

**ALW EARTHLINK
APRIL 2009**

In this issue.....

April Birthdays

Earth Day 2009

“Go Light Your World!” Fundraiser

Camp H.O.P.E. Update

Someone You Should Know

Environmental News

And Finally.....

April Birthdays

We would like to wish the following ALW Angels a happy April birthday! Enjoy your springtime celebrations!

Hailey – April 7

Meg – April 10

Diane – April 12

Nikki – April 16

EARTH DAY – April 22

Lynne – April 23

Dan – April 24

Fatima – April 25

Petra – April 28

Earth Day 2009

EVERY DAY is Earth Day for ALW, but April 22 is the official date that is annually set aside to celebrate this remarkable planet we call home.

Earth Day 2009, April 22, will mark the beginning of the Green Generation CampaignTM! This two-year initiative will culminate with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day in 2010. With negotiations for a new global climate agreement coming up in December, Earth Day 2009 must be a day of action and civic participation for all of us! Check out www.earthday.net and find out what you can do to become involved in this initiative!

“Go Light Your World” Fundraiser

ALW’s ‘Remembrance’ candle celebration has become an annual tradition. We wish you could all be there to see how beautiful it is when hundreds of candles flicker in honor of people, pets, occasions and other intentions from all over the world! There is a strong sense of peace and unity as soft, acoustic guitar music is played as the names of those being remembered are read out loud. Don’t forget that we have extended the deadline for ALW Angels only – you can still participate in this very beautiful ALW fundraiser – the last day to send in a donation is Earth Day, April 22. The minimum donation to have a candle lit is \$5. For each candle you make a donation towards, you are entered into a raffle for two special prizes – one of which is a signed item from ALW’s Honorary Chairperson, Kevin

Richardson! All the money from this fundraiser will help us provide supplies and gifts for our 2009 Camp H.O.P.E. participants. Thanks for your support!

Camp H.O.P.E. Update

A very special thank you to: Ali A., Betty A., Lynne M., Margaret C., Gail R., Terry K., Terri O., Meg H., Richard G., Becky S., Ann E., Debbie C., Rochelle F., Kizzy N., and the Finnegan Family – these are the special ALW Angels and friends of ALW who have ‘adopted’ a child for the 2009 camp experience. We know it is a big commitment, and we know what sacrifices these individuals make to take on this very important role. Thanks!

We will be meeting with our 2009 campers for the first time on Earth Day, April 22. We are excited to talk to them in person, to meet their parents, to tell them a little about our week-long camp, and to answer any questions they have.

We will also be seeing some of our Camp H.O.P.E. alumni on April 25. They have graciously volunteered to help work our booth at the Mountain Mushroom Festival in Kentucky. It should be fun!

We are still in need of a few McDonald’s gift cards for our campers (\$5 each), and in need of a few portable CD players (\$15 each). If you would be willing to donate one or more of these items, please let us know ASAP! Thanks again!

Someone You Should Know

Dennis Edmonson and his staff at Clearly Fun Soap Inc. have been generous contributors to Camp H.O.P.E. for the past three years. We interviewed Dennis and got a little more information about the company:

- 1. When was your organization founded? In 2003.**
- 2. How many people do you employ? 10-20.**
- 3. What is the mission of your organization? To provide fun, safe bath products for children of all ages.**
- 4. Tell us about your products. We offer a unique line of bath products. Most of them are made right here in the USA. We began with a goldfish-in-a-bag soap, and it is still our #1 seller.**
- 5. Where can our members purchase your products? You can purchase them online at www.bathandbodyworks.com, www.drugstore.com, www.amazon.com, at Stein Mart stores, Albertson’s stores, and in over 3,000 shops across the USA.**
- 6. How can others become more involved in your organization? Our soaps make terrific fundraiser items.**
- 7. How many companies do you donate to each year, and what makes you choose the ones that you do donate to? We donate to several companies each year, but it has to be something we are interested in and that we feel will make a difference.**
- 8. What inspired you to donate to ALW? As with most parents, we all have a soft spot in our hearts for children. We liked what we saw about ALW and we like what your organization is accomplishing. We are pleased to play a small part in this wonderful outreach program.**

9. What environmental message do you have for our members? Wash your hands! ☺

Clearly Fun Soap, Inc., 440 Wilson Road, Griffin, GA 30224
770/233-1203, www.clearlyfunsoap.com

Environmental News

Good News From Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

On March 24, just one week after members of KFTC, The Alliance for Appalachia and other allies from across the country met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the EPA took action to put on hold two valley fill permits and indicated that hundreds of other pending applications would come under much more strict review.

It is the first step that the citizens urged the agencies to take, and one that many KFTC members have been waiting and hoping for. It is a great victory and one that will hopefully lead to permanent protections for the land and people in coalfield communities.

The action is particularly timely because a U.S. appeals court in February ruled that the valley fill permits could be issued without regard to scientific evidence that mountaintop removal and valley fills do significant environmental harm. The court proceedings had caused a backing of dozens of permits that were ready to be processed and granted without regard for the environment until the March 24 decision.

Much will be written and discussed about this action, but this change in EPA policy of just turning a blind eye to the destruction caused by mountaintop removal coal mining and valley fills may be coming to an end. Be assured that KFTC will be working hard to strengthen EPA's resolve to protect our waters and bring about a complete halt to mountaintop removal and valley fills. This is just a first step, but significant, and it is a victory that means so much to so many people.

Take action! Call the White House and leave a message thanking President Obama for taking this important first step toward protecting the land and people in coalfield communities. The phone number is: 202/456-1111. Message: Mountaintop removal and valley fills must stop. Thank you for taking action through the EPA to see that our streams are protected.

For more information about the work KFTC does, go to their official website at www.kftc.org. (Kentuckians for the Commonwealth)

World Water Day

World Water Day was celebrated on March 22, but you can still help make a difference! Fix leaky faucets, take shorter showers, and don't run the dishwasher or washing machine for partial loads. For more ideas on water conservation, check out www.unwater.org/worldwaterday.

Earth Hour 2009

Did you turn out your lights on March 28? We hope you were one of the many, many participants in Earth Hour 2009. Check out www.earthhour.org and find out just how successful this 'take action' event was!

NRDC Publishes its 2008 Progress Report

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently published its 2008 Progress Report and its 2009 Action Plan. Check out www.nrdc.org/partnershipfortheearth to find out the wonderful achievements they have made for all of us!

Go Native!

Planting a garden this year? GO NATIVE! The benefits of growing local plant species reaches far beyond your garden. Native plants promote biodiversity, and it is critical to the health of the ecosystem that home owners plant native plants. Planting alien plants reduces the local insect population and deprives the birds and wildlife of the food they need to survive and reproduce. All of us need to learn more about the importance of native plants. There's no need to dig up what is already in your garden, but if you are doing new planting this year, GO NATIVE! For information about which plants are native to your state, go to www.usaweekend.com and you will find a helpful listing!

(Fran Sorin)

And speaking of gardens.....

Change may be coming to the White House lawn! Eat the View and the WHOFarm (White House Organic Farm) Project are working to transform the White House lawn into a garden. Members of these grassroots groups are circulating petitions and rallying support to ask the Obama family to plant an organic vegetable garden on the lawn. Produce from the garden would go to local food pantries to feed the hungry, supplement school lunches in the District of Columbia and even feed the First Family. To sign petitions and find out more, go to www.earthview.org and to www.thewhofarm.org.

Want to Adopt A Wildlife Pet?

The Wildlife Medical Clinic at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, has several residents who would like to be adopted – by you! Odin, the Red-Tailed Hawk, Penelope, an Eastern Screech Owl, Noel, a Northern Saw Whet Owl, Pistol, an American Kestrel, and Nokomis, a Great Horned Owl, would love to be part of your family! An adoption package includes a color photo of your adopted animal, an information sheet on your resident, and a certificate of adoption. To find out more about this program, contact the Wildlife Medical Clinic, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2001 South Lincoln Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801, or go to their website at www.vetmed.illinois.edu/wmc/ to see the adorable residents! (This makes a great gift for a child interested in animals or for the person who has everything!)

Did You Know.....

Many computer printers now have an ink- or toner-saving mode. Use the 'draft' setting whenever possible – you'll save resources and money, too.

You don't have to give up the idea of growing your own vegetables due to lack of space – dwarf varieties can be grown in containers and will thrive in most climate zones. Even a small patio provides enough space to grow fresh food during warmer months.

One bus can replace about 40 cars, so every time a bus is full of passengers, that could mean 40 fewer cars on the road – and a whopping 9 tons of air pollution saved each year!

If you use a traditional, mechanical alarm clock, you'll use less electricity in your home and the clock won't let you down when there is a power failure, either!

The average home toilet uses 15 gallons of water per person per day! Toilets account for 1/3 of home water use, so if you install a low-flow toilet, you will cut that use by half. Plus, the switch may also qualify you for a tax or utility credit!

If you get out in nature, you'll get to know nature. If you get to know nature, you'll learn to love nature. If you love nature, you'll want to protect it! ☺

And Finally.....

*Take nothing but pictures.
Leave nothing but footprints.
Kill nothing but time.
~Motto of the Baltimore Grotto, a caving society*

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.
~Native American Proverb*

*Happy Earth Day!
Earth Day is EVERY Day!*

See you in May!

Linda and Wen