

**ALW EARTHLINK
MARCH 2007**

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March Birthdays

Please wish the following Angels a happy March birthday!

Debra – March 5

Jess – March 6

Colleen – March 12

Jerry – March 14

Special note: Jerry is Wen's hubster, and he is also one of ALW's biggest supporters! He gives continuously – with monetary donations, with hands-on help and in many, many other ways. Plus – he puts up with Wen's longgg hours on the computer, her weekly ALW business trips to Linda's home, her travels to Kentucky, etc., etc., etc.!! So – here's a SPECIAL wish to Jerry, with thanks and love (and homemade pineapple upside-down cake!)

Last Chance for R&R – Forever!

If you have never attended one of ALW's Roots & Remembrance Weekends – this is your last chance to come spend two days learning, sharing, working, playing and caring – and doing it with some of the nicest people you'll ever meet! This year's R&R is May 4-5, 2007, in Lexington, Kentucky. That's Kentucky Derby Weekend, everyone – and if you've never experienced the excitement in Kentucky at Derby Time – then y'all need to come on down!

ALW's group won't be going to the Derby (although we will watch it on TV AND have our own "Derby Day" activity!) – but we will be in Lexington – the Horse Capital of the World! We'll be meeting with horse owners, horse trainers, horse groomers, horse experts – and we will find out about horses and the environment. We'll do a hands-on environmental project at the Kentucky Horse Park. We'll have a special, down-home Kentucky dinner. And of course, the HIGHLIGHT of the weekend will be our annual luminary candle ceremony, when we light hundreds of candles to remember friends, family, pets, places, milestones, anniversaries and the Earth. This year, we are having a very special dedication that you won't want to miss!!!!

March 10 is the deadline to make a reservation to join us!

We'll send you a separate reminder about R&R in the next few days, with a reservation form you can download and print out.

PLEASE think about joining us. We want our final R&R celebration to go out in a BIG way!

Fundraiser Updates

Don't forget to send us a donation to have a candle lit for yourself or for someone you love at our luminary ceremony on May 5. Cost is \$3 per candle or \$5 per candle if you want us to send you a special souvenir candle. ALL proceeds from the candles are going to help build a nature center at the camp where we bring our needy kids. Remember – for each candle you make a donation for, you are entered into our raffle for a special KEV-tucky basket – including a SIGNED item from Kevin! You can send your donations via Paypal (our Paypal address is alastingworld@sbcglobal.net) or you can mail us your donation to: A LASTING WORLD, PO BOX 1824, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL. 60039-1824. Make sure you include the name(s) of those you wish to have a candle lit for.

Environmental Camp Updates

Because of the generosity of our ALW Angels and other interested individuals and groups, we are pleased and proud (and blessed) to announce that all 15 of the needy Appalachian children we are bringing to our summer environmental camp free-of-charge – have now also been ‘adopted!’ That means that we will be able to provide ALL their extra needs – everything from sheets and towels to sunglasses and snacks! AND – everyone who has ‘adopted’ a child has also kindly provided enough money for us to buy the child a special, personal gift (selected from a list of ‘wishes’ the child gives to us). We couldn't be happier! Thanks to the following Angels who ‘adopted’ a child this year – Terri, Meg, Malessa, Lynne, Ali & Betty, Jenny, Becky and Ann!

NOW.....on to the NEXT item.....quilts/blankets for each child! We are in REAL need for some of you to say that you will sew/make a twin-size quilt or fleece throw for a camper! These are on the beds when the kids arrive at camp, and last year they were truly treasured by each child. PLEASE consider doing this for one of our campers. If you are interested, contact us ASAP and we will give you the dimensions for the size, and also a little information about the camper you will be ‘covering’ with your love! Thanks for your prompt response to this request!

A few other ‘camp’ notes:

As you noticed, we are bringing 15 kids to camp instead of 14. A local church group GENEROUSLY sponsored one extra child for us, so that a brother and sister could both come to our camp together!

Bobby Kennedy Jr. is signing and sending copies of his children's book (it is about St. Francis – the original environmentalist!) for each of our campers!

A VERY KIND, GENEROUS AND GIFTED college professor from Eastern Kentucky University is DONATING his time and equipment to our camp – he will come and do two separate environmental workshops with the kids, with lots of hands-on participation (the kids will even learn to use digital cameras to do nature photography!) -- and we can't be more excited!!!!

A company here in Illinois has donated baseball caps with lights in the brim (perfect for our night hike!) for each camper!

Every camper is going to go home with a UK tee-shirt and a brand new basketball!

Because a local store gave us a HUGE discount, we were able to secure several microscope kits at 75% off the original price - to be used for environmental workshops during our week at camp.

More news to come!

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Al Gore's Movie Wins Academy Award

"An Inconvenient Truth," Al Gore's documentary on global warming, won an Oscar at this year's Academy Awards. If you haven't seen this film yet, please make every effort to view it. It's a MUST SEE.

Mountaintop Removal Road Show

Please check the forum on our website entitled "Mountaintop Removal" for an updated schedule of events/programs/workshops sponsored by Dave Cooper and the Mountaintop Removal Road Show. Dave and his friends work tirelessly to stop the practice of mountaintop removal mining in the Appalachians. We know he would appreciate support from ALW Angels.

Wiping out Fish

The madness of the overfishing of our oceans shows no signs of abating. A research paper presented at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Francisco recently shows that, as fish stocks in coastal waters become more and more depleted, trawlers are moving farther out to sea.

Fishing fleets also are wrecking marine biodiversity in the areas in which they operate. Bottom trawling is responsible for the loss of more than 95% of the coral from deep-sea reefs. The dragnets of the trawlers destroy in the space of a few hours pristine ecosystems that often have taken thousands of years to grow. In the process, the homes of countless rare species are lost. The destruction of the coral also destroys a valuable natural record of the Earth's changing climate. This is ecological vandalism.

The desire of governments to support their fishing communities is understandable. But it makes no sense to sponsor overfishing. There is only one sane course of action: The subsidies should end, bottom trawling should be outlawed, and a system of strict international regulation for high seas fisheries must be established.

The warnings of what will happen otherwise are unequivocal. According to a major scientific study last year, there will be virtually nothing left to fish from the seas by the middle of the century if current fishing trends continue. We are at risk of wiping out one of mankind's oldest sources of food and doing untold damage to one of our planet's fundamental ecosystems. (The Independent, London)

Test Wind Farm Opens

Cuba has opened an experimental wind farm, hoping alternative energy sources can one day ease occasional power shortages while reducing the island's dependence on oil, state news media reported.

The \$3.4 million park, featuring six 180-foot windmills, was established on Isla de la Juventud, an island south of Havana, according to the newspaper *Juventud Rebelde*.

Exactly when the park was inaugurated was unclear, but officials estimate that during its first year of operation it could produce 1,800 megawatts of electricity.

That could save Cuba about \$136,000 in oil costs, the newspaper said.

The park was built using French technology, and its windmills are designed to be disassembled quickly in case of hurricanes and tropical storms. (Chicago Tribune)

National Geographic Site Offers One-Stop Homework Help

What can a student do when facing an oral report on tigers and he doesn't know where to begin? Try starting with the experts at National Geographic magazine's Homework Help website, at www.nationalgeographic.com/homework/.

One of the site's best features is its "One-Stop Research" search tool. Enter your search term, and the tool returns links to related National Geographic maps, photos, articles and video clips all on one page.

One-Stop Research is great for looking up information on animals, places, natural phenomena such as earthquakes, and a few ancient cultures. However, if you use it to search for historical figures (such as Napoleon or Thomas Jefferson) or for time periods (such as the French Revolution), you'll find the results spotty at best. (Eric Goodwin, MCT)

IF

If 100,000 people who currently do not recycle started to do so, they would collectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 42,000 tons each year. (Mother Earth News)

ANGEL OF THE MONTH

Last issue, we shared part of an interview we conducted with Mr. Robert Lawson, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Renfro Valley, Kentucky.

Here's the rest of the interview!

ALW: One thing we have come to notice, from being in Kentucky so often and from getting to know some of the Kentucky musicians, is that there is a deep sense of "Kentucky Pride" that we have not noticed in artists from other states. What's your take on that?

Mr. Lawson: Well, with the artists, you know, most of them –when you see them – anywhere they go – it's like "Hey, I'm from Kentucky." It's like Kevin Richardson. I mean, every time he's back – you'll see, if you're watching a UK ballgame – football, basketball, baseball – whatever – they'll shoot through the crowd and most of the time Kevin's there! He supports that! And wherever he is in the world, he's wearing a Kentucky hat! The Backstreet Boys were – I can't remember where they

were – but they were doing something on TV not too long ago – and they were sitting around Kevin’s piano and singing – and there was Kevin and Brian both – they had UK stuff on!! You know, they’re proud – they’re proud of that! One of the things that has impressed me the most about Kevin is what he did for Estill County High School with the football program. I mean, I have to tell you, that was very impressive. To have someone go back to their home town and say “Hey, I’m going to make a difference!” – well, that speaks a lot for the kind of person Kevin is, and how he values his roots here in his home state.

ALW: Isn’t that ‘giving back’ philosophy what you have in mind for your dream of building an outdoor performance area and outdoor classroom here at the Hall of Fame?

Mr. Lawson: Exactly. One of the main goals of the Hall of Fame is to educate our Kentuckians on the musical heritage of Kentucky. We really believe that if we don’t tell the young people about our heritage, then it is going to be lost. We already do a lot to bring kids in and do music programs, book publishing projects, story hours – the parents bring the kids into the Hall of Fame – I mean, even the youngest preschoolers come in and run around the “Rock Room” down here, you know – and we want them to have that hands-on experience!

ALW: And the outdoor arena and classroom would allow you to do more, right?

Mr. Lawson: That’s right. Having a performance area/classroom -- what this is going to do is not only bring in the young people, but bring in the older generation, too, so that all generations are working together to do special projects. It might be a high school drama play that we could sponsor, or a dulcimer group that we could bring in. Maybe we could host a state chorus competition or a band competition. And what we’d like to do is welcome all types of Kentucky music. We won’t be saying “This is only for Bluegrass shows – Bluegrass shows only.” We want to bring in – you know – we want to have a rock-and-roll concert – we want to have a blues fest – we want to bring all styles and all genres of music in. It’s our goal to show the world that Kentucky musicians and artists shine in many different genres.

ALW: And what about the classrooms?

Mr. Lawson: Besides the outdoor arena, we’d like to have outdoor classrooms where kids could come down here under a shelter and spend the afternoon with us. They could learn about what Kentucky’s musical heritage is, from the first settlers that came here to how their family roots have grown. We’d like to show kids from all the different counties that their ancestors probably all came up Rockcastle River and that they probably farmed here!

ALW: So – when do you think all this will start taking shape?

Mr. Lawson: Well, the outdoor arena is going to be critical to the growth of the Hall of Fame and the use of the property that we have here.

ALW: Are the artists helping you to achieve this goal?

Mr. Lawson: Yes, they are. Our Kentucky artists are very generous, and they have donated money for this project, and a lot of the artists have donated their time to help us raise money. But – I’m a firm believer – and this has just come in the last nine months – it’s hard for me to go to Kevin Richardson or to go to Dwight Yoakum or to go to Boots Randolph and say “Would you help this organization?” when the State of Kentucky will not support the organization. So – what I want to do – is anybody and everybody that can make a phone call or write a letter to our State Senators and Congressmen – or to the Governor’s Office – I want them to do that for us and say “Hey, it’s about damn time you support this project!” It’s the only thing like this in the State of Kentucky – and it has a great impact on the entire world! We are the only museum that honors Kentucky’s musical heritage!

ALW: What would be the ultimate goal as far as getting support from the State?

Mr. Lawson: The ultimate goal would be to receive a yearly stipend from the State of Kentucky to keep the museum going. We are not asking for a million dollars a year. All we’re asking for is an operating budget that will allow us to keep the museum open and growing. We’ve got to all work together to make this thing happen.

ALW: We’ll definitely do our part.

Mr. Lawson: Well, thank you so much.

ALW: Back to the outdoor amphitheatre for a minute – what made you decide to build an environmentally friendly venue?

Mr. Lawson: Well, we’re sitting in the heart of Renfro Valley. The other day I walked out to where the amphitheatre will be built, and there were three deer just standing staring at me. We don’t want to lose the beauty of the natural surroundings here and just throw up any old structure. We’ll use recycled building materials as much as possible. We’re going to make it a place that will complement the natural beauty of this place, and that will inspire others just by being here.

ALW: Well, you’ve inspired us!

Mr. Lawson: Thank you, ladies! And thank your group, too.

We are proud to honor Mr. Lawson as our special ALW Angel!

We recently made a donation to the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum in the name of all ALW Angels. With luck, ALW will be able to be a small part in helping see the outdoor amphitheatre and environmental learning center become a reality! If any of you would like more information on the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Museum, contact us and we’ll help you out!

And Finally.....

*“The times I spent with my children in nature
are among my most meaningful memories.....
and I hope theirs.”*

(Richard Louv)

*“Though we travel the world over to find the
beautiful, we must carry it with us or we will
find it not.”*

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

*“There are two ways to live life –
one as if nothing is a miracle
and one as if
everything is!”*

(Albert Einstein)

See you in April!

Linda and Wen