

REGENT UNIVERSITY

John C. Munday
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23464
July 30, 2011



Earth Day: Origin and Development



John C. Munday
with Judi



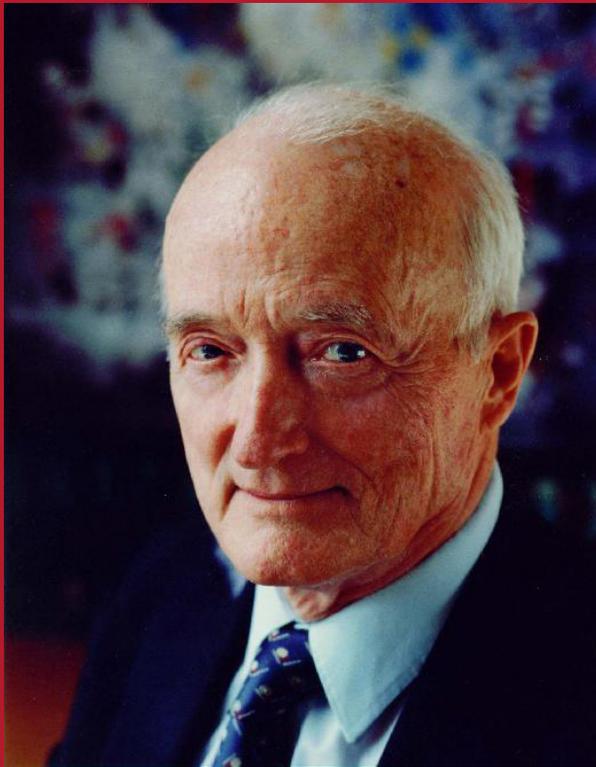
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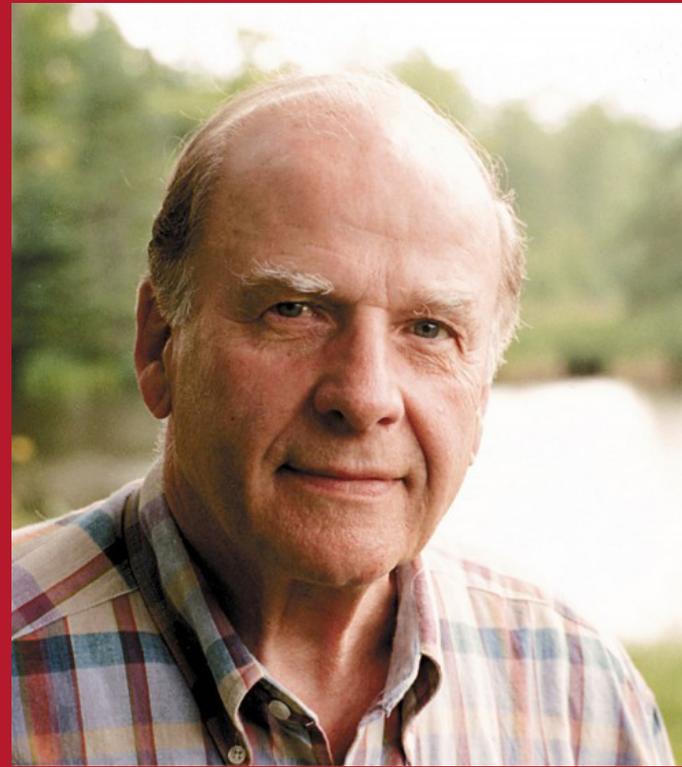
Chair, Department of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Technology

Earth Day: Origin and Development

Two Founders?



John McConnell



Gaylord Nelson

Earth Day: Origin and Development

Two Earth Days?

Chronicle Sunday Punch February 22, 1970

Earth Day

THE UNITED STATES is given to the observance of special days and weeks for this or that civic, cultural cause. Anyone who city hall can usually National Hot Dog distinguished from the

And so, per an Oakland cry works, may him in pre Earth Day equinox, remem life a M

A resolution urging the Mayor to declare March 21 as Earth Day for the observance of "the natural wonders of our planet" was approved yesterday by the natural Activities Committee of the City of Oakland.

It said after John McConnell, president of the committee, said that the day is being to mark the equal right of each person to the quality of life that is the concept of Earth Day.

The resolution, which would be given official status for a walk

San Francisco Examiner Wed, Feb. 18, 1970



Supervisors Unit OKs 'Earth Day'

Mayor Proclaims Earth Day

Little Krista Lynne Baumhoff, 5, and Mayor Alioto join in casting admiring glances at an Earth Flag, symbol of "We Inc.," of Washington, sponsors of a peaceful restored Earth. The Mayor yesterday proclaimed March 21 as Earth Day, "a special day to remember Earth's tender seedlings of life and people; a day for planting trees and flowers; a day for cleaning streams and wooded glens."

—Examiner photo by Seymour Singer

San Francisco Chronicle 2/19/70

or Proclaims 21 'Earth Day'

year-old New Yorker and former newspaper publisher new visiting his family in Oakland.

He is hoping that March 21, the vernal equinox will be a day of "feeling for the whole earth, the wonders of life and nature."

"It's a big beautiful nebulous idea," he said, "but I hope that individuals, ecology groups, schools, churches and clubs will plan to participate in some special and appropriate activity to celebrate the earth — a life support system for the whole human family."

McConnell last year established a non-profit corporation called "WE" — World Equality — with the motto, "The right to share our earth, the responsibility to restore it."

The symbol of the organization is a flag showing an Apollo 10 photo of the earth on a blue field.

WE, INC.
5111 VANADIC AVE
OAKLAND, CALIF. 94621
(415) KE 4-2122

Nation Set to Observe Earth Day

By GLADWIN HILL. Thousands of colleges, schools and communities across the country were getting ready yesterday for an unprecedented event: tomorrow's Earth Day—an interlude of national contemplation of problems man's deteriorating environment.

Scores of marches and demonstrations are scheduled, along with mock funerals of "polluting" objects from automobiles to toilets. Countless lectures, workshops, nature walks and other observances are also planned.

Formally endorsed by officials ranging from the United Nations Secretary General, U Thant, to governors, mayors and school superintendents, the event promised to pre-empt the attention of a large part of the nation from customary pursuits.

Although the national Administration's posture toward Earth Day formalities has been one of calculated or involuntary detachment, organizers of the event see it as not only a massive alert to public awareness but also as the dawn of a new era of "ecological politics."

"To Make Life Better" Earth Day is a commitment to make life better, not just to change the necessary programs promise change, but who short.

Superficially, the observances will focus on the various "pollutions"—air, water, solid waste, chemicals, noise. But running deeper are currents of thought ranging from ending the Vietnam war to dispelling racial friction and underprivilege, and an end to poverty, but that growth society" keyed to quality rather than quantity.

The "teach-in," as it was originally called, was suggested by Senator Gaylord Nelson, Washington headquarters Democrat of Wisconsin, soon the past year's Vietnam protest after last November's national demonstrations announced Sunday demonstrations protesting the day that it was closing up United States' Vietnam in-shop. It cited the Administration's commitment to the withdrawal of troops.

The theme of a physically periled globe has received extensive support among scientists, some of whom insist that the present rate of ecological deterioration—such as contamination of the atmosphere with combustion products and poisoning of the seas with chemicals—could result in an uninhabitable world within a generation or two.

Drive to Continue Many schools and colleges have Earth Day programs extending through this week and beyond, and the officials of Environmental Action, Inc., the national organization, have already decided to keep it in existence as a national coordinating agency.

"We feel that the most important achievement of April 22d already has happened," said Stephen Cotton, one of the principal organizers. "That is the organization of groups and the establishment of a solid base in communities. Most of them say they're going beyond the 22d, and we're going to be working with them."

At least several dozen members of Congress and a number of federal officials will be participating in Earth Day activities all over the country, although there is little or no formal federal involvement.

Teach-in leaders, wary of such involvements lest it appear that the movement has been "captured" by the Nixon Administration, said they had turned down a White House invitation in recent weeks for a discussion session because "we didn't feel there was a great deal to chat about."



TO MAKE LIFE BETTER: Members of Environmental Action Coalition, New York Theological Seminary building.

The New York Times
Published: April 21, 1970
Copyright © The New York Times

March 21, 1970 (San Francisco etc.)

April 22, 1970 (multiple cities)

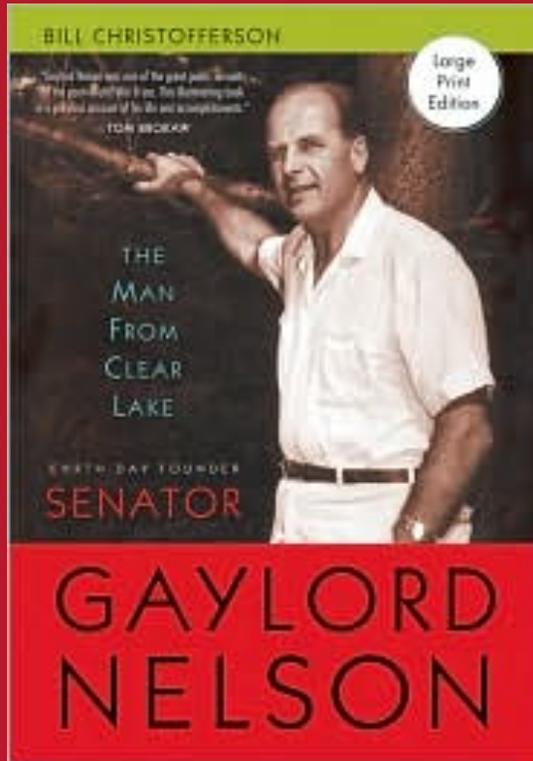
Sample of One Claim – Nelson Founded Earth Day

- <http://web.missouri.edu/~webberd/Nelson.html> --
- **Senator Gaylord Nelson, Founder of Earth Day**
- David J. Webber, MU Political Science, Jan. 1996
Gaylord A. Nelson "The Founder of Earth Day"
- (June 4, 1916- (*Nelson died in 2005, after this article was written*)
- U.S. Senate 88th- 96th Congresses (1963-1981) Democrat-Wisconsin.
- “While sponsoring significant environmental legislation, **Senator Gaylord Nelson will be long remembered as the founder of Earth Day. First held on April 22, 1970**, Earth Day has become an annual national event to learn about ecology and what we can do to reduce environmental harm. Senator Nelson's interest in the environment started as a boy and continues after he left the Senate in 1981. Nelson is still active in promoting Earth Day and is a counselor to The Wilderness Society, an organization in Washington, D.C. devoted to protecting the environment. In 1995, Senator Nelson was awarded the Medal of Freedom in recognition of a lifetime of public service.”

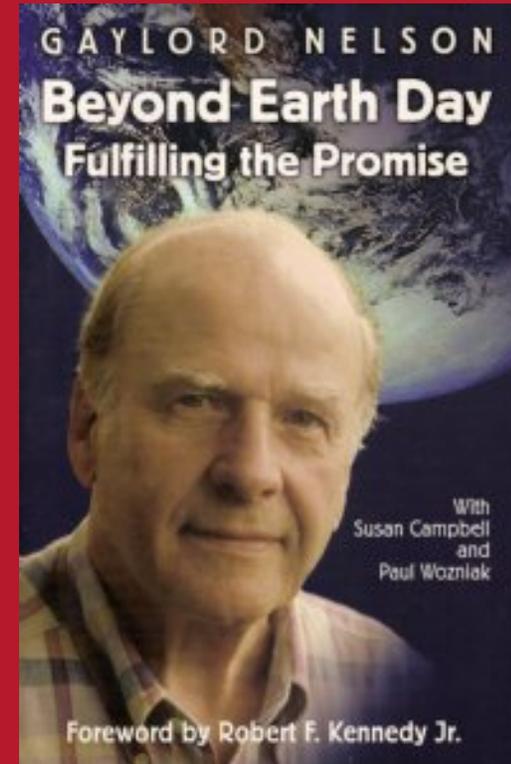
Sample of Another Claim – McConnell Founded Earth Day

- <http://www.ecofactory.com/news/earth-day-and-its-founder>
- **John McConnell: The Founder of Earth Day**
- **Earth Day is Born**
- “In 1969, McConnell attended the National [UNESCO](#) Conference in San Francisco. There he proposed a holiday to celebrate the Earth's life and beauty. He stated that it would also be a used to remind everyone to preserve the earth for future generations.”
- <http://cccun.net/102/earth-day-2010/>
- “The tradition of ringing the Peace Bell at the UN was initiated by John McConnell, **founder of Earth Day**, and supported by UN Secretary-General U Thant.”
- <http://pentecostalarchives.wordpress.com/tag/john-mcconnell-jr/>
- **The Pentecostal Origins of Earth Day**
- “The 2010 edition of *Assemblies of God Heritage* magazine includes an article that will raise eyebrows — the story of **John McConnell, Jr., the Pentecostal founder of Earth Day**. McConnell’s parents were founding members of the Assemblies of God, and his grandfather identified with the Pentecostal movement at the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles in 1906.
- “Forty years ago, McConnell established the first governmentally-recognized Earth Day on March 21, 1970. The United Nations adopted the holiday the following year and has been celebrating Earth Day on the March equinox since 1971.”

Biography and Autobiography – Nelson

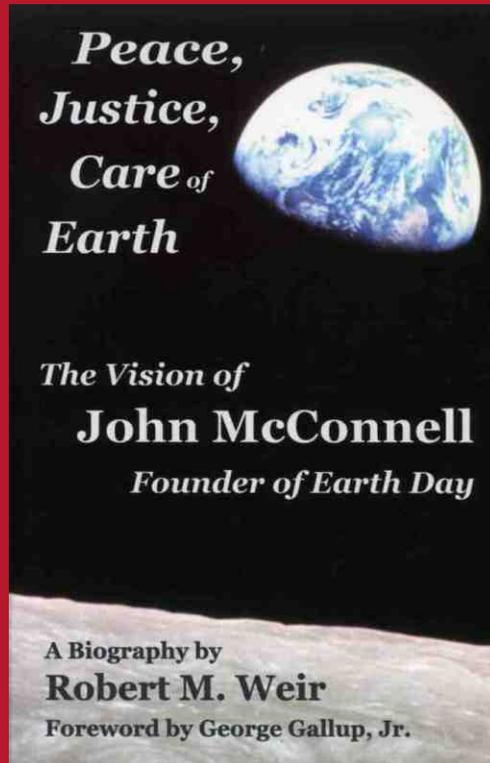


**The Man from Clear Lake:
Earth Day Founder
Senator Gaylord Nelson. 2009.
Bill Christofferson**

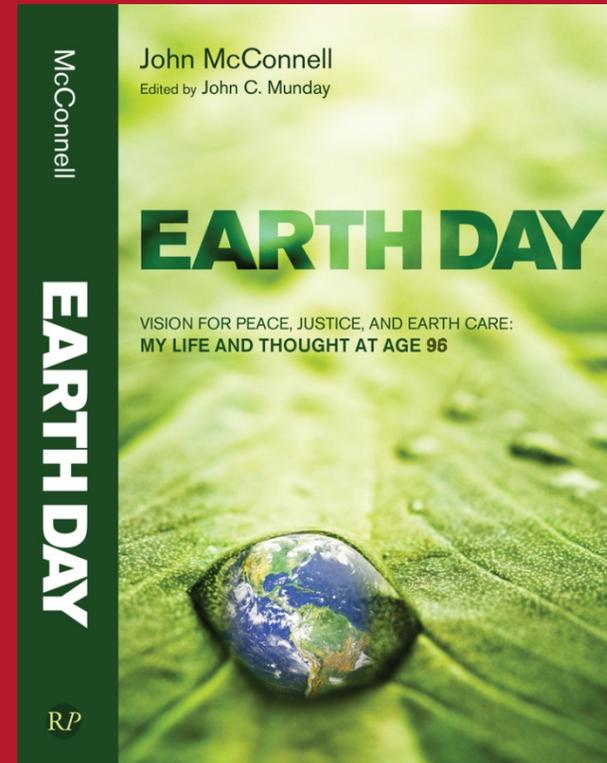


**Beyond Earth Day:
Fulfilling the Promise. 2002.
Gaylord Nelson, with Susan
Campbell and Paul R. Wozniak**

Biography and Autobiography – McConnell



Peace, Justice, Care of Earth: The Vision of John McConnell. 2007.
Robert M. Weir



Earth Day: Peace, Justice, and Earth Care. My Life and Thought at Age 96. 2011.
John McConnell; ed. John Munday

Coining the Term *Earth Day* – McConnell

“Anna [McConnell] recalled that John coined the Earth Day name in **1968**.”

“Then, in **August 1969**, . . . John worked diligently on the Earth Day plan”

Weir, Peace, Justice, Care of Earth, p. 126.

Coining the Term *Earth Day* – McConnell

An “Earth Day Resolution” was submitted by John McConnell to Peter Tamaris, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, on **October 3, 1969**.

On **November 25, 1969**, at the UNESCO Conference on the Environment in San Francisco, McConnell proposed an “Earth Day.” Details were presented at the closing luncheon, along with the Earth Flag, by Cynthia Wayburn, a youth leader on the Earth Day Committee (whose father (d. 2010) had been a president of the Sierra Club in the 1960s).
Weir, Peace, Justice, Care of Earth, p. 129.

The records on Earthsite.org, and in my archives at Swarthmore College, clearly prove that no one used the term ‘Earth Day’ before I did. The March 21, 1970 Earth Day was the first ‘Earth Day.’

“No one has ever seen a notice, or a dated letter, or a newspaper article that even mentions the two words Earth Day until I announced it in San Francisco.”

McConnell, Earth Day: Peace, Justice, and Earth Care, pp. 311, 331.

Janitschek' s Testimony

HOW EARTH DAY BEGAN

Hans Janitschek, Nov. 1, 1993

(Austrian writer, former Secretary General of the Socialist International, former President of the Earth Society Foundation, and Consultant to the United Nations; d. 2008)

- “... Mr. McConnell discussed the idea of "Earth Day" with friends at the United Nations during **1968 - 1969**. While visiting his mother in September 1969, he also spoke to Peter Tamaras, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco.”

The Term *Earth Day* – Not Coined by Nelson

“It suddenly occurred to me,” [Nelson] said in a speech years later, “Why not have a nationwide teach-in on the environment? In a speech at Seattle in September, I formally announced that there would be a **national environmental teach-in** sometime in the spring of 1970. The story ran nationwide. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in.”

<http://wilderness.org/content/40-years-earth-day-remembering-man-who-inspired-nation>

Source of the Name *Earth Day* for the Environmental Teach-In

“Before long several people suggested the April 22 event be called Earth Day instead of Environmental Teach-In. One such suggestion came from a friend of mine who had long been in the field of public relations and the same suggestion came from a New York advertising executive. Still other suggestions included ‘Planet Day,’ ‘World Environment Day,’ etc.”

Gaylord Nelson (The Wilderness Society), letter to Hans Janitschek (President, Earth Society Foundation), August 9, 1993.

Source of the Name *Earth Day* for the Environmental Teach-In?

Julian Koenig, “who had been on Nelson's organizing committee in 1969, has said that the idea came to him by the coincidence of his birthday with the day selected, April 22; ‘Earth Day’ rhyming with ‘birthday,’ the connection seemed natural.^{38,39} Other names circulated during preparations — Nelson himself continued to call it the National Environment Teach-In, but **press coverage** of the event was ‘practically unanimous’ in its use of ‘Earth Day,’ so the name stuck.”³⁷

http://www.enotes.com/topic/Earth_Day

37. Gaylord Nelson Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Box 231, Folder 43.

38. "Origin Story". *This American Life*. 19 June 2009. No. 383. Retrieved on 26 July 2010.

39. Statement by Paul Leventhal on the 25th Anniversary of the Nuclear Control Institute, 6/21/2006

April 22. Earth Day.

**A disease has infected our country.
It has brought smog to Yosemite,
dumped garbage in the Hudson,
sprayed DDT in our food,
and left our cities in decay.
Its carrier is man.**

The weak are already dying. Trees by the Pacific. Fish in our streams and lakes. Birds and crops and sheep. And people.

On April 22 we start to reclaim the environment we have wrecked.

April 22 is the Environmental Teach-In, a day of environmental action.

Hundreds of communities and campuses across the country are already committed.

It is a phenomenon that grows as you read this.

Earth Day is a commitment to make life better, not just bigger and faster: To provide real rather than rhetorical solutions.

It is a day to re-examine the ethic of individual progress at mankind's expense.

It is a day to challenge the corporate and governmental leaders who promise change, but who short change the necessary programs.

It is a day for looking beyond tomorrow. April 22 seeks a future worth living.

April 22 seeks a future.

We are working seven days a week to help communities plan for April 22. We have come from Stanford, Harvard, Bucknell, Iowa, Missouri, New Mexico, Michigan and other campuses.

We are a non-profit, tax exempt, educational organization. Our job is to help groups and individuals to organize environmental programs to educate their communities.

Earth Day is being planned and organized at the local level. In each community people are deciding for themselves the issues upon which to focus, and the activities which are most appropriate.

We can help, but the initiative must come from each community. We have heard from hundreds of campuses and local communities in all fifty states. Dozens of conservation groups have offered to help. So have the scores of new-breed environmental organizations that are springing up every day.

A national day of environmental education was first proposed by Senator Gaylord Nelson. Later he and Congressman Paul McCloskey suggested April 22. The coordination has been passed on to us, and the idea now has a momentum of its own.

All this takes money. Money to pay our rent, our phones, our mailings, brochures, staff, advertisements.

No list of famous names accompanies this ad to support our plea, though many offered without our asking.

Big names don't save the environment. People do.

Help make April 22 burgeon.

For you. For us. For our children.

The Environmental Teach-In, Inc.
Room 200
2000 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036
I enclose \$10, \$20, \$50, _____ dollars (tax deductible)
How can I help my community?
Name _____
Address _____

National Staff: Dave Hayes, Coordinator; Linda Billego, Stephen Cattan, Andrew Garfing, Ryan Hamilton, Sam Love, Barbara Reik, Arthur Sanford, Philip Tashman

How the Name *Earth Day* Reached Nelson's "Environmental Teach-In"

- Nelson's team members heard McConnell at the UNESCO Conference in November 1969 –
“Two people who claimed to represent Denis [Denis Hayes, student coordinator for Nelson's Teach-In staff] spoke to me [McConnell] at the conference and urged me to change the date [of Earth Day] to April 22, which I refused to do. The March 21 equinox, which I had chosen for Earth Day, was nature's choice. . . . One of them said that 'Earth Day' would be a good name for the Teach-In.”

Weir, p. 135.



Denis Hayes, 1980



How the Name *Earth Day* Reached Nelson's "Environmental Teach-In"

- Also, one of Nelson's Teach-In staff Members, Paul McClosky, was listed among attendees at the UNESCO Conference in November 1969, where McConnell announced the equinox Earth Day.

Weir, p. 136.

How the Name *Earth Day* Reached Nelson's "Environmental Teach-In"

- Even more curious, McConnell's attorney for his organization WE, Inc., [**World Equality**] Tony Roisman, was the first to inform McConnell that a New York Times ad on January 18, 1970 about the Teach-In was titled Earth Day.

Roisman at the same time was representing Nelson and Hayes.

Weir, p. 136-7.

How the Name *Earth Day* Reached Nelson's "Environmental Teach-In"

- Nelson's 1993 letter to Janitschek mentioned a public relations friend as the source of the name Earth Day for the Teach-In. The friend was probably Joe Floyd, who traveled with Nelson in fall 1969.
- **Floyd told McConnell** [in 1989] that he "had seen an item in the papers about some kids in California who were planning an Earth Day . . . [and he] suggested 'Earth Day' would be [a] better [name] than 'Environmental Teach-in.'"

Weir, p. 141.

- McConnell wrote Nelson in 1989 about the conversation with Floyd, and added "This may have been the students at the University of California at Davis who warmly supported my proposals when I spoke there in October [1969]."

Weir, p. 141.

The First Public Use of the Term *Earth Day* – A Resolution Submitted October 3, 1969

- **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**
- That in the City and County of San Francisco March 21st (Vernal Equinox) be the designated **EARTH DAY** -- a special day to remember Earth's tender seedlings of life and people; a day for planting trees and grass and flowers, for cleaning streams and wooded glens. That to further these purposes a **Silent Hour For Peace (a time for quiet reflection or prayer)** be observed on Earth Day at 19:00 G.M.T. (11:00 a.m. P.S.T.). That on EARTH DAY the **EARTH FLAG**, which portrays in its center our "Beautiful Blue Planet" be flown to encourage mutual respect for Earth and all its people.













The First *Earth Day*, Approved by San Francisco

The Board of Supervisors proceeded with approval of the proposed *Earth Day Resolution* on February 3, 1970, and Mayor Joseph Alito on February 11, 1970 signed the *Resolution* which inaugurated the first Earth Day.

Senator George Murphy of CA wrote McConnell on February 3 that “he had presented the idea to President Richard Nixon.”

Weir, pp. 130, 133.

The First Earth Day

- The first Earth Day was held in San Francisco and other cities on March 21, 1970. The local Red Cross gave out trees for planting. Other activities contributed.
- At UC Davis, the campus became a stage for drama and exhibits. A spiritual festival occurred with a 24-hour vigil.
- The Mayor of Berkeley CA issued a proclamation.
- An ecology fair was held in Sacramento.
- New York residents celebrated.

The First Earth Day

- The context of the first Earth Day was a celebration for ecology and peace. McConnell originated Earth Day as a means to **promote world peace**. In his words, “we should come together where we agree and leave room for our differences.”

McConnell, p. 1.

Why March 21?

McConnell –

“The concept of Earth Day, which I discussed with Margaret Mead and others at the United Nations in 1968 and 1969, was developed with the objective of providing a global Holy Day that would tap the best in the human heart, and help people identify with the whole human family and our key role as caretakers of Earth.”

McConnell, p. 309.

- The date chosen was the spring equinox, a geophysical event, a “holy day” for Earth, not attached to any nation or culture or political ideology, an “amazing symbol of equilibrium.”

McConnell, p. 139.

Why March 21?

McConnell, concerning Margaret Mead –

“Although Margaret Mead had no involvement with the first Earth Day in 1970, she had attended the 1969 UNESCO Conference in San Francisco and had told me it was a good idea. She was not involved in the first UN Earth Day, which was in 1971. But in 1972 she was one of the participants in the twelve-hour Earth Day Special, and showed great interest in the Earth Day concept.”

McConnell, p. 326

Why March 21?

Margaret Mead –

“You see the conceptualization here is primarily the idea of using the actuality of the planet as the basis of human behavior and transcending national ideological boundaries. That’s the basic idea, ‘Earth Day.’ All the other ideas flow from that.”

McConnell, p. 326

Why March 21?

Earth Day by Margaret Mead

EPA Journal, March 1978

“Earth Day is the first holy day which transcends all national borders, yet preserves all geographical integrities, spans mountains and oceans and time belts, and yet brings people all over the world into one resonating accord, is devoted to the preservation of the harmony in nature and yet draws upon the triumphs of technology—the measurement of time and instantaneous communication through space. Earth Day draws on astronomical phenomena in a new way; using the vernal equinox, the time when the Sun crosses the equator making night and day of equal length in all parts of the Earth. To this point in the annual calendar, EARTH DAY attaches no local or divisive set of symbols, no statement of the truth or superiority of one way of life over another. But the selection of the March equinox makes planetary observance of a shared event possible”

McConnell, p. 327.

Context of Nelson's Environmental Teach-In

- “3. In July 1969, while on a conservation speaking tour in the West, I read a magazine article about the anti-war protests on college campuses, called ‘Teach-Ins.’ It suddenly occurred to me -- This is it! Why not promote a National Environmental Teach-In -- a huge public demonstration of concern for the environment. My objective was a demonstration so large it would finally get the attention of the political establishment and the media. Having spoken around the nation on this issue for several years, I was satisfied the public was way ahead of the politicians and would respond in a dramatic way to the opportunity to express their concern.
- “4. As soon as I returned from my speaking tour, I created a non-profit organization called ‘Environmental Teach-In, Inc.’ In September [1969] at a conservation conference in Seattle, I announced that there would be a national Environmental Teach-In early in 1970 and that this would be the opportunity for a huge public demonstration of concern for the environment. The AP and UP wire services carried the story. It got notice on network news and in all of the major daily papers across the nation. This was two months before Mr. McConnell went to the United Nations with his proposal.”

Gaylord Nelson (The Wilderness Society), letter to Hans Janitschek (President, Earth Society Foundation), August 9, 1993.

Context of Nelson's Environmental Teach-In

“Mr. McConnell's proposal and mine had entirely different objectives. Mr. McConnell did not propose a major mass demonstration in behalf of the environment but that was the central core of April 22. My specific purpose was political – its' [*sic*] objective was to force the environment onto the National Agenda of major issues.”

“I did not take the name Earth Day from Mr. McConnell. Indeed, I was still referring to Teach-Ins on my final four day tour April 20-24. The terms "Earth Day," "Planet Day," "Earth Celebration," etc. occurred to many people simply because those were obvious descriptive names for an event that had as its goal the protection of the environment and the resources of the Earth.”

Gaylord Nelson (The Wilderness Society), letter to Hans Janitschek (President, Earth Society Foundation), August 9, 1993.

Context of Nelson's Environmental Teach-In

HOW EARTH DAY BEGAN

Michael Weilbacher, environmental writer

"In the late 1960s, a series of environmental catastrophes occurred that scared a whole lot of people. The Cuyahoga River, which flows through the city of Cleveland, was so polluted that it caught fire, twice! A major oil spill occurred off the coast of California, smearing thousands of seals and ocean birds with gooey, life-threatening petroleum. Birds like bald eagles, pelicans and ospreys were disappearing, as pesticides caused their eggshells to thin, and the thin shells cracked when the mother bird tried to incubate her eggs. Dense smog covered too many cities, the product of car exhaust and industrial pollution. Rivers reeked from untreated waste flowing out of millions of pipes. Too much human waste poured into waterways uncleaned. Almost no one anywhere recycled anything.

"The objective of the first Earth Day was to get a nationwide grassroots demonstration of concern for the environment so large that it would shake the political establishment out of its lethargy and, force this issue permanently onto the national political agenda."

http://cie.augusta.com/_pdf/programs/Earth_Day_Every_Day_low.pdf

Why April 22?

Possible factors --

- Arbor Day was started by J. Sterling Morton in 1872. On his death in 1907 his birth day, April 22, became Arbor Day -- a date still recognized as Arbor Day in many countries.
- April 22 is the birthday of Vladimir Lenin.
- Springtime on U.S. college campuses.
- In 1970, April 22 was on Wednesday.

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Clouds, with steady drizzle and wind. Partly sunny tomorrow.
Temp. range: today 48-55; Wed. 47-54; Fri. U.S. more on Page 14.

VOL. CXIX... No. 40,597

© 1970 The New York Times Company

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1970

10 CENTS

PRICES CLIMB 0.4% BUT RATE OF RISE APPEARS TO SLOW

Gains in the Consumer Index
for March Lags Behind
the 4 Previous Months

INCREASE IS STEEP HERE

Medical Care and Mortgage
Interest Are the Major
Elements in Changes

By EDWIN L. DALE Jr.,
Special to the New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 23—Consumer prices rose strongly again in March but there were signs that the pace of inflation was slowing, the Labor Department reported today.

After adjustment of the data to reflect seasonal seasonal changes, the Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent in March, less than the five-month rise in February and the six-month rise of the three months before that.

What is more, components of the index March increases in the index was accounted for

Millions Join Earth Day Observances Across the Nation



Thousands jamming 17th Avenue yesterday in response to a call for the regeneration of a polluted environment. View is north from 124th Street, with Central Park in background.

CAMBODIAN CRISIS GROWS AS TROOPS SEEM TO FALTER

With Reds Near, Phnompenh
to Cherry Over Limited
Response to Aid Pleas

CIVIL AVIATION CURBED

Aide Declines to State How
Long Army Can Hold Out
With the Arms It Has

By HENRY KANIG,
Special to the New York Times

PHNOMPENH, Cambodia, April 23—An occupation of heightening national emergency is intensifying Cambodia.

It is due to evidence that the Cambodian Army is unable to turn back the Vietnamese Communist forces, which at one point was within 10 miles of the capital, and to the limited response to Premier Lon Nol's appeal for aid supplies for all aid.

The military authorities closed the Phnompenh airport this morning to all civilian traffic. According to military sources, it is to remain closed

U.S. Government Confusion

President Richard Nixon proclaimed Earth Day to be April 22 in 1971 and 1972.

President Gerald Ford proclaimed Earth Day to be March 21 in 1975.

Presidents Jimmy Carter and George H. W. Bush proclaimed for April 22 in 1977, 1980 and 1990. An official copy of Carters' proclamation was sent erroneously to John McConnell.

The U.S. Congress adopted resolutions for March 21 in 1971 and 1975, and for an Earth Week from April 9 to 15 in 1973. All three of these resolutions contained identical language - except for the date.

<http://www.earthflag.net/history5.htm>

Earth Day Proclamation Signatures

...were held for peace...

Alexander B. Cummings
 Judith Holliter
 Luther H. Evans
 Stella Feldman
 David R. Brower
 Howard R. Callaway
 Department
 Eugene McCarthy
 [Signature]

William French
 Hugh Scott
 T. Sny Aldrin
 would be
 Donald
 (U. S. HANT)
 [Signature]
 H. Fukushima
 Roni J. Dubos
 [Signature]

* Time changed to moment of the Equinox 1973.

Buckminster Fuller
 [Signature]
 Robert Muller
 Isaac Asimov
 Edward Abramson
 Aly Fey
 [Signature]
 Cynthia Lennon.

[Signature]
 Dean Lewis S.
 Audrey McLaughlin
 Jerry Suranoff
 [Signature]
 Y. Pradat
 [Signature]
 [Signature]



United Nations Secretary-General U Thant
March 21 Earth Day, 1971

Politics of Earth Day

In 1971, UN Secretary-General U Thant issued an official UN proclamation recognizing the March equinox as Earth Day. U Thant signed, also in 1971, the *Earth Day Proclamation* formulated by John McConnell, that states the date of Earth Day as the Vernal Equinox. Subsequently, April 22 organizers attempted to get U Thant to change the date to April 22. He refused, saying McConnell's idea was better. Margaret Mead agreed.

From 1971 to 2010, the only official recognition at the United Nations concerning Earth Day was the Vernal Equinox. For 41 years, Earth Day has been celebrated annually on the Vernal Equinox at UN headquarters in NYC, with the ringing of the UN Peace Bell.

In 2011, an effort at the United Nations finally succeeded in gaining official UN recognition of April 22.

A new holiday was proclaimed as –

International Mother Earth Day
April 22

<http://www.un.org/en/events/motherearthday/>

The UN' s New *International Mother Earth Day*

“International Mother Earth Day promotes a view of the Earth as the entity that sustains all living things found in nature. It honors the Earth as a whole and our place within it. **It does not seek to replace other events, such as Earth Day, which has been celebrated by many people around the world on 22 [sic] March since the 1970s, but rather to reinforce and reinterpret them based on the evolving challenges we face.**”

<http://www.un.org/en/events/motherearthday/>

Responses to Date Conflicts

Some have proposed several Earth Days –

Earth Day I – March equinox

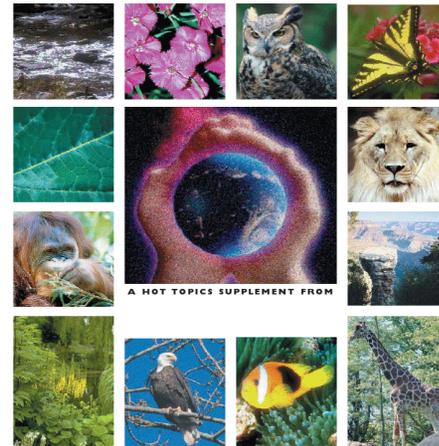
Earth Day II – April 22

Earth Day III – UN World Environment Day on June 5

Still others have said,
why not make
every day Earth Day –

Cover photo, “How Earth Day Began,”
by Michael Weilbacher

Earth Day Every Day









GEN COUNSEL ASSEMBLIES OF G. O. O.
HOT SPRINGS ARK. 2-12-11











