EARTH DAY 2008: Going Green

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement. On this day in 1970, over 20 million Americans including youths and college students, participated in protests and organized coast-to-coast rallies in streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy and sustainable environment. The events of that would not have been possible without the dedication of Denis Hayes, the national coordinator, and his youthful staff. The first Earth Day, prompted the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

Denis Hayes’ involvement in the environmental movement grew as he organized a global Earth Day campaign in 1990 under the direction of a group of environmental leaders. For the first global Earth Day celebration, Hayes mobilized 200 million people in 141 countries, lifting the status of environmental issues on to a world stage. One result was a huge increase in world wide recycling. With people everywhere becoming more and more Earth conscious, Earth Day 2000 brought global warming and a push for clean energy into the spotlight.

For the Earth Day millennium, a combined 5,000 environmental groups from around the world and hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries joined in the movement.

The first Earth Day in 1970 also prompted the creation of a non-profit organization called the Earth Day Network, or EDN. EDN combines civic and environmental education in school based programming which promotes knowledge of how our actions can influence the environmental health of our communities. Seven schools across the country received healthier and sustainable learning environments, made possible in part by EDN. The goal of these learning environments is to mobilize students, educators, parents, and communities to green their schools, in addition to fostering citizen action on energy conservation and global warming issues. St. Augustine Middle School of Buffalo, NY was one of the seven lucky schools to receive a “greening over” from this initiative.

This year EDN, working in partnership with other environmental organizations, will produce the 3rd annual Green Apple Festival—“America’s largest Earth Day celebration” - a weekend of music and environmental awareness that takes place on Sunday April 20th with 8 free music festivals occurring simultaneously at landmark locations across the U.S. What makes the Green Apple Festival so unique, is that it is located in parks with eco-considerations such as easy foot/bike access and public transportation. The weekend will also kick off a Green Schools pilot program in three Green Apple cities, and it will bring together world environmental leaders, community activists, artist talent and crowds in the hundreds of thousands to make this one of the largest Earth Day gatherings in U.S. history. For more information, and to learn how to kick-start your Earth Day action, visit [http://www.earthday.net/earthday2008.aspx](http://www.earthday.net/earthday2008.aspx).

Some Fun Springtime Activities

Tifft Nature Preserve Cleanup (April 19 @ 10:00 a.m.)

Spend an afternoon outdoors helping with spring clean-up of the preserve and help re-capture the natural beauty of the Tifft on Sat. 4/19 @ 10am. Light refreshments will be served.

Tifft Nature Preserve, 1200 Fuhrmann Blvd, Buffalo, 14203. Call 825-6397 for more information and to register.

Behind the Scenes: 2008 @ the Historical Society (May – November)

See how the Historical Society conserves and preserves more than 100,000 artifacts ranging from Civil War uniforms to President Grover Cleveland’s wedding cake. Tours: 5/6, 6/3, 8/6, 9/17, 10/21, & 11/15, from 5:30-6:30pm. Call 873-9644 x 318 for reservations.

Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park (April – October)

The largest inland park of its kind, it is situated conveniently on Buffalo’s downtown waterfront. All branches of the Armed Forces are represented in the park’s exhibits. Visitors are invited to tour the decks and hulls of a guided missile cruiser, destroyer and WWII submarine. One Naval Park Cove / Buffalo, NY 14202, (716) 847-1773 or www.buffalonalvpark.org/

Buffalo Zoo (open year round)

Help celebrate the Year of the Frog on 4/13, from 12-3 and learn about saving amphibian species. Join the Wings of Spring Event on May 10 and learn about migration. Bear Awareness Day is May 24, from 11-3. Earth Day @ the Buffalo Zoo will be on June 21st. All these events are free with zoo admission (Adults: $9.50, kids: $6.00).

For more information on these events and others at the zoo, visit [http://www.buffalozoos.org/free_events.html](http://www.buffalozoos.org/free_events.html)

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Memorial Day: A National Moment of Remembrance

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service to our nation. The significance of Memorial Day reaches back to the days of the Civil War. Originally known as Decoration Day, because it was a time set aside to honor those who died in the Civil War by decorating their graves, the day is about coming together to honor those who gave their lives fighting for our country. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, in Waterloo, NY by General John Logan, the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers.

Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. During this first celebration, General James Garfield, later to be our 20th President of the United States, made a speech honoring the fallen heroes, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers. By World War I, the holiday was changed to honor all Americans who have died fighting in any war.

Under the presidency of Lyndon Johnson, Waterloo, NY was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day in May 1966. Waterloo was the first town to celebrate Memorial Day, and the first to make Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags. New York state officially recognized the holiday in 1873, and today it is celebrated in almost every state with the exception of a few Southern States who continue to set aside a special day to honor the fallen Confederate soldiers of the Civil War, called Confederate Memorial Day.

Congress made Memorial Day a national holiday, by passing the National Holiday Act of 1971, which stated that Memorial Day would fall on the last Monday in May.

On May 2, 2000, the White House passed the “National Moment of Remembrance” resolution which asks that at 3pm local time for all Americans, “To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to ‘Taps’.”


2008: The Year of the Bison Fan

The start of spring also marks the start of baseball season here in Buffalo. During baseball’s infancy, Buffalo had an amateur, yet impressive team, called the Niagara Club. A local powerhouse, the Niagara Club defeated one team by the absurd score of 220-10 in 1868. Buffalo’s first pro-team was established in 1877, and was invited to join the National League for the next season. During their 7 years in the National League the team finished first in the division 5 times. From 1886 to 1900, the Bisons would switch between the International, Eastern, Western, and American Leagues, winning the pennant in 1891, 1904, 1906, 1915, 1916, and 1927.

The Bisons were known for their colorful uniforms—white and brown for home games, and lavender/blue for away games. Up until 1900, the game was played without helmets and gloves, making the game rather dangerous.

While equipment improved and the rules of the game changed to meet new requirements, one thing remained constant in Buffalo—love for the Bisons. Originally playing to crowds in Riverside Park, the Bisons would play in three more parks before settling into Pilot Field (now known as Dunn Tire Park) in 1988. The Bisons have been division leaders 8 times since 1991 and in 1998 they played in the first ever Triple-A World Series.

Although one of the only minor league clubs to draw over a million fans in a season (the Bisons have done it 6 times, the Louisville Redbirds once), the Bisons have not forgotten about their loyal fans. In celebrating the Buffalo Bisons 123rd season of professional baseball here in Buffalo, the team has dedicated this season as “The Year of the Bisons Fan,” with more giveaways including in-game contests, more fireworks, and great family fun. The team also formed the Bisons Prize Patrol, that will roam the ballpark through out the season and randomly award giveaways, gift certificates, seat upgrades and more!

The Bisons will kick off opening week with “Kids Week” featuring $6 tickets all week, April 12-17, along with various snack and food specials. Sunday home games are “Family Fun Days”, featuring kids activities during the game and post game, kids can run the bases! The Bisons will continue the tradition of the “fridaynightbash!”, every Friday night home game, featuring a pre-game plaza party at 5:00 p.m., with a fireworks show at the end of the game.

For the Bisons schedule and a list of promotions, giveaways, festivals, and fridaynightbash! parties, call 843-4373 (THE-HERD) or check out www.bisons.com
A Special Gift for a Special Parent

Need a gift idea for Mother’s Day (May 11th, 2008), Father’s day (June 15th, 2008)? Fun coupons are a great way to be creative, show your love, and to save money! You can present your mom, dad, or anyone with coupons to redeem for anything from a hug to taking out the trash. A simple coupon book can be made by using construction paper or cardstock for the cover and back, and a hole punch and ribbon, a stapler, or paper fasteners to hold your pages together. Personalize the book by writing a special message on the cover or the back page. To make the coupons, you can either print them out from the website or make up your own ideas, or, if you are brave, let mom or dad make up their own. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- One breakfast in bed
- One room vacuumed
- Control of the remote for a full day
- One movie night of their choice
- One night of doing dishes
- One special lunch
- One dog walking
- One garden weeding
- One house dusting
- One lawn mowing

To print out the Mother’s Day coupons, go to http://familycrafts.about.com/od/mothersday/ig/Printable-Mother-s-Day-Coupons/

To print out the Father’s Day coupons, go to http://familycrafts.about.com/od/fathersdaycrafts/ig/Printable-Father-s-Day-Coupons/

Here are some sample coupons:

![Mother's Day Coupon](image)

GOING GREEN!

A “How-To” Get Involved in RECYCLING Guide

DID YOU KNOW…

- Currently, in the United States, about 26% of the waste generated is recycled or composted, 8% is burned at incinerators, and the remaining 66% is disposed of in landfills.
- The average American throws away 61 pounds of aluminum cans a year.
- Recycling 1 glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100 watt light bulb for 4 hours.
- A car wash uses only 30 gal. of water to clean a car, and is then filtered to clean more cars; whereas cleaning your car at home uses 5 times as much water, and sends dirty water into storm drains, lakes, and ponds.

RECYCLING MEANS…

- Taking materials from products you’ve finished using and making new products from them.
- Using less money, less energy, and less of the Earth’s resources to make new things.
- Less pollution and cleaner air and water.

RECYCLING STARTS…

- WITH YOU!!!
- By separating recyclable materials from your trash. (Helpful tip: use different labeled containers for your paper/cardboard, plastic, tin/aluminum, etc. to make separating easier!)
- When people get communities involved in recycling programs. (Helpful tip: Find out your town recycling guidelines and pick-up date, and pass it on to friends and neighbors!)

REDUCE the AMOUNT of WASTE YOU PRODUCE BY…

- Turning off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Taking short showers, not baths.
- Making book covers using old newspaper or paper grocery bags (and as an added bonus you can decorate them yourself!)
- Helping your parent fix leaky faucets.
- Donating old books and magazines to friends or the local library.
- Using old newspaper to wash windows, glass surfaces, or mirrors, instead of expensive paper towel.
- Helping your parent grocery shop and buying foods in bulk, or with minimal packaging.
- Repairing, rather than replacing broken items.
- Donating old/unused clothes, toys, and household items to shelters, churches, and organizations, instead of throwing them away.

Fun Websites:

- www.knpb.org/kidsgo/discover/resources.asp
- www.Pbskids.org/eekoworld/
- www.tealdragon.net/recycle/index.htm
Pastel Pinwheels

Ingredients:
1-1/3 C. butter, softened
1 C. sugar
2 eggs
2 Tbsp. milk
2 tsp. vanilla
4 C. all-purpose flour
2-1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 C. multicolored sprinkles
64 pastel mints

Preparation:
Combine butter and sugar in large bowl. Beat at medium speed until creamy. Add eggs, milk, and vanilla; continue beating until well mixed. Reduce speed to low; add flour and baking powder. Beat until well mixed. Stir in sprinkles by hand. Cover; refrigerate until firm (at least 1 hour).

Heat oven to 350°F. Roll out dough on lightly floured surface, one-fourth at a time (keeping remaining dough refrigerated), into 10-inch square. Cut into sixteen 2 1/2-inch squares. Place 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Place 1 pastel mint in center of each square. Make 1-inch cuts with scissors from the corners of the squares towards the centers. Fold every other point to the center atop the mint. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until edges begin to brown. Let stand 1 minute; remove.

Springtime Nests

Ingredients:
1 C. butterscotch chips
1/2 C. light corn syrup
1/2 C. creamy peanut butter
1/3 C. sugar
2 1/2 C. chow mein noodles
2 C. corn flakes, lightly crushed
Jelly beans or malted milk egg candies

Preparation:
1. Combine butterscotch chips, corn syrup, peanut butter and sugar in large microwave safe mixing bowl. Microwave on HIGH for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes or until melted and smooth, stirring at 30 second intervals.
2. Stir in chow mein noodles and corn flakes until evenly coated. Quickly shape small 1/4 cupfuls of mixture into balls; make indentation into center to create nest. Place nests on wax paper to set. Put candies or jelly beans in center of nests.
*Makes about 1-1/2 dozen treats.
Across
1. a home of twigs
3. America’s favorite pastime
5. celebrated on the last Monday in May
7. a grown-up caterpillar
8. a day of celebration of our planet
10. Donald Duck’s girlfriend
13. showers that bring May flowers
14. what birds do in the spring

Down
2. sidewalk ice-skates
3. method of transportation that is environmentally friendly
4. a season of growth
6. lets go fly a ______
9. a weed eaten with steak
11. “It’s ____ cats and dogs”

Fill the game board so that numbers 1 to 9 occur exactly once in each row, column and 3x3 square. The numbers can appear in any order, but diagonals are not considered. Good luck!

Q. Why was the lettuce embarrassed when he opened the refrigerator?
Q. You throw away the outside and cook the inside. Then you eat the outside and throw away the inside. What did you eat?
Q. What did one math book say to the other?
Q. What did the one eye say to the other?
Q. What can run but never walks, has a mouth but never talks, has a head but never weeps, has a bed but never sleeps?
Q. What did the stoplight say to the traffic?
Recycled Magazine Holder

Materials:
- empty cereal box, larger than magazines
- ruler
- marker, pen (for making the cutting line)
- scissors
- glue
- pictures, old magazines, scrap paper, markers, acrylic paint

Directions:
- Decide how tall you want the front of the magazine holder to be. Measure that distance using the ruler, and mark the spot with a pen on both sides of the box. Draw a dotted line across the narrow part of the box connecting the 2 sides.
- Draw a diagonal line from the marked spot to the upper corner; repeat on opposite of box. Then cut along lines you drew to remove top portion of box.
- Paint box, using 2 coats of paint in order to fully cover design on cereal box. Once paint is dry, paste pictures or draw designs using paint and markers. Decorate as you wish!

SUDOKU

Riddles and Jokes
A. Because he saw the salad dressing.
A. An ear of corn.
A. I’ve got problems.
A. “Between you and me, something smells.”
A. A river.
A. “Don’t watch me while I’m changing!”

Springtime Crossword Puzzle

Across:
1. bird’s nest
3. baseball
5. Memorial Day
7. butterfly
8. Earth Day
10. daisy
12. recycle
13. April
14. fly north

Down:
2. rollerblades
3. bicycle
4. spring
6. kite
9. dandelion
11. raining

On behalf of the UB Adolescent & Family Development Project, please have a safe and enjoyable spring and summer season!