

ALW EARTHLINK
SEPTEMBER 2006

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September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all our Angels who have a special day in September!

Esther – September 2
Illa – September 5
Celeste – September 7
Casey – September 9
Debbie – September 10
Gaby – September 15
Susan – September 16
Kizzy – September 16
Yadachi – September 20
Meg – September 27

Kevin's Birthday Bash!

Our October 6-8 weekend to celebrate Kevin's 35 years on this Earth is just one month away! It's hard to believe we have been planning the details for this fundraiser for soooo long! We're very excited about the weekend, and we promise you that you won't be disappointed if you attend! We're going to have great food, fun games, contests, lots of KEVIN 'stuff,' raffles, an AUCTION and more! We will be sending you the complete weekend agenda in a separate e-mail later this week. We hope it helps refresh your memory and that it will get you as excited as we are about our October weekend!

The price is right – the cost is just \$10.03 for Friday night; \$19.71 for Saturday afternoon; and \$35.00 for Saturday evening. That's a grand total of only \$64.74 for all three of our weekend events! We know that price doesn't include travel expenses and lodging, but it's still quite a deal for all the goodies you'll be receiving and for all the fun you'll be having! And remember – although he will not be with us, this is a fundraiser approved and supported by Kevin! ALL your money will go to help us sponsor the free-of-charge attendance of a group of needy Appalachian students at our 2007 summer environmental camp. That's something you can be very proud to be a part of!

In order to notify caterers, order enough souvenirs, reserve a big enough ballroom, etc. – we MUST have your reservation NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 15.

Please consider joining us for this, our first-ever ALL-KEVIN event. We promise you won't be disappointed!

The AUCTION!

You've heard us talking about it. You've had a 'peek' at some of the items. But starting today, September 1 – the bidding on our October 7 AUCTION items can begin! You will receive an e-mail from us, listing every auction item up for bid, along with a brief description of each item. Some of the items have an opening bid. Other items do not, allowing you to start with ANY bid for that item. Also listed in the e-mail will be the official auction rules.

Photos of ALMOST every single auction item are available and will be posted on our website this coming weekend. You can also e-mail us and tell us the number of the item you want to view, and we can send you a photo of the item in an e-mail. Make sure you read your AUCTION e-mail carefully – there's a longgg list of grrrrreat items! ☑
Remember – ALL money raised will go to help needy kids. Let the bidding begin!

Fundraiser Updates!

Besides our fabulous auction items, we'll also be holding a raffle at our October event! You do not have to be present to win one of our raffle prizes! There's a longgg list of those, too! You can purchase raffle tickets for \$35 each or \$19.00 for 71 tickets. You can indicate which raffle items you want to try to win when you purchase your tickets. We'll be sending out a RAFFLE e-mail, too – so – look it over carefully!

And finally – we have Kevin candy bars, granola bars and tee-shirts for sale! The tee-shirts are \$19.71. The candy bars and granola bars are \$1.35 each – and they MAY contain a "Golden Ticket!" If you get a "Golden Ticket" you win a very special prize!!!! You can order candy at any time, but they will all be mailed on October 1, so that everyone will have a chance at the "Golden Ticket" until right before the Birthday Bash!

Want to know more? Contact us and we'll give you all the details you need for ANY of these opportunities/items!

ALW Summer Environmental Camp

Since our last newsletter, we've had meetings with the Camp Directors and with the liaison at the school where our 2006 campers attend. Because of the very positive experience at the camp, because of very convincing feedback from the campers and their parents, and because there is such a need for this type of environmental education program – we've already set the dates for ALW's Camp H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Planet Earth) 2007!

The photos from camp that we promised to have up on the website SHOULD be there in the next week or two; and once they are viewable, you will be able to check out some of the adventures, fun and learning we shared. And – don't miss seeing Linda rappelling – ankle brace and all!

Mountaintop Removal Mining

Most of us live in homes that are cooled, heated and lit by coal-fired power plants. We all enjoy those convenient luxuries, and we certainly do not want to give them up. Many people think that electricity from coal is 'cheap energy.' But – how does that coal get to the plant and in turn, come into our homes?

Unfortunately, the Appalachian Mountains are being destroyed because of the way coal is being extracted from the Earth and brought to those plants. A few men and some heavy machinery blast off the top of the mountain, dump the fill in the valley below, scoop out the coal and leave. The area becomes a literal wasteland, looking more like moonscape than the great, natural beauty it once was. Because the rich topsoil has been lost with the blast, no native vegetation can continue to grow. Gone are the forests that were once lush with trees and animal life. Streams and rivers are left polluted. Ecosystems are destroyed. Local residents who live in the areas where the blasting takes place live in constant fear of mudslides, of over-the-load-limit coal trucks roaring down their country roads, and of having the very foundations of their homes cracked or completely destroyed because of the blasting.

Are we willing to sacrifice the entire Appalachia area just so we can enjoy 'cheap energy?' Maybe it's time we take action to stop mountaintop removal mining (MTR) practices. As a group, ALW consistently assists the efforts of several environmental groups who work tirelessly to stop MTR. If you, as an individual would like to do more for this cause, contact us and we'll put you in contact with people who always need new volunteers.

Remember – mountains don't grow back, and Appalachian people can't just pack up their belongings and move. Let's see what we can do to help preserve the mountains/heritage that is left in Appalachia!

CFL's

Most people want to do their part to help the environment, but they don't know where to start. Choosing Energy Star qualified lighting for the home is a simple way to save time, energy and money, and to help preserve our environment for future generations.

Lighting accounts for 20% of the average home's electric bill and is one of the easiest places to save energy. Simple steps, such as changing a light at home, can save on energy bills while also helping to reduce the risks of global warming. That's because most electricity in our country is still generated by burning fossil fuels, which releases greenhouse gas emissions into our atmosphere. If just half of all American homes used Energy Star qualified products, and took other steps to save energy, the change would prevent the release of billions of pounds of emissions.

The energy used in the average home can be responsible for more than twice the greenhouse gas emissions of the average car. That's because burning fossil fuels generates most electricity, which releases greenhouse gases into our air. By using energy more efficiently at home, less energy needs to be generated by power plants. Energy Star encourages Americans to be aware of their energy use and to start by switching the five lights they use most to ones that have earned the Energy Star trademark.

Energy-efficient light bulbs and fixtures that earn the Energy Star trademark offer the latest in style and convenience, and the quality that consumers expect. They offer warm, bright light with the added benefits of using at least 2/3 less energy than traditional models and they last up to 10 times longer! Energy Star qualified compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are available in different sizes and shapes, including mini-spiral, spiral and A-line, which fit in almost any fixture. On average, each CFL can save more than \$30 in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb and can prevent more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions. Energy Star qualified bulbs produce 70% less heat, so they are safer to operate and can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

Energy Star's "Change A Light, Change the World Day" campaign encourages every individual to help change the world, one light – one energy-saving step – at a time. Going into its 7th year, the campaign builds national momentum throughout the summer and early fall with a central rallying point on Energy Star "Change A Light, Change the World" Day on Wednesday, October 4.

If every American home replaced their 5 most frequently used lights or the bulbs in them with ones that have earned the Energy Star rating, each home would save \$60 a year in energy costs. Together, Americans would save about \$6.5 billion each year in energy costs and would prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than 8 million cars.

To find out more about CFLs, about "Change A Light, Change the World" Day, or about Energy Star products, check out [HYPERLINK "http://www.energystar.gov"](http://www.energystar.gov) www.energystar.gov.

(Products that earn the Energy Star trademark prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy.)

Other Environmental News

Hybrid Drivers Get A Break on Parking

Drivers of hybrid vehicles and cars that get at least 30 miles per gallon will no longer have to feed a meter to park in the Detroit, Michigan suburb of Ferndale. Ferndale passed an ordinance that allows drivers to park their fuel-efficient vehicles without paying at downtown parking meters. "We're all hurting with the high gas prices, and this is a small, symbolic step to send a message: We care about progress," Craig Covey, the council member who proposed the ordinance, told the Detroit Free Press for a story that was featured on the newspaper's website.

Calculate How Your Diet Affects the Entire Planet

An interactive online calculator lets consumers gauge the health, environmental and animal-welfare impact of their diet. It's available on the new Eating Green website, [HYPERLINK "http://www.eatinggreen.org"](http://www.eatinggreen.org) www.eatinggreen.org, of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

The "Score Your Diet" calculator gives you a qualitative assessment of the environmental costs of the meat and other animal products in your diet, and shows how small dietary changes can help both an individual's health and the

health of the planet.

For example, replacing just one serving of beef, one egg and one serving of cheese per day with fruit, vegetables or whole grains would spare the need for 1.8 acres of cropland, 40 pounds of fertilizer and 3 ounces of pesticides each year, according to the site.

The website is part of a new strategy for the 35-year-old CSPI as it makes an environmental case for more plant-based, though not necessarily vegetarian, diets.

(From the Associated Press)

More Environmental News

Check out the forums on our official website, www.alastingworld.com, and read up-to-the minute environmental news in a variety of areas! (Hint: School Students --We bet you can find some good topics for paper-writing!)

ALW ANGELS OF THE MONTH

Happy Anniversary, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth!

On August 17, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) marked its 25th anniversary as an organization! A number of celebrations are already underway, and you can find out more details about these events by logging onto the official KFTC website, HYPERLINK "<http://www.kftc.org>" www.kftc.org. ALW wishes KFTC all the best as they continue their work in Kentucky! They definitely earn the title of 'Angels' -- and we are proud to name them our ALW Angels of the Month!

And Finally.....

"Live your life each day as you would climb a mountain. An occasional glance toward the summit keeps the goal in mind, but many beautiful scenes are to be observed from each new vantage point. Climb slowly, steadily, enjoying each passing moment: and the view from the summit will serve as a fitting climax for the journey."

Harold B. Melchart

"Are you ready to parrrrr-tay?"

Kevin Richardson

"Hope to see y'all at Kevin's Birthday Bash October 6-8, 2006
in Lexington, Kentucky!"

Linda and Wen

See you in October!

Linda and Wen