



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 2010

Our Eco-Heroes *Making a World of Difference* Around the Globe

Our Eco-Heroes continue to take valiant and results-driven action on behalf of nature, humanity, and the future. These young people are true leaders whose environmental heroism is making an impact around the world. We are proud to highlight below the continued efforts and achievements of a few of our Eco-Heroes.

Linus Wafula (2008) *Eco-Leadership in Kenya*

Since we introduced **Linus**, of Nairobi, Kenya, to Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots program, he has since taken on an active leadership role as Group Coordinator and Founder of Eco-Club Action – Kenya.

Under his leadership, the 200 member volunteer group participated in a tree planting program in April of this year. Members helped plant 30,000 tree seedlings in the Ngong Forest in Kenya. Eco-Club Action also volunteered during the 2010 United Nations Day in October.

Alec Loorz (2008) *Organizing a Million Kid March*

At the 2010 Bioneers Conference in October, **Alec**, of California, announced his plans to organize a million kid march in the spring of 2011. The iMatter March will unite youth around the world to call for climate and energy action.

“The time has now come for us, as youth, as a generation to rise up and demand that the ruling generation puts ‘the survival of our grandchildren’ right on the top of their list of priorities. We need to issue a wake up call to every politi-



Photo courtesy of Linus Wafula

Linus Wafula (standing) with Eco-Club Action members tabling during United Nations Day on October 24th.

cian and corporation out there saying that **we matter!**” says Alec on his blog.

The Kids vs. Global Warming founder has made 150 presentations and keynote addresses on global warming to thousands of people.





2010 Eco-Hero Winners: Felix Finkbeiner, Eric Babb, Gates Bierhuizen, Elodie Sihan, Connor Cass, Jordyn Schara, Liam Bane O'Neil

Andrew Leonard (2008) *Associate Television Producer*

"Your award changed my life," Columbia sophomore **Andrew** says. Skeptical classmates had called him a "tree-hugger" for his environmental partnership with a school in China. Then Action for Nature made Andrew a 2008 Young Eco-Hero. Cheryl Jennings, ABC7 TV News Emmy-winning Senior Anchor, who was impressed with Andrew offered to mentor him.

As an associate producer this summer, while reviewing footage of military Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Andrew noticed that women vets were often overlooked. After mentioning this to Ms. Jennings, she did an entire show on this subject.

Ms. Jennings says, "Andrew Leonard is an outstanding young man with a great work ethic and a 'can do' attitude. I am extremely proud to be his mentor. I particularly love the fact that he cares about making a difference in the world through his work."

Ms. Jennings has invited Andrew to return to ABC TV next summer. We're proud to have introduced him to her.



Photo courtesy of George Leonard

Andrew on the set with ABC7/TV news anchor Cheryl Jennings.

Rafia Saleem (2003) *Environmental Crusader in Pakistan*



Rafia Saleem

Rafia, of Pakistan, is currently working on an innovative drama-cum-radio-program on a local FM channel that promotes environmental consciousness. The program imparts eco-awareness, discusses solutions to public environmental problems, introduces environmental heroes and airs people's ecological concerns.

She is also penning another booklet for children, narrating the achievements of Pakistani Environmental Heroes in simple story-like form. Supported by pencil sketches, the booklet will aim at fostering inspiration for positive environmental education.

Recently, Rafia started contributing to UNICEF's Voices of Youth blog about different issues such as floods, humanitarian crises, solid waste mismanagement, peace and environment. To read Rafia's blog comments, visit:

<http://blog.voicesofyouth.org/?p=1561> & <http://blog.voicesofyouth.org/?p=1833>



Aitan Grossman, Sarah Jo Lambert, Alexander James Zephyry, Asadi Zaidi, Sarah Connor, Muthamizh M., Brandon Wood

Letter from Our President

Dear Friends and Supporters of Action For Nature,

Each year, when we read the applications, we are astonished at what young people are accomplishing and with what passion and drive they pursue their environmental interests.

Full descriptions of our wonderful 2010 Eco-Heroes are on our [Web site](#). We are pleased to announce that this year each winner will receive a congratulatory letter from **Dr. Jane Goodall**. Our thanks and appreciation to Dr. Goodall.

It has been an exciting year for Action For Nature. We launched our **redesigned web site**, and just recently, our [youth bloggers](#) started posting their comments about environmental news and current issues. We invite you to read and comment about our youth blogger posts.

We are looking forward to the New Year and it is our hope that you will continue to follow and generously [support](#) Action For Nature.

With best wishes to you all from our Board of Directors,

Beryl

Beryl C.D. Kay, President

Our Thanks

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

We would like to thank the following donors who helped make our 2010 reception a success: Olive Bavins, Books Inc., Costco, Myra Forsythe, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, Hostelling International, Just Desserts, Jean La Pez, Mezzetta, Rainbow Grocery Co-operative, Safeway, Secret Garden Tea House, Sorensen's Resort, Sweet Joe's Café, Trader Joe's, Tree Frog Treks, and Jenna Musselman Yott.

Annual Action For Nature Reception

On October 15, we hosted our annual Eco-Hero awards reception. This year's Making a World of Difference reception, held in San Francisco, featured a presentation

by 2010 Eco-Hero, Aitan Grossman, seen at the right with his mother Lauren.

He impressed the audience with his original song, "100 Generations" about the threat of global warming. Aitan also displayed his

KidEarth web site which featured videos of youth around the globe singing his song.

Those attending also enjoyed our **new video** which highlights the efforts of the 2010 Eco-Hero winners. Thanks to our generous donors, we raised over \$1500 through our silent auction and Giving Tree.



Photo by: Paula Clark



Photo by: Albert Wang



Photo by: Paula Clark

Top, left to right: Catherine Do and Star Van
Bottom, left to right: Sharon Garske, Marisa and Kirk Kirschenbauer

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Scott Bowling
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“Thank you so much for honoring me with this award. It is truly amazing. Thank you for the support and believing that I made a difference and believing that in the future I will continue to make a difference. This award gives kids like myself the courage to stand up for what’s right and have a voice for tomorrow’s decisions.” -Sarah Jo Lambert, of Texas, 2010 Eco-Hero

Congratulations to both Kevin Huo of California, and Anjali Chandrashekar of India, who have been recognized for using their artistic talents to raise awareness of environmental issues.

Kevin Huo (2009)

Inspired by memories of watching birds near his home, Kevin’s “Birds Over the Bay” drawing received top honors in the 2010 One Square Block & River of Words Art and Poetry Contest. In June, Kevin and his family attended the River of Words Environmental Art & Poetry Award ceremony in Washington D.C. He had the opportunity to meet and share his grand-prize winning drawing with California Senator, Barbara Boxer.

As a Roots & Shoots team leader Kevin is working on a project called “Action for Nature,” which focuses on educating communities about migratory bird habitat protection and the San Francisco Bay Watershed conservation.



(c) 2010 River of Words, 2010 Grand Prize, riverofwords.org

Kevin Huo’s River-of-Words grand-prize winning drawing, “Birds Over the Bay.”

Anjali Chandrashekar (2007)

“I have been using my art to raise awareness about issues close to my heart. Biodiversity loss is one such alarming issue as it has immense impacts on all forms of life,” says Anjali. Her artwork recently won first place in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) “Young Hands Together for Diversity International Biodiversity Art Competition.” The painting will be used by FAO in their upcoming educational and outreach publications to illustrate our planet’s biodiversity.

Anjali will represent India as a Global Changemaker during the Global Youth Summit in London, where she will have an opportunity to collaborate with Changemakers around the globe on her Global Action project, which focuses on environmental sustainability and climate change.



Photo courtesy of Anjali Chandrashekar

Anjali Chandrashekar won first place in the FAO “Young Hands Together for Diversity International Biodiversity Art Competition.”