

***Journal #5843 from sdc 10.31.24***

*Seasonal tidbits*

*Columbus 'deserves our respect, deserves to be remembered'*

*Nearly \$5 million approved for solar panel project to help community of Pine Point w/ their energy*

*DOE's Community Power Accelerator™ Will Help Create Pipeline of Projects Ready for Financing,*

*Award-Winning Projects Demonstrate Best Practices in Community Solar*

*Hosting International Dinners*



*David Attenborough - magnified ant's face*



With a leg span of up to 12 inches, the giant huntsman spider is one of the most terrifying arachnids on Earth. Not only are these creatures enormous, but they're also incredibly fast. In fact, they move so quickly that they don't even bother weaving webs to hunt their prey. Instead, they race at their victims with their pincers bared.



[Penn State Master Gardeners of Washington County](#)

#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

These are “Orb Weaver” spiders. They are large (about 1/2” to 3/4” body length), and they usually appear in late summer and early fall. Right about now, in other words. This is their time of year to build webs and find mates.

They are 99% HARMLESS TO HUMANS. THEIR VENOM IS NON-TOXIC TO US. THEY ARE DOCILE AND NON-AGGRESSIVE. THEY ALMOST NEVER, EVER EVEN BITE!!!! I know they’re scary looking, but they are our allies, not enemies. They devour insect pests that plague us. Also, they're mostly active at night - they rest in their webs during the day.

For some reason, the paranoia about these beautiful creatures has reached a fever pitch on my social media this year. If you see one, CHILL OUT. It’s not interested in you. If you walk into it’s web accidentally, don’t panic. Apologize and move on.

So be kind. Be informed. Let them do their thing.

Shared from - Ryan Murphy



[Wonders You've Never Seen Before](#) ·  
[Harlow Arquette](#) ·

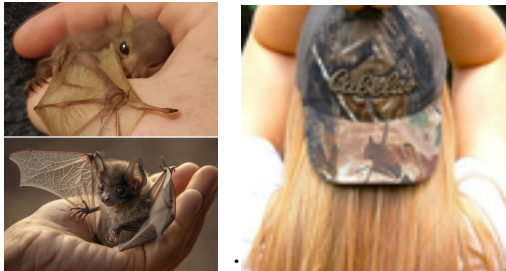
Australia... A man there let a huge huntsman spider live in his house.

Despite their often large and hairy appearance, huntsman spiders are not considered to be dangerous spiders. As with most spiders, they do possess venom, and a bite may cause some ill effects. However, they are quite reluctant to bite, and will usually try to run away rather than be aggressive.

A huntsman spider has a terrifying reputation due to their size and speed. After all, they are very large, very fast ambush hunters.

Huntsmen are quite beneficial spiders in many ways.

They're very fond of eating other creepy crawlies that we don't like having around the house, such as cockroaches, mosquitoes and flies, caterpillars, moths and other spiders, the reason the man let it live in his house.



[Country Rednecks Unleashed](#)

hello I'm a Bat... I have a goal

I don't suck blood and I don't want to get stuck in your hair.

If I accidentally enter your house, please don't hit me with cricket bats or brooms, it really hurts and I'm very scared. It was an accident, didn't mean to scare you. If I had to land, I might not be able to get up and I need your help.

Just use a towel to get me out of there and I'll fly right away, I promise.

I eat mosquitoes and many other insects.

Our houses are being demolished for other buildings and we only have a few places to go. So if I fly into your house, turn the lights off, leave the outside light on and leave the door open; I'm out in a flash.

Sincerely your harmless bat





## From Silk Moths to Fruit Flies, These Five Insects Have Changed the World

It's easy to write bugs off as pests, but consider the ways in which they have positively impacted our lives <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/from-silk-moths-to-fruit-flies-these-five-insects-have-changed-the-world-180985252/>

~~~~~



It's been 95 years and they're still doing their little dances. Happy 95th anniversary to "The Skeleton Dance." Stream the classic animated short on [Disney+](#).

~~~~~

## Columbus 'deserves our respect, deserves to be remembered'

By Janet Post Militant      Vol. 88/No. 41      November 4, 2024

Prison in New Orleans, Louisiana, where 11 Italian prisoners were lynched by mob organized by city leaders, March 14, 1891. Violence against Catholic immigrants soared in late 1800s. The attempts by liberals and the middle-class left to eradicate Columbus Day, a national holiday in October since 1937, honoring 15th-century explorer Christopher Columbus, along with statues and other tributes to Columbus, stepped up this year. These ahistorical political forces say the holiday should be renamed "Indigenous Peoples' Day."

In 2021 President Joseph Biden issued an official proclamation creating Indigenous Peoples' Day, a move backed by Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris and other capitalist politicians, as they attempt to portray a more "politically correct" capitalist rule.

In many cities, governments have provoked confrontations with Italian American communities over the holiday and local statues of Columbus. Dozens of the statues have been defaced, removed or destroyed. And Columbus Day has been "cancelled" on many college campuses.

Similar actions have been carried out by some governments in Latin America and the Caribbean. The government of Trinidad and Tobago announced it would redraw the nation's coat of arms, replacing Columbus' ships — the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria — with a steel drum.

In its July 13, 2020, issue of the *Militant*, Managing Editor Terry Evans wrote an article entitled [“Destruction of statues seeks to erase history we need to know.”](#) It said, “Behind the destruction and removal of monuments lies the notion that by erasing symbols from the past, reflecting different stages of class development, you can ‘cancel’ them and pretend they didn’t happen.

“Knowing the real history of past class struggles is key to charting a road forward. Along that road working people will decide what statues and other historical monuments we want to keep and where, and what new ones to erect.

“We don’t need small self-appointed groups imposing their own will on others tearing down statues, putting barriers in front of working people learning from our history, and gaining confidence in what we can become.”

He pointed out that working people today can’t judge past civilizations by comparison with conditions today, many the result of mighty class struggles and revolutionary transformations. Things that we reject today have accompanied important social advances in the past. That’s true of Columbus’ “discovery” of the Americas.

### **Holiday amid anti-Italian violence**

Columbus Day was originally called Discovery Day, a national celebration to be held Oct. 21, 1892, declared by President Benjamin Harrison on the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ landing in the Bahamas.

This came amid anti-immigrant violence aimed at soaring numbers of Italians coming to the U.S. in search of jobs and a new life. In 1880 Italian immigration was 44,230. In 1890 it had jumped to 484,027. The Ku Klux Klan and other racist and nativist groups went after Italians — as well as the Irish — because they were Catholic. In 1891, 11 Italian immigrants were captured in New Orleans by a mob led by many of the city’s political leaders, and then lynched.

Harrison, whose reelection campaign was faltering, had no special interest in Italian or other immigrants but hoped to reap a new pool of political support by appealing to Catholic voters. He also appealed to the Irish, as an 1887 speech shows: “What Ireland needs is not coercion, is not the constable, is not the soldier with musket and bayonet. What Ireland needs is liberal laws, that emancipate her people from the results of long centuries of ill government.”

### **Columbus and the Americas**

The four voyages of Columbus and his crews to the Caribbean and South America between 1492 and 1504 opened a door to the advancement of human history, as well as a clash of social systems that begat brutal colonial enslavement.

Armando Hart, a central leader of the Cuban Revolution and longtime minister of culture, gave an interview to *Granma* published in February 1991. He explained, “The Europeans made these discoveries in order to expand trade and the known world. These events, in and of themselves, were revolutionary events that extended human culture into a dimension unknown until that moment.

“Since the fall of the Roman empire, 1,000 years before, nothing of that magnitude had taken place. Actually, it’s hard to find a more significant event before 1492, and after that date it is comparable to the splitting of the atom.”

But, he stated, “The conquest had three serious consequences: the strategic backwardness in Spain; the annihilation of the indigenous peoples and cultures; and African slavery. These last two phenomena cannot be accepted or justified in any way, today or ever, and we must reject them wholeheartedly.

“The essence of the problem is that with each scientific achievement in the history of man there is a dramatic dichotomy: the possibility for enormous progress in human liberation, on the one hand, and the interests of the decadent classes, on the other,” he said.

“Medieval obscurantism and reactionary interests in Spain overshadowed the prestige and authority of the great discoveries made by Christopher Columbus.”

In October 1992, marking the 500th anniversary of Columbus’ arrival in the Americas, Hart said in Holguín, Cuba, “Before 1492 there was no world in the modern sense. What was the world was only a fragment of the Earth.

“Columbus deserves our respect, deserves to be remembered, because what he really discovered five centuries ago was the road to the world. That discovery was greater than what the Admiral imagined he had found.”

This is what it means to see past events along humanity’s road forward. This is Marxism.

To learn more about the clash between the indigenous societies of the Americas and the social system that was beginning to emerge in Europe in Columbus’ time — capitalism — *Militant* readers are encouraged to read the book [Labor, Nature, and the Evolution of Humanity: The Long View of History](#), published by Pathfinder Press.

~~~~~  
**Nearly \$5 million has been approved for a solar panel project to help the community of Pine Point save on their energy bills.**

<https://www.inforum.com/news/minnesota/a-bright-future-white-earths-solar-project-set-to-cut-energy-costs>

~~~~~  
**DOE’s Community Power Accelerator™ Will Help Create Pipeline of Projects Ready for Financing, Award-Winning Projects Demonstrate Best Practices in Community Solar**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S.

Department of Energy (DOE)’s National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) today (1.19.23) launched a slate of initiatives to support the deployment of equitable community solar projects and recognized projects exemplifying best practices in community solar. Community solar allows any household to access the benefits of renewable energy, with an emphasis on those that cannot access rooftop solar. The [Community Power Accelerator™](#) and its \$10 million prize will leverage \$5 billion in private-sector financing commitments to help community-based

organizations and other mission-aligned project developers access financing and build community solar projects, particularly in disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. The Department is also launching a new campaign to highlight the connections between solar energy and its long-term benefits, beginning with community solar. Community solar will play a vital role in supporting the Biden-Harris Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#) to ensure that every community benefits from the clean energy transition and in achieving the President's goals of a 100% electric grid by 2035 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

“The National Community Solar Partnership provides yet another exciting opportunity to harness the power of the sun to power our communities—helping make our climate goals a reality while lowering energy costs and reducing local air pollution,” said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm**. “The President’s historic clean energy laws are supercharging access to renewable energy, and DOE is seizing the moment by accelerating community solar deployment to ensure affordable, clean energy is available whenever and wherever to everyone.”

### **Accelerating Equitable Community Solar Deployment with the Community Power Accelerator**

President Biden’s Inflation Reduction Act established [tax credits](#) for solar energy projects, including a 20% bonus credit for solar power projects that sell their electricity to low-income households. This tax credit [could support](#) up to 18 GW of additional community solar projects over the next 10 years, enough to power over 2.5 million homes. The critical challenge is ensuring that all types of organizations and communities have access to the funds to develop community solar and that the projects deployed deliver “meaningful benefits” to communities and subscribers, like electricity bill savings, community ownership and wealth-building, resilience, equitable workforce development, and low- and moderate-income household access.

Today, DOE’s [National Community Solar Partnership](#) (NCSP) launched the Community Power Accelerator™ to bring together investors, philanthropic organizations, developers, community-based organizations, and technical experts to work together to get more equitable community solar projects financed and deployed. The Accelerator will support developers with technical assistance and a Learning Lab to build a pipeline of verified, credit-ready projects that will connect with investors seeking to fund community solar in disadvantaged communities. Financial institutions and philanthropic organizations participating in the Accelerator have [committed](#) \$5 billion in private sector financing for projects that are credit-ready.

The Accelerator includes the following programs:

- [The Community Power Accelerator Prize](#)
- is a new \$10 million competition that will provide pre-development funds to organizations to build the expertise, experience, and capacity required to develop community solar projects at scale.
- [An online platform](#), developed by DOE and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, that will enable community-based organizations, intermediaries, and other mission-aligned project developers to connect with investors and philanthropic organizations seeking to fund a more diverse and community-based pipeline of community solar projects.

- **A Learning Lab and technical assistance program** will prepare community-based organizations, small or new solar developers, and others to develop, finance, and build “credit-ready” community solar projects—projects that are ready for financing.

## Recognizing Best Practices in Community Solar

During the [NCSP Annual Summit](#), DOE announced the winners of the [Sunny Awards for Equitable Community Solar](#), an awards program that recognizes best practices in community solar projects and programs that increase equitable access and ensure benefits—such as greater household savings, good-paying jobs, and enhanced energy resilience—go to subscribers and their communities.

Five teams were selected for Grand Prize awards. Across the board, these five winners will help households achieve a projected combined total savings of \$4.3 million on their energy bills. The projects provide clean energy access for 7,300 low- to moderate-income households and demonstrate best practices in increasing resilience, expanding community ownership, building a more equitable workforce, and leading community engagement.

- **Shungnak-Kobuk Community Solar Battery IPP** (Shungnak, AK): This solar and battery project led by the Shungnak and Kobuk tribes in the Northwest Arctic Borough region in Alaska aims to stabilize the cost of electricity and allow the communities to take charge of their energy future.
- **Faribault Community Solar** (Faribault, MN): The Faribault Community Solar project is a cooperatively-owned community solar array serving mostly low-to-moderate income residents in southern Minnesota.
- **Community Power: Jobs and Savings for LMI Households** (Brooklyn, NY): Community Power delivers energy savings to 500 households, provided workforce training, and offered paid jobs to public housing residents.
- **District of Columbia's Solar for All** (Washington, DC): Solar for All is a program designed to reduce electricity bills for households in Washington, DC, through single-family and community solar projects.
- **JOE-4-SUN Ashland** (Ashland, MA): JOE-4-SUN Ashland is a 6 MW community solar project that saves low-to-moderate income households over \$400 per year on electricity costs and brings the benefits of clean, renewable energy to a superfund site.

## Connecting the Dots on Solar Energy: Generating Power for Generations

DOE also launched a new campaign to highlight the many benefits of solar energy to individuals and communities and provide a resource hub so that the public can learn about how solar will positively impact the nation’s future. The Inflation Reduction Act lowers the cost of solar energy for [consumers](#) and [businesses](#) while creating good paying jobs as deployment and manufacturing capacity grows across the country. Over the next few years, millions of households are expected to join the nearly 4 million American households that have gone solar—either through installing solar on their rooftops or by joining a community solar program. The [Connect the Dots on Solar Energy](#) campaign will focus on making connections between solar energy investments and their enduring, long-term benefits.



## About the National Community Solar Partnership

NCSP is working to increase community solar installed in the United States to 20 GW, enough to power the equivalent of five million households by 2025 and create \$1 billion in energy bill savings to consumers across America. NCSP has over 1,300 partners who leverage peer networks and technical assistance resources to overcome barriers to expanding community solar access.

Learn more about DOE's [Solar Energy Technologies Office](#)

### Upcoming Opportunities: Host a Dinner for International Visitors

Dear friends of NNIC,

As the year winds down (already), we have a few more visiting delegations and we are looking for IVLP coordinator Ryan Finnegan at [ryanf@nnic.org](mailto:ryanf@nnic.org) if you would like to learn more:

1. A delegation of eight government and business leaders from India will be visiting in November. Dinner on Saturday, November 16.
2. A delegation of eight Algerians would be visiting Reno to learn about sustainable tourism would be hosted for dinner on either November 28 or 29th.
3. A delegation of seven Arab Israelis visiting Reno to learn about empowering youth through education would be hosted for dinner on Sunday, December 8.

Thanks for your continued support,  
Carina Black, Ph.D.

