For subscription press Subscribe button [Subscribe!](#)

For cancelation of Subscription press [Cancel](#)

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each from the other.

Oscar Ameringer