

ALW EARTHLINK
MAY 2007

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May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following ALW Angels who celebrate their special days in the month of May:

Ashley – May 5
Angie – May 11
Dick (Honorary Angel) – May 12
Edel – May 13
Alison – May 24
Tyna – May 26

Also – Happy Mother’s Day to all of you who are mothers or mothers-to-be! Thanks for choosing to bring new life to our Earth, and enjoy your celebrations!

Roots & Remembrance 2007 - Review

Our group was small in number (only 12 total), but our weekend events/ceremonies in KEV-tucky were definitely enjoyable! Environmentally, we found ourselves situated in some of the most beautiful landscape on this Earth. The rolling hills, the trees, the flowers, the bluegrass of Kentucky – it was all absolutely breathtaking -- and it made us more committed than ever to help preserve the natural wonders of our planet. We did an afternoon clean-up project at the Kentucky Horse Park. We filled up several bags with trash and we weeded/cleaned around many of the memorial plaques that have been placed throughout the Park. We toured several horse farms in the Lexington area, and we learned the history of the area, the stories of the horses and the environmental impact of sprawl in this beautiful region.

Besides working and discussing the environment, we had time for lots of fun, too! We took a leisurely trail ride, we took a hayride, we made our own little stuffed “Kev-tucky” horses, we had a Derby contest, we wore our Derby hats, we danced with professional cloggers, and we (of course!) ATE A LOT of good ol’ Southern ‘grub!’ The highlight of the weekend was, as always, our candlelight “Remembrance” ceremony. We lit over 500 candles in honor of personal heroes, living and deceased, and in honor of pets, places, milestone occasions and more. The night was very emotional and very touching. It is always so awesome to sit beside the candles and realize that the flames represent people, places and things from all over the EARTH! Wow.....

Alison Anchor, Tyna Riemen and Becky Sopek were named ALW Angels of the Year. Betty Anchor was named ALW Friend of the Year. ALW raised over \$1670 in candle donations which will ALL be awarded to help build the new nature center at the Cathedral Domain.

Last, but not least, we unveiled a special tree and plaque that was placed in the Kentucky Horse Park in honor of Kevin. The plaque simply reads: *"In honor of Kevin, who taught us how to reach for our dreams. A Lasting World 2007."* A special thanks to ALW Angel (and caring hubster/friend!) Jerry Marcec for his financial backing in helping us purchase the tree and plaque!

Give us about a week and we will have photo memories of Roots & Remembrance 2007 on our website and on Wen's Myspace page.

We have decided that we will continue to do a very low-key "Remembrance" candle ceremony each spring, but this is the last, OFFICIAL, full Roots & Remembrance weekend EVENT. We thank EVERYONE who has ever attended one of our R&R events – and we especially thank the 'gang' who came to help us close this activity. They brought along much enthusiasm, warmth and love – and they will ALWAYS be in our hearts!

Raffle Winner!

In conjunction with our candle fundraiser, we held a raffle for a very special KEV-tucky surprise package! The winner of that package (which included a photo SIGNED BY KEVIN) is ALW Angel Juliana from Pennsylvania! Congratulations, Juliana, and we hope you enjoy the 'stuff' we are sending you! Thanks again (and again and again) to EVERYONE who made candle donations. We wish you ALL could have won!

Camp H.O.P.E. 2007 -- Update

We were blessed to be able to meet almost all of our fifteen campers and their parents/guardians on April 26. The meeting took place at the kids' school. The kids are very excited about coming to our week-long camp, and the parents are VERY grateful that ALW is providing the kids with this wonderful opportunity free-of-charge. We have all fifteen kids 'adopted' and we have some talented seamstresses committed to making all the quilts/throws for our campers' bunks!

With the budget we're working with (money comes from the Kevin Birthday Bash event, people who have sponsored a child and people who have adopted a child), we realized that we would be able to rent a school bus for a day so that we can take the kids on one off-site field trip. We're going to be taking them to the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington. Most of them have NEVER been to Lexington, and when we announced this trip, we had them wide-eyed and cheering! ☺

We've received many awesome in-kind donations from companies and/or organizations. We've received nature books, CD's, candy, nature/environmental games, environmental materials, workshop materials, 'fun' stuff and more! After the camp, you'll see the

LONG list of everyone who contributed in some way to making this camp a success. You will be amazed at how long the list is!

One of the donations we are the proudest of is from Bobby Kennedy, Jr. He has MOST GRACIOUSLY sent 15 AUTOGRAPHED COPIES of his children's book about St. Francis (the original environmentalist!) to our campers. We received the books just before we left for our Kentucky trip, and it truly warmed our hearts. Mr. Kennedy has been giving to and has been supportive of ALW since we first introduced our group to him several years ago. Mr. Kennedy truly is a man who LIVES what he BELIEVES and we are constantly inspired by him. We know that his kind gesture to our campers will boost their self-esteem and will help give them "H.O.P.E." to dream their biggest dreams for the future.

We are still writing proposals, sending out appeals, making phone calls, personal visits, etc., etc., etc. – to assure that we will be able to continue presenting this camp on an annual basis. Keep Camp H.O.P.E. in your thoughts and prayers! If you know of a company or group who might be willing to make a donation (monetary or in-kind) to ALW – please give us the contact information! We'd appreciate it!

FUNdraisers

Speaking of FUNdraisers.....through the years, ALW has done an awful lot of them!!!!!! From the cookbooks to the Build-A-Bears, from the buttons to the lollipops, from the tee-shirts to the tote bags – we've raised lots of \$\$\$\$ for environmental organizations such as JWR, NRDC, Riverkeepers, MTR Road Show, Spirit Bear Foundation, American Cancer Society, Colon Cancer Awareness, DLF, etc. We are in the process of cleaning out our ALW storage spaces in Kentucky AND in Illinois – and we are finding that we have a few items from EACH of our previous FUNdraisers. Be watching for a special, REDUCED PRICE sale of all our accumulated "treasures." If you missed out on a past ALW fundraiser and might want a one-of-a-kind souvenir (for example – a Kevin Birthday Bash football towel for \$1!!!) – watch for our sale! We'll have what you want at a 'cheaper than dirt' price! ☺ ALL donations you make for these items will go to support ALW environmental causes.

Environmental News

New Idea Book Helps Create Effective Outdoor Spaces for Children

A new publication is available from The National Arbor Day Foundation that can help parents, schools and communities re-connect children with the out-of-doors. Titled LEARNING WITH NATURE IDEA BOOK: CREATING NURTURING OUTDOOR SPACES FOR CHILDREN, the 52-page, highly illustrated book is based on research findings that suggest the most effective ways to provide positive, age-appropriate experiences with nature.

"The key principle behind this project is convincing evidence that contact with nature and the right kind of outdoor activities at an early age provide profound long-term benefits for children," said John Rosenow in announcing the book's availability. "Getting children back in touch with the outdoors is not only good for their own mental and physical

development but is also essential for the future stewardship of our environment,” he added.

The new book is collaboration between the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation. It includes design concepts from leading members of the American Society of Landscape Architects and easy-to-follow instructions based on Dimension’s field-tested principles for inspiring young children through nature and outdoor play.

Anyone wanting to create a nurturing nature space in a backyard at home will want to read about the most effective design ideas. Those who have children or grandchildren in child-care centers or elementary schools will want to have those facilities learn and adopt the principles, as well. The book is suitable for either designing new spaces or adding natural components to an existing outdoor learning space. It includes sections on the kind of activity areas needed, what materials to use, layout considerations and all the other details needed to create space that is fun and effective in the development of positive attitudes toward nature. You can learn more or order your copy at arborday.org/explore.

(From Arbor Day Magazine)

Tree-Free Greetings

Want to wrap Mom a thoughtful gift in a thoughtful way? The New England-based company Paporganics is tree-free, manufacturing stationery and gift wrap from organic, hemp and recycled materials. All of Paporganics products are made from organically grown cotton and flower petals, chlorine-free agricultural resources, and post-consumer waste fibers that are printed with vegetable inks rather than the toxic bleaches used in standard paper. Paporganics also features classic designs, greeting cards with images of garden bounties, and hemp wrap swarming with bees. The ‘cultivated cards’ (\$2.50) are made from 100% recycled post-consumer paper. Other products include gift wrap (\$4.99), gift tissue (\$2.49) and gift ribbons (\$4.99). Contact: Paporganics, (603)821-1374, www.paporganics.com. (By Jennifer Greco, E Magazine)

A Bright Idea!

Australian minister of the environment Malcolm Turnbull announced earlier this year that his country will become the first in the world to phase out incandescent light bulbs. Using a combination of ‘persuasion and regulation,’ the government will steadily tighten national efficiency standards until, by 2010, only energy-thrifty fluorescent bulbs will pass muster. The effort will cut 800,000 tons of greenhouse-gas emissions by 2012. California and the United Kingdom are considering similar bans. (Sierra Club Magazine)

Why Kill A Tree To Grow A Flower? Say NO to Cypress Mulch!

Your garden and the hurricane-threatened Gulf Coast are closer than you think. This spring many gardeners will buy cypress mulch, not realizing that the cutting of cypress forests for mulch is destroying vital wetlands that stabilize the coast against hurricanes, storm surges and erosion.

Folks think that levees are the Gulf Coast's first line of defense, but they are not. We rely on our coastal cypress forests for hurricane protection.

Cypress wetlands absorb water like a sponge, reducing storm surge and controlling flood height and speed. Cypress wetland forests save lives and protect coastal communities, as well as serve as critical habitat for migratory birds and wildlife.

Most of the cypress mulch on the market today is ground from whole trees, and much of the cypress mulch comes from illegal logging. Cypress trees take hundreds of years to mature and a considerable portion of these cypress forests will never regenerate if cut. But state and federal government officials turn a blind eye. Meanwhile, retailers use creative language to convince gardeners that their cypress is 'sustainable.' But don't believe what's written on the bag.

The really sad fact is that cypress mulch is not as effective as other mulches. The heartwood from mature, centuries-old cypress trees is rot and termite resistant. But the mulch you buy in garden retail stores comes from trees that are far too young to have these qualities. A University of Florida study confirmed that cypress mulch is not any better for your garden than pine bark or eucalyptus mulch – or even leaf litter. Please don't buy cypress mulch. Choose an alternative and save our cypress forests. (By Marylee M. Orr, Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper)

Some Statistics

Waterkeeper Magazine is printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper generated with wind power. The magazine has committed to protect the environment and build the market for environmentally sustainable products. Here are the environmental savings from this switch:

322 trees preserved for the future

932 pounds waterborne waste not created

137,170 gallons wastewater flow saved

15,177 pounds solid waste not generated

29,884 pounds net greenhouse gases prevented

228,738,400 BTUs energy not consumed

Savings from the use of emission-free wind-generated electricity:

15,526 pounds air emissions not generated

7 barrels crude oil unused

In other words, savings from the use of wind-generated electricity are equivalent to:

Not driving 7,612 miles

OR

Planting 625 trees

Waterkeeper Magazine is printed on FSC-certified Mohawk Options 100% post-consumer recycled paper which is manufactured with Green-e certified wind electricity.

This paper is certified by Green Seal and by Smartwood for FSC standards which promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Way to go *Waterkeeper* Magazine!

(From *Waterkeeper Magazine*)

And Finally.....

“Every month stormwater carries over 1 million gallons of oil and grease into our oceans – that’s equal to one Exxon Valdez oil spill every 8 months.”
(AbTech Industries)

“I love the Earth because it gives me the outside to play in!”

(Preschooler at Wen’s school)

“I should ask that a gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life...”

(Rachel Carson)

*“A Lasting World.....
is just within Reach!”*

(ALW motto)

See you in June!

Linda and Wen