



Action For Nature

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

Winter 2013



(From Left to Right) Malcolm Bernard, Ben Schrader, Eric Bear

“The invasive hunter academy is a three step, multi sensory approach to help educate kids of all ages about invasive species. We are the next generation, we are the people who are going up against invasive species and all sorts of things that are damaging our planet.” –Ben Schrader
Commanderben.com (blog)



Founder Shimon Schwarzschild speaking former Eco Hero Kevin Huo.

“We eco heroes are here, not solely based on our accomplishments, but also to empower others, and make a difference in our communities. Find what you love, and go volunteer. Youth can be key players in conservation efforts, we may be young, but we are not only the leaders of tomorrow, we are leaders of today. If everyone started conservation in our own back yards, imagine what a different world this would be.” –Malcolm Bernard

Eco Hero Reception

Held at the American Institute of Architects, in San Francisco, on October 18th, Action For Nature celebrated the 2013 Eco Heroes awards. Executive Director of the Wild Equity Institute Brent Plater was the keynote speaker. Four enthusiastic Eco Heroes eloquently spoke as well as AFN President Beryl Kay, and AFN founder, Shimon Schwarzschild. The event was sponsored by the International Furnishings and Design Association (IFDA). A silent auction raised over \$900.



(From Left to Right) Cheryl Patstone (AFN Board), Donna Alexander (volunteer), Ron and Barbara Daher (IDFA)

“We made a difference, our legislators listened, and opened the door to statewide recognition that Radon can harm our DNA, and testing should be done when a home is sold. In the beginning, we had to start small, so we traveled from doorstep to doorstep, and then to city councils, and then marched all the way to our state capital. Our activism led to advocacy. There are many ways kids can get involved in activism. Working in groups encourages kids to bring all of their ideas together. If children know they can control their environment, we’ve all won.” –Eric Bear

“To you other young eco heroes in the future: keep going.”
–Kevin Huo, 2009 Eco Hero

<http://radonawarenessproject.com/>



Beryl Kay and Brent Plater

Organizing Committee: Beryl Kay, Diane E. Nicolson, Tamsin Orion, Adrienne Scroggie, Christ Surunis, Judith Schiff, Bruce Segiel, Danyelle Ludwig, Barbara Daher

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Eco Hero Updates

Board Members:

- *Ezra Becker
 - *Carol Chang
 - *Joan Crotty- Treasurer
 - *Beryl Kay-President
 - *Cheryl Patstone
 - *Judith Schiff
 - *Adrienne Scroggie
 - *Andre Scroggie
 - *Charles Bruce Stegiel
- *Shimon Schwarzschild
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- *Mimi Griffin Jones
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- *Roberta Ayres
- *Margaret Boeger
- *Chris Giorni
- *Susan Silber
- *Barbara Wein

And also...

- *Elena Eichelberger
Newsletter Editor
Program Coordinator
Public Allies 2013/2014
- *Fiume Drummond
Program Coordinator
Public Allies 2012/2013
- *Tamsin Orion
Tamzina Films

Volunteers

- *Jean Barish
- *Donna Alexander
- *Alex Barrett
- *Alan Scroggie
- *Cindy Wilbur

Youth Blog!

See what other young folks are writing about! Visit our website www.actionfornature.org and click on Youth Blog.

Milo Cress is the founder of the Be Straw Free (BSF) campaign which addresses the approximately 500 million straws used and discarded each day in the USA. Milo is busy this year with travels, speaking to youth about how to find and involve themselves in activism. Beginning in April, Milo travelled to Australia, and then to Europe. If you happen to be in Stuttgart, Germany in the next couple of weeks, you may catch him speaking at schools and living off the land. Milo says, "Between speaking engagements, my mom and I stay at different places and do work exchange for our room and board. We stayed on an organic farm and helped with goats, chickens, geese, ducks, and sheep. We helped garden and sort organic fruits and vegetables which are then delivered once a week to people in the area". Milo is taking in Germany's push to localizing foods, as many German businesses reduce the "food miles" from farm to table. Everywhere Milo goes, he "meets lots of Europeans, adults and kids, who are interested in the environment." He says, "It is really exciting and inspiring. It is great to know so many people are working toward making this a healthier planet." Keep up the great work Milo!



Keep up to date with Milo at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BeStrawFree>

<http://ecocycle.org/bestrawfree>

Internet Searches?? Please use www.goodsearch.com and choose Action For Nature. We will receive one penny per search!

David Lewis, avid oyster gardener since 2009, is raising his fifth batch of oysters.

David has helped over 5,000 oysters return to the Chesapeake Bay, filtering over 250,000 gallons of water per day! He dedicates about an hour a week oyster gardening, which has opened David to interests he was not exposed to in a classroom. As his senior year in high school wraps up, David is considering a career as an animal researcher, marine scientist, aquaculturist or veterinarian.



David's oyster gardening and eco-hero award led to a half page article in his local newspaper, and a spotlight article in On Earth magazine. In his humility, David states, "I am happy for the attention this has brought to the low oyster population and that kids can make a difference in our world. I do not raise the oysters for recognition. I feel hands-on action speaks louder than words and I would like to see more people get up and just do something to help our world. One person can make a difference."

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG ECO-HERO PROGRAM

In this, our 11th year, we honored fifteen inspirational winners aged 11-16 from around the USA Canada, United Arab Emirates, India, United Kingdom, and Indonesia. 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 the 2014 Eco-Hero Awards is January 31st, 2014!

We are Looking for corporate sponsors for facebook!

Know a corporation who is willing to sponsor Action for Nature? Let us know! mail@actionfornature.org

Eco Hero Updates

Abbie Barnes' activism doesn't end with educating folks about palm oil production; her passions include ocean conservation, elephant protection from the ivory industry, orangutan protection, and responsible waste management. Her film 'Save Our Oceans' has received global recognition, winning an award from Sir David Attenborough at the EcoTales Film Festival, and being shortlisted for the Innsbruck Film Festival. While in school, Abbie focuses her time on short, easy to understand, professional, wildlife films to engage young people. Between her Advanced Level college (UK's system of higher education) years, Abbie plans to spend 3-6 months in Scotland filming for an upcoming project. Look for updates on Abbie's website and AFN's facebook for the release of her focus species for the project!

Abbie's main message is this: "Action begins within our own homes, educating those around us and acting sensibly with non-biodegradable items. No matter how old, your interests, aspirations, or



where you live, the natural world is the centre of our existence, providing us with the food we consume and the very soil beneath our feet. It is a fragile but immensely beautiful creation, that when disturbed can lead to distressing impacts. We can all help to maintain and protect it by behaving appropriately with our waste, using resources sustainably, and respecting the creatures that we share this planet with."

Keep up to date with Abbie at:

<http://www.songthrushproductions.co.uk/>

Brianna Moore, Self identified protector of the planet and environment, visit's Detroit's local parks and riverbanks every week, removing debris. Since 2010 Brianna and friends have removed over 200,000 cigarette butts, col-



lected over 10,000 plastic bottles and other recyclables. Brianna and her peers are now collaborating with TerraCycle Brigade, recycling lightly used shoes and aluminum juice containers benefiting various charities, and collecting empty potato chip bags to be recycled into usable products. Brianna is an inspiration to her peers, engaging other teens to volunteer and make responsible waste decisions. Her project, Green Life Saver Recycling Foundation motivates Brianna to continue advocacy for our planet and the US Go Green Campaign. Brianna says, "It takes one person to make a difference. If we all do something, no matter how small, it will make a difference in our future. Remember, reduce, reuse, and recycle. There are many opportunities for supporting various charities by recycling with Terracycle Brigade."

For more information:

<http://www.terracycle.com/en-US/brigades.html>

We Need Your Help!

Please consider becoming a supporting donor. Gifts of any amount are urgently needed. You may write personal checks to the address in this newsletter, or use PayPal on the donor page of our Web site www.actionfornature.org. For gifts of stock, please contact mail@actionfornature.org. We sincerely and gratefully thank our long term donors without whom we could not possibly continue.

Call out for new board members:

We are looking for socially and environmentally conscious individuals to join our board preferably with strong social media, technology and fundraising skills. For more information, contact beryl@actionfornature.org

Previous Eco Hero Updates

Kila Nurtjahya, 2013 Eco Hero and expert in bee cultivation, travelled to Kiev, Ukraine, to participate in the International Apicultural Congress, where she made an oral presentation on her research of the production of stingless bee honey. She hopes her research will help the people on her Indonesian island to develop an eco-friendly business in the era of post tin mining.



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. Our thanks to the following donors who contributed to our 2013 reception: Dr. Alan Wu, San Francisco Whale Watching Wildlife Tours, California Academy of Sciences, Jean La Pez, Tree Frog Treks, Disney Museum, Amor Do Samba, Aquarium by the Bay, Perry's, Mezzetta Foods, Viva!, Books Inc, Olive Bavins, Renee Powers, Judith Schiff, Anonymous, La Boulange Bakery, Rainbow Grocery, Costco, Trader Joe's, Jean Barish, Frey Winery, Starbucks Coffee.

Sean Russell, 2009 Eco Hero: for many years, Sean has been a passionate marine conservationist. He is still coordinating the Stow it -Don't Throw It Project for which he won his AFN award. Through this campaign, students have to date assembled 6,000 personal-sized fishing line recycling bins and distributed these across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and California. Recently, Sean published an educational presentation and activity book designed for students and educators to raise awareness about the important issue of marine debris prevention. In 2011, in partnership with Mote Marine Laboratory of Florida, USA, Sean launched the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, at which students, scientists and conservationists come together to develop action plans for ocean conservation projects. Through the Youth Ocean Conservation Team network, they stay connected and reach out to other youth/adults involved in ocean conservation around the world. www.yocs.org; email Sean at: info@stowitdonthrowitproject.org



Andrew Leonard, 2008 Eco Hero: Having completed his studies at Columbia University, New York, USA, Andrew has landed his "dream job" with Google. He recalls his Eco-Hero award with pride and would like to be in touch with other Eco-Heroes. AFN hopes to develop some social media groups to connect together our fabulously talented Eco-Heroes which we have honored since 2003.



Charles Orgbon III (far right in picture), 2011 Eco Hero: Greening Forward, which Charles founded in 2008 when he was 12 years old has since influenced 6,000 young people to recycle 20 tons of waste, plant 70 trees, save 86,000 gallons of water, and offset the carbon emissions of 5 cars for one year. "These numbers are reminders that young people are more than the future; instead, if given the chance, young people are today," says Charles. www.GreeningForward.org

Vincent Ogutu, profiled in AFN's book "Acting for Nature", published in 2000 (visit www.Amazon.com): After working for 15 years in his homeland of Kenya, Vincent is now studying for a Master's degree in entrepreneurship with a goal of venturing into food production. With a group of like-minded colleagues, he is involved in horticulture and farming. He plans to undertake cat fish farming on a 2-acre plot starting in January.



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www.facebook.com/ActionForNature



Jordyn Schara, 2010 Eco Hero: To aid teens with making a difference in the world, Jordyn founded Project (HOPE) (Helping Our Peers Excel). She did this to help others and then founded three projects of her own: (1) addressing drug abuse with collection programs, (2) supporting USA troops by sending care packages, and (3) collecting and purchasing comics to distribute to underserved youth to help them improve their reading skills. Teens (and adults) across the USA contact her for help in setting up their own or similar projects. <http://www.helpingourpeersexcel.com/>