

CCDWC Highlights

Voting isn't enough. Get involved.

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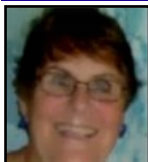
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DWC meets at 11 am, the 2nd
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Sunnydell Plaza, Unit 202,
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941-764-8440

www.ccdwc.com
Facebook: Charlotte County
Democratic Women's Club

APRIL 22 WE CELEBRATE EARTH DAY HOWEVER, WE SHOULD CELEBRATE MOTHER EARTH EVERY DAY



Judy Schnabel, President

The Who, What, Where, When, Why and How Of EARTH DAY

Each year, Earth Day – April 22 – marks the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

At the height of counterculture in the United States, 1970 brought the death of Jimi Hendrix, the last Beatles' album, and Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water." War raged in Vietnam and students nationwide overwhelmingly opposed it.

Earth Day 1970 gave voice to that emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns on the front page – very similar as to what's going on right now with our young people and gun law reforms.

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 word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news.

Although mainstream America largely remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries, and beginning to raise public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and links between pollution and public health.

The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with the emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the

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Who, what, where, when , why and how Of EARTH DAY

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national political agenda. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and recruited Denis Hayes from Harvard as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land. April 22, falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, was selected as the date.

The Idea

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in 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 shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. "It was a gamble," Sen. Nelson recalled, "but it worked."

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 environmental issues onto 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. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995) — the highest honor given to civilians in the United States — for his role as Earth Day founder.

—Earthday.org

Editor's Note: I remember as if it were yesterday when Earth Day was enacted. I worked for a very high profile public relations firm, who represented all the huge "establishment" companies. I can remember the owner's comments at the time: "This is the end." End of what, I wondered. Never would I have thought 20 some years later I would give up my luxurious Oldsmobile Aurora and be driving a Prius. My mother, the staunch union member, I'm sure rolled over in her grave when I drove that "foreign" car off the lot that day. I had become impatient with U.S. automakers and especially resented that tank-like vehicle, the Hummer, that GM sold to our unconcerned citizens.

Things do change and so do we — eventually. As Karen Carpenter's song went "We've only just begun." We must not remain silent when the current POTUS is undermining the progress we've made over the past years.

MORE POLLUTION FACTS

Did you know?

Nine Shocking Facts About Plastics in Our Oceans



By Joe McCarthy

The oceans are massive, pulsing, vibrant bodies of water that serve humanity in countless ways from providing food to enabling commerce to simply being beautiful.

However these powerful expanses of sea are not invincible. Each year, human activity erodes marine life in some way. Overfishing is driving many fish populations to the brink of extinction, carbon emissions are acidifying the waters, making it hard for small sea animals to reproduce, rising global temperatures are cooking coral reefs alive.

And plastic — the ubiquitous material which comes in so many forms — is terrorizing everything that depends on these waters.

Here are nine shocking facts about how much plastic is in the oceans:

Picture below was taken at the UN's Clean Seas Exhibit in New York.



1. Every half second, this much plastic makes it into the world's oceans.

2. At least 8 million tons of plastic enter the oceans each year. That's similar to emptying a garbage truck of plastic into an ocean **every minute**.
3. There is more microplastic in the ocean than there are stars in the Milky Way.



4. 322 million tons of plastic were produced in 2015—same as 900 Empire State Buildings (which is made of granite and steel).
5. 60-90 percent of marine litter is plastic-based.
6. More than 50 percent of sea turtles have consumed plastic.
7. The average U.S. citizen consumes 167 plastic water bottles each year—but recycles just 25 percent of them.
8. The amount of plastic in the world's oceans could increase by a factor of 10 in the next decade.
9. Cigarette butts, plastic bags, fishing gear, and food and beverage containers are the most common forms of plastic pollution found in the oceans.

— EcoWatch.com

MORE POLLUTION FACTS

Everyone knows that Styrofoam is bad for the planet, but do you know exactly why? Here's a hint: it's not just about biodegradability. Styrofoam has become such an accepted everyday product that people often don't understand how Styrofoam harms the environment.



Styrofoam is made from polystyrene, which is a petroleum-based plastic. Styrofoam is actually the trade name for polystyrene. It's popular because of its light weight, good insulation properties, and advantage as a packing material for shipping without adding weight. Unfortunately, for all of Styrofoam's good points, data has shown that Styrofoam also has harmful effects.

Fun fact: "Styrofoam" is actually just a brand name! The white material making up your coffee cup (we hope it's not what's making up **YOUR** coffee cup) is actually called expanded polystyrene (EPS) and it's doing a number of things to the environment.

What is Expanded Polystyrene (EPS)?

Polystyrene is actually just another type of plastic. It can be expanded into the foam material that we all know as "Styrofoam" by expanding it with 95% air. It is often used for packaging fragile products, or insulating hot food and beverages.

In the U.S. alone, the amount of polystyrene cups used each year would circle the Earth 426 times... that's almost 18 million miles of Styrofoam cups!

Styrofoam is a big part of the plastic problem in our oceans. Being 95% air, its buoyancy allows it to float down waterways, eventually making it to the ocean where it gets broken down into smaller pieces and ingested by marine life.

Lightweight Styrofoam is easily carried away by wind and often ends up in places other than the landfill. Unfortunately, rogue Styrofoam ends up littering streets and beaches, clogging storm pipes, and harming animals. In order to protect wildlife, Antarctica has prohibited polystyrene.

Ft. Myers Beach bans plastic straws

Banning the straw at Ft. Myers Beach has not affected beach traffic. As the News Press stated: "The straw did not break Ft. Myers Beach's back."

On the first day of a plastic straw ban, more than sufficient crowds were flocking to the actual beach. At Times Square and surrounding walkways there was nary such a device in sight.

"The beach is a little cleaner this year," said Matthew Dinkel, a Fort Myers Beach resident who was part of a 300-strong force of picker-uppers who were cleaning trash. "There's nowhere near as many straws this year."

Next time you order water or soda, remember to say "No straw, please."

If you aren't ready to make a difference, here are some sites that may change your mind.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-43115486>

<https://helpsavenature.com/ocean->

MORE POLLUTION FACTS



Considering more than 90 percent of all trash floating in the world's oceans is plastic, it's logical that plastic accounts for the most harmful man-made items in the ocean. But what we often forget is that animals are ingesting this plastic waste every day, especially straws.

Many marine biologists, photographers, and sea lovers have captured the impact of single-use plastic on animals. As the plastic travels into and around the ocean, it breaks into tiny pieces that are then easily ingested by marine life. These are the top animals affected by single-use straws in the ocean:

Seabirds

Millions of seabirds are killed from the affects of plastic pollution every year. One of the most common plastic items ingested by seabirds are plastic straws from juice boxes. The plastic reduces the storage volume of their stomachs, ultimately causing them to starve. It's estimated that 90 percent of all seabirds have eaten pieces of plastic. That number is predicted to increase to 99 percent by 2050.

Fish

Fish ingest 12,000 to 24,000 tons of plastic each year in the North Pacific alone. This causes intestinal injury, death, and transfers plastic up the food chain to bigger fish and marine mammals. A recent study found that a quarter of fish at markets in California contained plastic in their guts, mostly in the form of plastic microfibers. This plastic leaches harmful toxins, including BPA, into their bodies and ultimately into us through our dinner plates.

Sea Turtles

Sea turtles also mistake floating plastic items for food. While plastic bags are the most commonly ingested item found in turtles, straws are a close second. About a year ago, two researchers posted an 8-minute video of what happened when a turtle met a straw and the impact it had on the animal. Since some sea turtle species are critically endangered, this viral story highlighted the important issue of single-use straw waste. Choosing to skip the straw may seem small on the individual level, but the impact it can have on the environment and animals is huge.

This is a link to the video of the turtle and the straw.

<https://youtu.be/4wH878t78bw>

Think of this turtle next time you order a drink at your favorite restaurant. Just say "No straw, please."



Democratic Women's Club of Charlotte County

DWCF Membership Application

New _____

Renewal _____

Please print (new members only). Members renewing their membership only need to fill out application if changes have occurred in your information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone#s: () _____ () _____ () _____
(Home) (Cell) (Work)

Email: _____

Congressional District _____

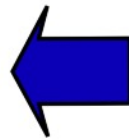
State Senate District: _____

State House District: _____

County Commission District: _____

Voter Registration #: _____

**No need to fill in this
portion if you are
renewing your
membership.**



Required Information

I hereby certify that I am a member of the Democratic Party of Florida who supports active involvement and influence of citizens in politics and government affairs in my county, the State of Florida and the United States of America.

Signature

Date

Please make your check in the amount of \$25.00 payable to CCDWC and send to:

Treasurer,
DWC of Charlotte County
3596 Tamiami Trail, #202
Port Charlotte, FL 33952