

NEWS



Science Week

EARTH DAY AND THE MARCH FOR SCIENCE

By KATHLEEN ROGERS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017

It's no coincidence that Earth Day, the first anniversary of the signing of the climate agreement, and the March for Science are all taking place on the same day, April 22. It is the people's day. It has been the people's day since 1970, when Sen. Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.), Rep. Pete McCloskey (R-Calif.), and lead organizer Denis Hayes turned out 20 million ordinary citizens in what is still regarded as the largest-ever single social mobilization effort in world history.

The goal—to put environmental issues at the dead center of the political agenda by mobilizing citizens—led directly to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and some of the most important environmental laws ever enacted including the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. The modern environmental movement was launched and nearly half a century later, Earth Day continues to be a day of action and mobilization that engages more than one billion people in 192 countries. That number grows with each passing year.

At first it may not be obvious why Earth Day was the day of choice for the march, but Earth Day was the result of warnings that scientists had made for years about our environment. From Rachel Carson in *Silent Spring* to multiple discoveries of the human health effects of fossil fuels and other toxics, Earth Day and the laws that grew out of that huge new movement were all based on the painstaking work of dedicated



DO IT

What: Clean Locust Beach
When: 10 am Sat., Apr. 22
Where: Locust Beach
Info: <http://www.re-sources.org>

EVENTS

TODAY

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

10:00AM | SKAGIT COUNTY

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

10:00AM | SKAGIT COUNTY

SPRING FEST FINE ART SHOW

11:00AM | DEPOT ART CENTER

CONTAINER GARDENING

4:00PM | BLAINE LIBRARY

COOK A GREAT STEAK

5:30PM | SEMIAHMOO RESORT

GROUP RUN

6:00PM | SKAGIT RUNNING COMPANY

TOWERS FALLING

6:30PM | BELLINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

CREEKSIDE OPEN MIC

6:30PM | SOUTH WHATCOM LIBRARY

GREEK DINNER

6:30PM | COMMUNITY FOOD CO-OP

RUN FASTER CLINIC

7:00PM | FAIRHAVEN RUNNERS

JOHN HANSEN QUARTET

7:00PM | UNITY SPIRITUAL CENTER

PANTY HOES

9:00PM | RUMORS CABARET

Champagne Sunday Brunch Every Weekend In December!
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scientists.

Not that it wasn't obvious in 1970. With rivers on fire, cities experiencing dangerous levels of air pollution, genetic changes in our wildlife and children suffering from myriad diseases and birth defects, scientists' warnings finally sparked a revolution.

Last year, the importance of Earth Day was recognized when 175 countries met in New York on April 22 to sign the Paris Climate Agreement. Scientists, global leaders, corporations and people breathed a collective sigh of relief that a climate agreement, although imperfect, finally moved forward. Science was at the heart of the climate agreement, but support from all facets of civil society helped create the political climate that made it possible.

This year, Earth Day will once again serve as a vehicle for mobilization when, in addition to turning out a billion people and celebrating the first anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the world will march for science.

Without science, there would be no Earth Day. Without science, we would have no climate agreement, Clean Air Act or Clean Water Act, or any of the environmental legislation that grew out of the first Earth Day.

It is the cornerstone of our understanding of the world. We rely on scientists to ask questions, form hypotheses, test these hypotheses through rigorous experiments, and ultimately draw conclusions. We rely on scientists to tell us the truth.

And what makes partnership with March for Science all the more meaningful is that this year's Earth Day theme is climate and environmental science literacy.

Environmental literacy was once the sad stepchild of our movement. Today, countries around the world are discussing and passing laws to create a new generation of educated citizens ready for 21st century green-energy jobs. Just as it was true at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, the countries that teach science and prepare their work forces for a new economy will get the jobs and the investments and become the leaders of the green economy. And by the same token, those countries that fail to educate their children about the science of the future will not prosper. Earth Day Network's goal is to support the inevitable move to the post-fossil-fuel world economy by educating and preparing the next generation of students to be ready for tomorrow's jobs.

Which brings us back to People's Day. As in 1970, people all over the world are faced with a choice. We can rely on real science to illuminate the truth and the way toward a sustainable future, or we can turn our backs on both science and truth. I suspect the American people will choose the latter, and that on Earth Day people will be marching for both. And not just scientists. Teachers, students, business leaders, elected officials, parents, grandparents and many others will be marching to protect the truth, protect science and protect our planet.

Kathleen Rogers, president of Earth Day Network, is the lead organizer for the Earth Day March for Science rally and teach-ins on the National Mall. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License



TOMORROW

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

🕒 10:00AM | SKAGIT COUNTY

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🕒 10:00AM | SKAGIT COUNTY

SPRING FEST FINE ART SHOW

🕒 11:00AM | DEPOT ART CENTER

PARKINSON'S DANCE CLASS

🕒 10:00AM | BALLET BELLINGHAM

TECH CAMP

🕒 2:00PM | FAITHLIFE BUILDING

BOOK TALK WITH JEWELL RHODES

🕒 4:00PM | WHATCOM MUSEUM'S LIGHTCATCHER BUILDING

HONORING BEER

🕒 6:00PM | OVERFLOW TAPS

WILD SPRING GREENS

🕒 6:30PM | COMMUNITY FOOD CO-OP

GET YOUR SPRING TONIC ON

🕒 6:30PM

DON'T DRINK THE WATER

🕒 7:00PM | GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

BALKAN FOLK DANCE

🕒 7:00PM | FAIRHAVEN LIBRARY

A YEAR RIGHT HERE

🕒 7:00PM | VILLAGE BOOKS

ARLO GUTHRIE'S RUNNING DOWN THE ROAD TOUR

🕒 7:00PM | MOUNT BAKER THEATRE

UNDERGROUND COMEDY

🕒 7:00PM | UNDERGROUND COFFEEHOUSE

THEY CALL US MONSTERS

🕒 7:00PM | UNDERGROUND COFFEEHOUSE



'Throw Away the Box'

COUNTY EXPLORES ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

Jail is a poor and costly social worker.

While contemplating a larger, safer jail, Whatcom County Council policymakers have become increasingly aware that substantial numbers of people in jail don't rightly belong there—folks with mental health or substance abuse issues; others without...

[more »](#)



Rekindle the Flame

WHEREFORE ART THOU, WATERFRONT?

The waterfront. At its core, it is a love story.

And, like so many love stories, there is the falling in and out of love—the spurned advances, the jitters of affection and rejection, the halting steps and failures and retreats and recoveries, the eager holding of hands and solemn walking...

[more »](#)



AmericaFirst

A FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR SPEAKS OUT

John M. Koenig is a former U.S. ambassador to Cyprus who also held positions in Germany, Greece, and with NATO, an organization that has in recent weeks come under criticism by the new administration. After a 31-year career, Koenig retired in 2015, returning to his native Northwest and...

[more »](#)

7:30PM | LINCOLN THEATRE

GLOBAL SPICE WORLD MUSIC SERIES

7:30PM | PERFORMING ARTS CENTER CONCERT HALL

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

7:30PM | ANACORTES COMMUNITY THEATRE

JANSEN JAZZ BAND SPRING CONCERT

7:30PM | JANSEN ART CENTER

POT SHOW

10:00PM | UPFRONT THEATRE

FRIDAY

SKAGIT VALLEY TULIP FESTIVAL

10:00AM | SKAGIT COUNTY

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10:00AM | SKAGIT COUNTY

SPRING FEST FINE ART SHOW

11:00AM | DEPOT ART CENTER

DON'T DRINK THE WATER

7:00PM | GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

20TH ANNUAL ART CAREER DAY

8:30AM | WHATCOM MUSEUM

WILD THINGS

🕒 9:30AM | STIMPSON FAMILY NATURE RESERVE

LYNDEN FRIENDS BOOK SALE

🕒 10:00AM | LYNDEN LIBRARY

TULIP FESTIVAL STREET FAIR

🕒 10:00AM | DOWNTOWN MOUNT VERNON

SPANISH STORYTIME

🕒 10:30AM | LYNDEN LIBRARY

BOOKS & BITES

🕒 1:00PM | BLAINE LIBRARY

SIN & GIN TOURS

🕒 4:00PM | DOWNTOWN BELLINGHAM

FOOD NOT BOMBS

🕒 4:00PM | DOWNTOWN BELLINGHAM

VINTNER DINNER

🕒 5:30PM | GREAT BLUE HERON GRILL

TRIVIA BEE & SILENT AUCTION

🕒 6:00PM | SETTLEMYER HALL

FAMILY STORY NIGHT

🕒 6:00PM | FAIRHAVEN LIBRARY

ARISTOKITTENS

🕒 6:00PM | BAAY THEATRE

SCOTT & DEAN

🕒 6:00PM | THE BEACH AT BIRCH BAY

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS

🕒 7:00PM | VAN ZANDT COMMUNITY HALL

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM

🕒 7:00PM | WHATCOM MUSEUM'S OLD CITY HALL

MOUNTAIN HISTORY

🕒 7:00PM | VILLAGE BOOKS

O CANADA! HERITAGE WEEKEND

🕒 7:00PM | BURLINGTON SENIOR CENTER

KISS ME KATE

KISS ME, KATE

🕒 7:30PM | PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
MAINSTAGE

LIFEGUARDS AND PIRATES

🕒 8:00PM | UPFRONT THEATRE

[see our complete calendar »](#)

Lester & Hyldahl
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360.733.5774
 tsra@lesterhyldahl.com
 119 N. Commercial Street, Suite 175A
 Bellingham, WA 98225

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