



Action For Nature

Encouraging young people to take personal action to nurture and protect a healthy environment on which all life depends

www.actionfornature.org

Winter 2011

Our 2011 Eco-Heroes

Making a World of Difference

The young people who contribute their stories, pictures, insights, and achievements are at the heart of what Action For Nature stands for. We believe young peoples' insight, energy, and ideas are too valuable to be ignored. With this in mind, we created the Eco-Hero awards which give young people both the motivation and the means to continue creating positive change for the natural world. Although the Eco-Heroes we work with vary in age, nationality, ethnicity, and area of interest, they have a few important things in common: they all possess curiosity about the natural world, desire to work seriously, and a vision for a better future. Action For Nature seeks to inspire and promote these values for years to come.

Charles Orgbon



Charles Orgbon, 16 from Georgia, works in a world dominated by adults with college degrees, but this has not stopped him. In the non-profit and media sectors, Charles has accomplished a lot.

Charles leads a group called Greening Forward that advocates for the environment on the web and through-

out his community. If you want to learn more or to donate, go to greeningforward.org. Charles also started a youth club called Earth Savers that creates recycling campaigns, organizes pep-rallies and skits, plants gardens, and produces a newsletter.

Recently and according to Charles himself, "Greening Forward has been in an intense FUNdraising season. We had a great benefit dinner at Zoo Atlanta with Po the Panda... and then celebrated our work with contemporary and local musicians. Our fundraising season has captured all sorts of audiences-- professional adults, families, and teenagers. We are on track to bring in over \$1,500."

As can be seen by the excerpt above, Charles is adept at working with diverse types of people and selling them on the cause he supports. He is a master of outreach and this is why he and his organizations are doing so well. We at Action For Nature look forward to working with and learning more from Charles.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Over the past year, we have developed a national online recycling program for high schools. This provides support, strategy and templates. It ends with a certificate of recognition. It is now ready to be tested on pilot high schools anywhere in the USA. We'd appreciate introductions to teachers, parents and/or students who would like to try this out. Please contact mail@actionfornature.org, or 415-513-2421.

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INTERNET SEARCHES?

Please use www.goodsearch.com and designate Action For Nature as your charity of choice. We will receive one penny per search.

YOUTH BLOGGER PANEL

Check out the Youth Bloggers at our web site. Interested in becoming a Youth Blogger? Visit our web site www.actionfornature.org and click on Youth Blog.



Casey Sokolovic

Casey Sokolovic, 14 of North Carolina, has achieved a lot in a relatively short time. She runs a plethora of fundraising events, which includes selling thousands of turtle-shaped sugar cookies which she bakes herself, selling “Sea Turtle” coffee that she helped create, along with tee-shirts and an annual 10k/5k Trail Run. All together, Casey has raised over \$50,000.

For several years, she has participated in the Junior Internship Program at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center. Through the Boys & Girls Club, Casey started and funded a math and science-based aquatic summer camp to engage youth to be aware and involved with environmental issues.

What motivates her to dedicate her time to all of these activities is the heartbreak she felt when seeing for the first time sick and wounded sea turtles. Also, she is inspired by the idea that “one person can make a difference and every person should try.” Casey’s passion to do right in the world is the solid base that allows her to achieve her academic and conservation-related goals.

Roshan Yadav

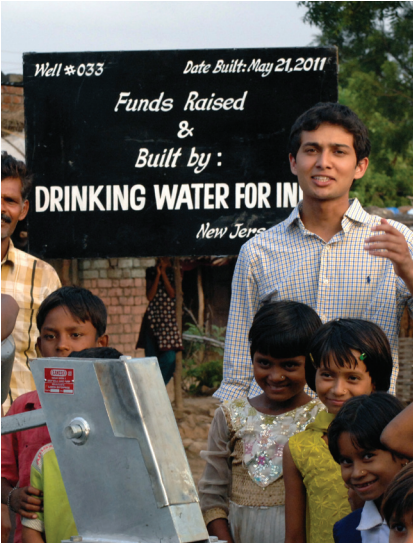
To get a sense of the size and scale of what Roshan Yadav, 15 of Nepal, is doing to combat climate change, just know that the president of Nepal attended the commencement ceremony for Roshan’s organization. In 2010, Roshan, along with some friends, founded the Junior Awareness Club (JAC) whose mission is to educate the people and the government of Nepal about the dangers of climate change.

Roshan and the JAC located and trained 75 student district representatives to collect signatures from their respective districts. The signatures were then submitted to Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and Environment Minister Thakur Prasad Sharma. In addition to this, Roshan reached out to thousands of students and showed them how destructive global climate change is.

Roshan recognizes that education is just the first step to fighting pollution and human-caused environmental destruction. His next mission is to start a tree planting organization dedicated to the goal of planting a million trees. Planting trees is the logical progression of Roshan’s education project, because when people realize there is a problem they usually want to fix the problem. In this way, Roshan’s future plan shows that he is thinking ahead.



Rujul Zaparde



Rujul Zaparde, 16 of New Jersey, started the non-profit, Drinking Water For India, after a family trip to India. During this visit, Rujul saw entire villages without clean drinking water. This encounter made Rujul see that clean drinking water is a basic right all people should have access to.

Drinking Water For India builds wells and catchment systems for farmers and villages throughout rural India. The organization has built 31 wells and helped over 55,000 people.

Rujul and his organization are involved in recruiting schools and students in the US to support the cause. So far they have partnered with 23 US schools. Rujul's message to students in the US is: helping others is important because people just like you are living much harder harsher lives.

Action For Nature salutes Rujul for working to inspire students in the US, while also providing a vital service to villages in India. Although there is much work to get done, we know that Rujul will continue to serve people and the environment for years to come.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ECO-HERO PROGRAM

In this, our 9th year, we honored nineteen awesome winners aged 9 to 16 from around the USA and from Canada, Ghana, India, and Nepal. We hope you enjoy reading some of the profiles in this newsletter and invite you to visit our web site to read about all the winners.

The DEADLINE for 2012 HAS BEEN CHANGED to January 15, 2012!

Avalon Theisen

Avalon Theisen, age 10, is an artist, activist, educator, and fundraiser located in Florida. What began as a love of animals and a desire to make art, has turned into a busy life of event planning and teaching.

Currently Avalon is passionate about making clean water more accessible around the world. Last summer Avalon and her family visited Friendly Water for the World in Olympia, WA to network with other people excited about biosand filters. The trip included 5 days of training in which she learned how to construct these filters and teach others about how to build and use them. To learn more go to conserveitforward.org.

Avalon has talked with thousands of people this year, sharing the importance of frogs, an indicator species. One event she planned for Save the Frogs Day 2011 had over 100 people in attendance for educational activities and her presentation. Through the summer she traveled to Central America for several weeks, where she learned from scientists and naturalists, experiencing many amphibian species in their natural habitats.

Needless to say, Avalon's efforts have and will continue to change the natural world in a positive way.



OUR THANKS

To all our individual donors, we offer our heartfelt thanks for your support. We are able to continue only because of your interest and generosity. As Action For Nature has no major revenue reserves or endowments, we depend upon your gifts.

We are proud and grateful to have received support this year from Compassionate Care, Ernst & Young, Parnassus Investments, and Wellness Management Consultants.

Our thanks to the following donors who contributed to our 2011 reception: Olive Bavins, Shimon Schwarzschild, Jean LaPez, Incredible Adventures, Mezzetta, John Perry, T & T Nail Salon, Ton Kiang Restaurant, NOPA Restaurant, Sweet Delish, Marina Supermarket, Starbucks, Rainbow Grocery Cooperative, Safeway, Luce Forward, Adrienne Scroggie, Sharon Garske.

2011 Annual Eco-Hero Awards Reception



Clockwise from top: Eco-Hero Claire Dworsky with her parents; AFN founder Shimon Schwarzschild with Eco-Hero Claire Dworsky; Danielle O'Bannon, Minna Baughman (AFN Treasurer) and Sharon Garske; Jean Barish, Adrienne and Alan Scroggie; AFN board members Keith Kawamura and Carol Chang; 2009 Eco-Hero Kevin Huo with his parents (L and R) with AFN founder Shimon Schwarzschild and his wife Naomi



QUOTES FROM OUR 2011 ECO-HEROES

Each person can affect change in this world --- it's all about starting right here, right now.

Victoria Pan, aged 16

Through building 37 wells across three states in India we have helped over 55,000 villagers.

Rujul Zaparde, aged 16

We have to make sure that species will still be around for generations

to come.

Avalon Theisen, aged 10

Did you know that litter cleanup costs over \$11 billion every year? Don't be a litterbug.

Brooklyn Wright, aged 8

Each of us can do something and any person should start now.

Casey Sokolovic, aged 13

[A] great aspect of the Eco-Hero awards is the networking it provides. I am planning on organizing a joint activity with Charles Orgbon, a fellow Georgian Eco-Hero. The potential partnerships through Action for Nature may lead to amazing teams and efforts. I am thankful for this opportunity.

Ariel Allen, aged 16