



STUDENTS' PASSION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT GIVES HOPE

It's disheartening when statistics are showing that 80 percent of our children under age 2 and more than 60 percent of children 2-5 do not have access to daily outdoor play; the average American child watches TV or plays computer games 6 hours per day -- twice the yearly hours spent in school; and visits to state and national parks have dropped between 10 and 20 percent. With this disheartening news, we begin to wonder 'what is this world coming to?'

But thankfully, there **IS** hope. Students at Ephrata Middle School have been learning about the environment in preparation of Earth Day, the Envirothon, and their Community Service Project. Lauren Moyer, Daisy Good, and Emily Ashton are just a few of the many local middle school students whose spirits are stirred and whose teacher, Marcielayne Palko, has inspired and empowered them to take action for a cause they believe in. When asked why they feel it's important to take care of the environment, their response was "*We love nature and hate seeing it all go away just to build unnecessary houses when we could be making a park. We also learned from the best teacher!!*"

Below are a few words from these three young ladies who would like to challenge you to join them in making a difference in your community and saving a place for them and their future.

When you look out towards the orange horizon, peeking through the forest trees, what do you see? Do you see a beautiful masterpiece, created by Mother Nature, that should be nourished and preserved? Or do you see a piece of land that's waiting to be run down, paved, and turned into a gas station, commercial business, or an energy consumer store? We don't want that to happen to this breathtaking planet, do we? Help us act now, with these helpful, earth-friendly tips.

To start, we need to take a giant step as a community. Right now, two large places that we know of in Ephrata are being cemented and turned into neighborhoods; one in front of the Weis wetland, and one by the Green Dragon. If humanity houses that close to a wetland, there's going to be more pollution to be handled. Our tip to you is to find a crowd of earth loving peers that are willing to come to the wetlands with you, and you can form a recycling party to clean up the waste.

Furthermore, we need to start recycling water and wasted biodegradable items. This world we know can turn into a dumpster in less than a decade! We need to stop it!! Many items in this world are biodegradable, and can be made into very rich and healthy fertilizer. One tip would be to make a

compost pile and dump all of your biodegradable foods and other items into it. You can also conserve water by setting up rain barrels around your house.

Right now on March 26, 2009, there have been over 51,898,000,000 cans and bottles that were land filled, littered, and incinerated this year in the U.S. That number increases by over 1,000 bottles and cans in less than a second. Clearly we need to start recycling. Try to recycle everything you can such as: newspaper, bottles, cans, glass, etc.

If you're not up for huge projects, an easy way to help the environment is simply donate to Earth charities. If you do not know of any earth charities, try starting with a good website like: <http://www.container-recycling.org>.

So come on Earth lovers!! There's a lot more to living than sitting on the couch and watching the earth die down!!

**By Emily Ashton, Daisy Good, Lauren Moyer
Ephrata Middle School 5th Graders**

HISTORY of EARTH DAY

September 1969 at a conference in Seattle, Washington, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin announced that in the spring of 1970 there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on the environment. Senator Nelson first proposed the nationwide environmental protest to thrust the environment onto the national agenda." "It was a gamble," he recalls, "but it worked."

Five months before the first April 22 Earth Day, on Sunday, November 30, 1969, **The New York Times** carried a lengthy article by Gladwin Hill reporting on the rising tide of environmental events:

"Rising concern about the environmental crisis is sweeping the nation's campuses with an intensity that may be on its way to eclipsing student discontent over the war in Vietnam. . . a national day of observance of environmental problems...is being planned for next spring...when a nationwide environmental 'teach-in'...coordinated from the office of Senator Gaylord Nelson is planned..." Senator Nelson also hired Denis Hayes as the coordinator.

On the 22nd of April, 1970, Earth Day marks the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Approximately 20 million Americans participated, with a goal of a healthy, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of



the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day on April 22 in 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. The April 22 Earth Day in 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990. For 2000, Earth Day had the Internet to help link activists around the world. By the time April 22 rolled around, 5,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in a record 184 countries. Events varied: A talking drum chain traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, for example, while hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., USA.

Earth Day 2000 sent the message loud and clear that citizens around the world wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy. Earth Day 2007 was one of the largest Earth Days to date, with an estimated billion people participating in the activities in thousands of places like Kiev, Ukraine; Caracas, Venezuela; Tuvalu; Manila, Philippines; Togo; Madrid, Spain; London; and New York.

Founded by the organizers of the first April 22 Earth Day in 1970, **Earth Day Network** promotes environmental citizenship and year round progressive action worldwide. Earth Day Network is a driving force steering environmental awareness around the world. Through Earth Day Network, activists connect change in local, national, and global policies. Earth Day Network's international network reaches over 17,000 organizations in 174 countries, while the domestic program engages over 25,000 groups and educators coordinating millions of community development and environmental protection activities throughout the year. Earth Day is the only event celebrated simultaneously around the globe by people of all backgrounds, faiths and nationalities. More than a half billion people participate in Earth Day Network campaigns every year.

To find out what Earth Day activities are planned for the Lebanon-Lancaster area, visit the Lebanon Conservation District's website at www.lccd.org. We hope to see you outdoors celebrating planet Earth!

Internet— Wikipedia.org



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THINK GREEN, ACT GREEN

The Lebanon County Conservation District wants to hear what you, your students, school, group, or organization are doing/have done to celebrate Earth Day—whether it was on April 22nd or some other day of the year. All too often the focus of the news is about environmental degradation—polluted waters, endangered species, loss of habitat, etc.. In future issues of LEAF, we want to focus on the many positive actions people are taking locally to improve their surroundings. Whether it's on outdoor community clean-up or beautification project, or a letter-writing campaign to local or state or federal officials in support of legislation, or celebrating the Earth via art and music, we would like to hear about the many creative ways people right here in Lebanon County are contributing to protecting the Earth's natural resources and improving its sustainability.

Take some photos, send us an email or letter explaining your project and we'll be happy to post it in upcoming issues of The LEAF. We want to hear about all the wonderful people out there who care about our environment and who are taking positive action to protect it. We want to share the environmental legacy you're leaving us. Send project reports to info@lccd.org with the subject title "LEAF."

SPRING CALANDER of EVENTS

- ◆ **April 15th—Conservation District Seedling Sale**
- ◆ **April 18th—United Way 'Day of Caring'**
- ◆ **April 18-19—Learn to Fly Fish Weekend at Limestone Springs, Richland**
- ◆ **April 22nd—Earth Day**
 - ◆ **Earth Day Celebration for Union Canal Elementary 5th Grade at QEWP**
 - ◆ **Earth Day Celebration at HACC, Lancaster Campus**
- ◆ **April 25th—Arbor Day**
 - ◆ **Lebanon Earth Day Clean-up along W. Chestnut Street, Lebanon**
 - ◆ **Cocalico Creek Watershed Assoc. Clean-up Day—4th Street Park in Denver, PA**
- ◆ **May 1st—HS Envirothon at Middle Creek**
- ◆ **May 2-3—Swattie Sojourn—Canoe & clean up the Swatara Creek.**
- ◆ **May 6th—Lebanon-Lancaster MS Envirothon at Middle Creek**
- ◆ **May 13th—Elem. Envirothon Field Experience to Safe Harbor Dam**
- ◆ **May 15th—Elementary Envirothon Testing Day at Coleman Memorial Park**
- ◆ **May 19th—PA State Envirothon—Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County**