

**ALW EARTHLINK**  
**June 2009**

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**June Birthdays**

**Happy June Birthdays to the following ALW Angels:**

**Jennifer - June 8**

**Diane - June 12**

**Malessa - June 14**

**Tracy - June 16**

**April - June 17**

**FATHER’S DAY – June 21**

**Ruth - June 22**

**Terri - June 23**

**Jane - June 25**

**June is designated as “Great Outdoors Month” – so we hope you all celebrate your special days out in nature! ☺**

**Happy Father’s Day to all the Dads, Grandfathers, Godfathers and Father-Figures we know and love! You guys all ROCK!**

**A “Beary” Special Announcement!**

**We are pleased and proud to announce that ALW is in the final phases of production to have a children’s book published! As many of you have noticed, there is a substantial lack of good, simple environmental literature on the market today, especially books that contain text that is appropriate for younger children (pre-readers or beginning readers). Many parents, grandparents, educators and environmental groups are looking for such a publication.**

**Soon to enter the market is our book -- Keby, The Earth-Friendly Bear. Keby’s story is a 30-page, full-color picture book written in simple, rhyming pattern that will give young children an introduction to the environment. Also included in the book is a glossary that will explain environmental vocabulary at a beginning reader level, and that will present adults with ample educational information to further guide children in learning more about the natural world around them.**

Keby is a very environmentally-aware teddy who bears a cute ‘resemblance’ to our Honorary Chairperson, Kevin Scott Richardson! Since the inception of Camp H.O.P.E., Keby Bear has been our mascot. He has had many ‘adventures’ with the students who attend camp, and he has been an ice-breaker, a teaching tool, a ‘confidante’ and a generator of many smiles. We feel that more children should benefit from an ‘environmental encounter’ with Keby Bear, and this book will serve as a perfect vehicle to achieve this goal.

The book is currently in production, with a target release date for sometime in October 2009. Keep watching upcoming newsletters for more information on the book’s official release date!

Kevin Richardson himself is on board with us for this project. We are grateful for Kevin’s continued support of ALW! Kevin has written a wonderful foreword for the book and he will be signing the first 12 copies that come off the press!

All proceeds from the sales of the book will help us fund Camp H.O.P.E. 2010. The signed-by-Kevin copies will be auction items and raffle prizes at upcoming ALW events.

We hope you’ll all add a copy of Keby, The Earth-Friendly Bear to your home library, and that you’ll recommend it to everyone interested in helping young children ‘go wild and take action’ for the Earth!

#### Review of Remembrance Ceremony 2009

May 25 was a beautiful, starry night in Kentucky, and just about 25 people joined us for our annual Remembrance candlelight ceremony. We had music, we shared memories, and we remembered people, places and occasions with dignity and reverence. Thanks to Dan Marcec, who provided music for the event, and thanks to some of our Camp H.O.P.E. ‘alumni’ – Austin, Lindsay, Krista, Jasmine, and Frances for reading the names of those remembered.

The following awards were presented at the ceremony: Malessa Pearce and Meg Hunsicker were named “ALW Shining Stars” for the ‘above and beyond’ contributions they made to Camp H.O.P.E. 2009. Mike Flynn, Andy Sigmon and Cindy Sigmon were named “ALW Friends of the Year,” and were recognized for the continuous support, assistance and love they share with ALW. Jerry Marcec was named “ALW Angel of the Year” for the many things he does to help ALW accomplish its goals. Congratulations to all our 2009 award winners!

#### “Memory Garden” Beginnings

It has been a long-time dream of ours to plant a special “Memory Garden” where butterflies will be welcome guests and where human visitors can walk, find natural beauty and enjoy peaceful tranquility. The dream has begun to materialize in a quiet corner on the grounds of the camp where we hold Camp H.O.P.E.!

**ALW Angels Betty, Becky, Ali, Jerry, and Ruth joined us in Kentucky for a day of digging in the dirt! Jerry and Ruth prepared a sizable plot of Earth for us with a roto-tiller. Once it was ready, we planted 36 native Kentucky wildflowers (all perennials) and one native Kentucky tree! The weather cooperated with us, and a gentle rain fell the day after we planted! Things are off to a good start! For those of you who are interested, here's what we planted: prairie coneflower, Culver's root, prairie blazing star, New England aster, Wild Bergamot, garden phlox, rigid goldenrod, black-eyed Susan, orange coneflower, butterfly milkweed, lattice leaf coreopsis, nodding wild onion, switch grass and river oats. This collection should provide a display of colorful flowers from spring through fall. The tree we planted is a fringetree that should grow to 12-20 feet tall and that will flower every May or June. We plan to add to the garden each year, and we hope it will become a very special place to all who visit it!**

#### **Camp H.O.P.E. 2009 Update**

**Our campers are ready – our counselors are ready – the camp staff is ready – and WE are ready for Camp H.O.P.E. 2009! Camp takes place July 12-18, and ALW Angels Betty, Becky, Ali, Steve, Jennifer, Jerry, Ruth and Kizzy will be joining us as counselors this year. Thanks to each and every one of you who have supported us in ANY way and who have helped make this environmental experience a reality for 15 very deserving middle school students! It's going to be an awesome adventure!**

#### **Someone You Should Know**

**We're sure you've heard the name Taylor Swift, and you probably recognize the photos of this young, bright, talented country singer. If you haven't purchased one of her CDs, we invite you to support her by having a listen! Taylor and Lyric Street Records have graciously donated a copy of her latest CD, "Fearless," a "Fearless" leather bracelet, and two karaoke CDs for EACH of our 15 Camp H.O.P.E. kids! ☺**

#### **The Great American Backyard Campout!**

**Mark your calendars! June 27 is the date of the Great American Backyard Campout. This event provides an opportunity for everyone to relive – or to experience for the first time – how much fun it is to spend a night sleeping under the stars and enjoying the sounds of nature. Held each June, the Great American Backyard Campout is a national event that encourages individuals, youth, friends, and families to camp out together for one night. Each year the number of campers has steadily grown. The locations and types of campsites vary from family campouts in the backyard to public campsites with 30 or more community members. In previous years, campers have ranged in age from 3 months to 99 years old, and have come from all areas of the United States. The event is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation. To find out more about the event, or to register to be a part of the event, go to [www.nwf.org/backyardcampout/about.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/backyardcampout/about.cfm).**

#### **Environmental News**

**Pink Dolphin A Standout in Louisiana Channel**

New Orleans. What's pink, has red eyes and leaps around a Louisiana shipping channel long enough for you to believe your eyes? A rare albino bottlenose dolphin! Bottlenose dolphins are common in the lower Calcasieu Ship Channel, feeding in the deep water and riding on top of boats' waves. And when the pink one jumps amid four dark gray dolphins, it's easy to spot. The albino is just the 14<sup>th</sup> reported worldwide, and the third in the Gulf of Mexico, according to biologist Dagmar Fertl of Plano, Texas. It was first reported by Wesley Lockard of Rayville, LA, as a small calf in June 2007. Lockard, 26, said he and family members were fishing when they were stunned by the sight. "Something comes up and you say, 'Wow! Did I just...?'" Then he comes up again and you say, 'Yeah! I just saw a pink dolphin!'" he said. Now, the mammal is as much a part of the channel south of Lake Charles as boats and fishermen. "We see him on a pretty regular basis," said Roddy Blackburn, crewman and relief captain of a boat that ferries pilots to ships. But spotting the pink one, believed to be about 2 ½ years old, does take time. (Associated Press)

### **Our National Parks: Conserving the Best of the United States**

The names are familiar to all of us -- Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Denali National Park, Mammoth Cave National Park – these and many, many more places are all part of our national park system. The mission of the National Parks Conservation Association is to protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations. For more information on any of our national parks and how you can help to protect them, visit [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).

### **Get Help To Go Green**

As part of its economic-stimulus program, the federal government has allocated more than \$5 billion to help Americans make their homes more energy-efficient. If you have an annual household income of less than \$44,100 (for a family of four), you may qualify for up to \$6,500 in improvements through the Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program.

The DOE's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants Program is awarding an additional \$3.2 billion to state, county, and city governments to parcel out for local projects that improve the energy efficiency of residential and commercial buildings.

To learn more about both programs, visit [www.Parade.com/energy](http://www.Parade.com/energy). (Parade Magazine)

### **Earth-Friendly Beauty Guide**

Go green during your daily beauty routine. Enhance your well-being with eco-conscious products. According to the Tate Family of Tate's Natural Miracle Conditioner, you can also nurture the Earth with these products. "We believe it's important for people to use natural products because natural products help to support and preserve the Earth. The Earth is our home and we must take care of and love our home." So pamper yourself – knowing you are being kinder to your body and to the Earth! Here are some products to check out:

**Kiss My Face Liquid Rock Roll-On Deodorant** – a liquefied crystal deodorant stone designed to successfully eliminate and neutralize odors. This aluminum and paraben free formula comes in five varieties – scented, fragrance-free, patchouli, lavender, and summer scent. \$4.99 at Whole Foods, or [www.kissmyface.com](http://www.kissmyface.com).

**Tate's Natural Miracle Conditioner** – With over 82 different uses, this non-greasy product works beautifully as a hair conditioner, body lotion, make-up remover, nighttime face moisturizer, shaving lotion, foot soak, massage cream, sunburn soother, lip balm, cuticle cream and more. \$25.95 at local health stores and pharmacies, or [www.ourtatefamily.com](http://www.ourtatefamily.com).

**One With Nature Dead Sea Soap** – Made with 100% vegetable base, dead sea minerals, and shea butter, there are no artificial fragrances, colors or animal ingredients in this soap. The 16 vibrant scents come from pure essential oils or other completely natural sources. Fed by the River Jordan, the Dead Sea's mineral rich salts and muds deeply cleanse and tone while restoring your skin's natural PH level. \$3.75 at Whole Foods, or [www.onewithnature.com](http://www.onewithnature.com).

**Yes to Carrots C Me Smile Lip Butter** – This is the first 95% certified USDA organic lip balm to hit the shelves of drugstores. Free from parabens, petroleum, and phthalates, this product is available in five flavors. Created with extracts from certified organic fruits and vegetables, you can find it at Walgreens or [www.yes-to-carrots.com](http://www.yes-to-carrots.com). (Healthy Lifestyles Magazine)

#### **Did you know.....**

.....when you plant, put layers of wet newspaper around the plants, overlapping as you go. Cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic, but they will not get through wet newspapers.

.....to keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper does not hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.

.....Reuse empty cardboard paper towel or gift wrap rolls. To get something out of a heat register or from under the fridge, add one of these empty rolls to your vacuum. You can flatten or bend it to get in very narrow openings.

.....put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it 'home,' can't digest it and they are gone! It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed from pesticides. (Thanks to Angel Ali for these tips!)

#### **A Conservation Idea**

Instead of buying several magazines every month, make a deal with your friends to buy one title each and then swap to help curb paper waste. You'll end up saving money as well as paper! (365 Little Ways to Save Our Planet)

### **Study Shows that Global Warming Can Be Lessened**

A new scientific study finds that the absolute worst of global warming can still be avoided if the entire world cuts emission of greenhouse gases the way President Obama and Europe want.

A computer simulation by the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, looked at what would happen by the end of the century if greenhouse gas levels were cut by 70%. The result: the world would still be a warmer world but by about 2 degrees instead of 4 degrees. Arctic sea ice would shrink but not disappear and sea level would rise less.

About half the temperature increases and changes in droughts and floods can be avoided compared to a scenario without emission cuts, according to the study, which was published at the end of April in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. Future heat waves would be 55% less intense. Thawing of permafrost in the far north would also be reduced.

The study is one of the first to use computer models to quantify how much of the effects of global warming can be avoided, compared to a world if nothing is done about the problem.

While the study looked at what would happen with dramatic cuts in future pollution, history has shown that reductions are much easier to talk about than to make. The controversial 1997 Kyoto Protocol called for industrialized countries to cut emissions, but since then levels worldwide have gone up 25%. In the U.S.A., where emissions are up 6% in the last decade, Congress is fiercely arguing over a plan to reduce pollution.

“If we follow on the path that Obama has outlined of cutting emissions by 70 or 80% and the rest of the world does it, then we can make a big difference on the climate by the end of the century,” climate scientist and study chief author Warren Washington told the Associated Press.

But if the United States and Europe cut back on carbon dioxide and China, India and other developing countries do not, then the world is heading toward a harsher, hotter future, not the one the study shows, Washington said.

“The study mapped areas that would benefit the most by emission cuts, comparing what would happen with less carbon dioxide pollution and what would happen if greenhouse gas continues to grow. The difference between the two scenarios is starkest for temperatures in Alaska and the mountain west, which would see temperatures rise a couple degrees less with emission cuts. Reduced carbon dioxide would also significantly lessen predicted future droughts on the Pacific coast and flooding in the Northeast. (Seth Borenstein, Associated Press)

### **Waterkeeper Alliance Sends Message To Coal Industry**

Earlier this year, the Waterkeeper Alliance launched its first national anti-coal campaign: “The Dirty Lie.” ([www.thedirtylie.com](http://www.thedirtylie.com)) The campaign is designed to create broad awareness about how coal is destroying our environment and the

health of millions of Americans. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to bring about a change in national energy policy that ends our dependence on fossil fuels. We invite all our Angels to take a stand against coal and the myth of ‘clean coal energy.’ There is no such thing as clean coal.

Mercury from coal plants has poisoned 100% of the waterways in 19 states and contaminated fish in all 50 states.

Acid rain from coal plants has sterilized 1/5 of the lakes in the Adirondacks and destroyed Appalachian forests from Georgia to North Quebec.

Ozone and particulates from coal plants are the primary cause of death of 60,000 Americans each year from respiratory failure and cause a million asthma attacks and a million lost work days.

Carbon from coal plants is the main cause of climate change which threatens to alter life on Earth for all living things.

Just 1/70<sup>th</sup> of a teaspoon – a single gram – of mercury in a 25-acre lake can make the fish in it unsafe to eat. Nearly all fish and shellfish in the U.S. contain mercury. Every state in the U.S. now has mercury fish advisories covering millions of lake acres and hundreds of thousands of miles of rivers.

Mercury, even in small amounts, can have a grim impact on our health. It can damage the liver, kidneys, blood and heart. Mercury poses the greatest health risks to fetuses and young children. Wildlife is also severely harmed by mercury.

Pregnant women who eat mercury-contaminated fish pass the mercury on to their babies in utero and from breast milk.

We urge you to visit the Waterkeeper Alliance website and take action against the coal industry! (Waterkeeper Alliance)

### **Mountaintop-Removal Coal Mining**

In Appalachia, mountaintop-removal coal mining is continuing to have catastrophic effects on the region, leveling historic landscapes and communities.

Each week, 2,500 tons of dynamite – the size of the Hiroshima atomic bomb – are used to blow up mountains and bulldoze the rubble into neighboring valleys and streams, irreparably damaging America’s most ancient forest lands and surrounding communities.

In the past twenty years, mountaintop-removal mining has leveled an estimated 1 million acres of hardwood forests, decapitated 470 mountains and buried over 1,200 miles of unique headwater streams. Within the decade, they will have flattened an area the size of Delaware.

When the coal is burned, its pollutants bellow into the air or are captured in toxic ash sludge pits. Because coal-fired power plants require vast amounts of water for cooling, they are usually located on a lake or a river. The proximity of the toxic pits to our waterways is a recipe for disaster.

Help stop mountaintop-removal coal mining! (Waterkeeper Alliance, [www.waterkeeper.org](http://www.waterkeeper.org))

And Finally.....

*“Believe and achieve,*

*Reach high, journey far,  
Trust in your dreams  
And follow your star!"*  
**(Author Unknown)**

**See you in July!**

**Linda and Wen**