

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

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HISTORY OF EARTH DAY

Earth Day, April 22nd, each year marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Among other things, 1970 in the United States brought with it the Kent State shootings, the advent of fiber optics, "Bridge Over Troubled Water", Apollo 13, the Beatles' last album, the death of Jimi Hendrix, the birth of Mariah Carey, and the meltdown of fuel rods in the Savannah River nuclear plant near Aiken, South Carolina—an incident not acknowledged for 18 years.

It was into such a world that the very first Earth Day was born. Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U. S. Senator from Wisconsin, proposed the first nationwide environmental protest "to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda. " "It was a gamble," he recalls, "but it worked." At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a work that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news.

Earth Day 1979 turned all that around. On April 22nd, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a health, sustainable environment. Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff organized massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment.

Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they share common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmer, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts. Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest honor give to civilians in the United States—for his role as Earth Day founder.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting the status of environmental issues on to the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. As the millennium approached, Hayes agreed to spearhead another campaign, this time focused on global warming and a push for clean energy. Earth Day 2000 combined the big-picture feistiness of the first Earth Day with the international grassroots activism of Earth Day 1990. For 2000, Earth Day had the Internet to help link activists around the world. By the time April 22nd rolled around, t,000 environmental groups around the world were on board, reaching out to hundreds of millions of people in a record 184 countries. Events varied: A talking drum chain traveled from village to village in Gabon, Africa, for example, while hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D. C., USA.

Earth Day 2000 sent the message loud and clear that citizens the world 'round wanted quick and decisive action on clean energy. Now the fight for a clean environment continues. We invite you to be a part of history and a part of Earth Day. Discover energy you didn't even know you had. Feel it rumble through the grass roots under your feet and the technology at your fingertips. Channel it into building a clean, healthy, diverse world for generations to come.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER

Camai Paluwik,

Just when I had thought spring was around the corner (snow melting on the mountains, blooms on the willows, and sprouting bulbs planted last fall) we get covered in snow !! But as I spoke to my friends up north in Bethel and other places in Alaska, and our friends in Idaho where they have no snow pac, they tell me we should feel blessed. We know that we need the snow pac for water sources for the salmon berries, blue berries and lots of fresh water for the salmon. So we should feel very blessed!!

On another note, has anyone noticed we don't have as many plastic bags flying in the bushes and trees like we normally do? This is because so many community members are bringing their own shopping bags to the store and the stores no longer use plastic bags in their stores!! This is so awesome to see that we care for our community to keep it clean and litter free. So kudos to the local stores and community members for caring for our community....way to go!!

Some up coming events next month is Earth Day on April 22nd. I encourage each of you to make a contribution to Earth Day by making a choice that benefits Mother Earth, like walking to work or to the store, or by shutting off your TV or computer for 1 day or 1 hour to conserve the use of electricity. There are many things you can do to reduce your Carbon Footprint, which may have adverse effects on where you live. Check out Earth Day at: www.earthday.net to see what else you can do increase your environmental awareness.

We also continue to work with the Kenai Borough on the inert waste removal this summer. We will keep everyone posted on dates so you can get your "last minute" junk up to the waste pile. They will be removing the used oil, batteries and the mounting inert waste pile. We are also working with Total Reclaim to remove the tote of electronic waste to get that out of the community. We will also be doing our usual Summer Clean up in May and we will send out flyers to remind everyone about the scheduled dates.

Quyana.

Violet Yeaton

Environmental Planner

NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION MONTH

What's the Danger?

Every 13 seconds, U.S. Poison Control Centers receive a call about someone being exposed to a poison. Forty percent of those cases involve a children the age of three years of age. According to the American Association of Poison Centers, more than 50 percent of over two million exposure incidents each year involve children under six years of age. What's more, poison center data reported over 70,000 calls made to poison centers with concerns about exposure to common household pesticides. These figures show the need for everyone to lock up pesticides and household chemicals out of children's reach- preferably in a high cabinet. EPA observes National Poison Prevention Week (March 14-20) each year to increase awareness of the danger to children of poisonings from pesticides and household products.

What chemical-containing products are in your home?

Bath and kitchen disinfectants and sanitizers, including bleach, household cleaning or maintenance products, such as drain cleaner, paints or glues, automotive products stored around the home, such as anti-freeze or windshield washer fluid, health or beauty care products such as medicines, hair and nail products, roach sprays and baits, insect repellents, rat and other rodent poisons, weed killers, products used to kill mold or mildew, flea and tick shampoos, powders, dips for pets, and swimming pool chemicals

What can you do to prevent poisonings?

Poisoning incidents can be prevented if parents and caregivers remember to lock up products that could potentially harm children. Yet, an EPA study found that among households with children under the age of five, nearly half stored pesticides in an unlocked cabinet, within reach of children. Poisoning incidents are preventable. Simple steps you can take to prevent poisonings from occurring in your home include storing household products in a locked cabinet or garden shed away from both your children's and pet's reach.

Remove children, pets, and toys before applying pesticides (inside or outside the home) follow label directions to determine when children and pets can re-enter the area that has been treated. Never use illegal pesticides (e.g., Tres Pasitos, unregistered Insecticidal Chalk, or Tempo) these products have not been reviewed by EPA and their use may pose a danger to public health; always look for an EPA registration ID number on the label.

Post the Poison Control Centers' national hotline number,

1-800-222-1222,

near your phone; program the number into your phone's "address book" or redial feature.



NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION AWARENESS WORD SEARCH PUZZLE



(To do the word search, first read these paragraphs then find the words listed below.)

The United States has made tremendous advances since Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 to clean up the aquatic **ENVIRONMENT** by controlling **POLLUTION** from industries and sewage treatment plants. Today, **NONPOINT SOURCE** pollution remains the nation's largest source of **WATER** quality problems. Sometimes referred to as polluted runoff, nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into surface waters or introduces them into ground water. The most common nonpoint source pollutants are **SEDIMENTS** and **NUTRIENTS**. Other common nonpoint source pollutants include **PESTICIDES**, pathogens, salts, oils, and excess **FERTILIZER**.

The **WATERSHED** approach is the preferred way to restore a stream, river, or lake. It looks beyond the water body itself and examines the entire drainage area, including all the potential sources of pollution that drain into it. Water **conservation** uses practices and technologies that limit water use in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room, lawn, driveway, and garden. Conserving water reduces the demand on existing water supplies and limits the amount of water that runs off the land. **RUNOFF** should also be minimized by using **LOW IMPACT** development (LID) techniques, which work with the natural landscape and native plants to soak up more rainwater by improving infiltration. Low impact development solutions include **RAIN GARDENS** and green roofs, which treat rainwater as a precious resource. Other ways to control polluted runoff include **EROSION** control techniques such as silt fencing around construction sites, establishment of **RIPARIAN** (vegetated) zones next to water bodies to filter out pollutants, and **XERISCAPE** landscaping, which incorporates native plants that minimize maintenance needs. Finally, many local groups organize volunteer **MONITORING** efforts, which provide information that can help government agencies understand the impacts of nonpoint source pollution and solve problems. Working together, we can all make a difference. *(this puzzle can be found at www.epa.gov/owow/nps/kids/word)*

Can You Find These Words? *(Circle each one)*

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|--------------|-----------------|-----------|
| CONSERVATION | NONPOINT SOURCE | RUNOFF |
| ENVIRONMENT | NUTRIENTS | SEDIMENT |
| EROSION | PESTICIDE | WATER |
| FERTILIZER | POLLUTION | WATERSHED |
| LOW IMPACT | RAIN GARDENS | XERISCAPE |
| MONITORING | RIPARIAN | |

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