



Happy 50th Anniversary Earth Day!

April 22nd, 2020

Earth Day was begun in 1970 to provide a voice to an emerging environmental conscientiousness. Prompted by Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* and witnessing the "ravages of a massive oil spill" in Santa Barbara, CA, Senator Gaylord Nelson (WI) realized it was imperative to raise and promote the "emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution," and focus the world on the inextricable links between pollution and public health. By the end of 1970, this awareness of our planet's woes led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and also the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Act. For his efforts and dedication, Senator Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

After 50 years, there are more than 190 countries around the globe which participate, and over 1 billion individuals are mobilized into action every Earth Day (www.earthday.org). Further, Earth Day has become an instrument and banner for working to save wildlife and its habitat worldwide.

To that end, Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo (FOBBAZ) is publishing a mini-newsletter, offering facts and projects built around the Earth Day concept. These items have been part of our normal Earth Day celebrations at the zoo for the past several years. As "normal" has changed formats lately, we're sharing some of our successes with you through the Internet. Please enjoy!

♻️ REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REPURPOSE, RESPECT ♻️

These five words have become the FOBBAZ mantra. We use it, share it, think it, and try to live it daily.

Here are a couple of fun ideas you might want to try at home.



Desktop Organizer: 3 or 4 cans of varying sizes; arrange them on a piece of wood, then glue them down (E6000 works well here); spray paint at least two coats

Flowers/Butterfly: use a cardboard egg carton cut into 3 sections (4 indentations each); decorate any way you choose; for butterfly, glue pipe cleaner for antennae; for flowers use dowels glued to back of flower

Bugs: wrap lengths of yarn around a Styrofoam "peanut" and glue ends down; use thread, beads, sequins, ribbon, etc. to decorate bugs; glue them to a paper leaf, twig, or ??? You can also add paper wings—but don't let them fly away!

Garden in a Glove

This terrific (and easy) idea came from Pinterest. We've used it several times and it never fails to make the kids and parents happy. It's Earth Day personified!

- Clear latex gloves
- Seeds—5 different kinds, or whatever you wish
- Cotton balls, wet
- Twisty ties

Decide on your seeds, then write which kind goes in which finger. (Need to do this first and use a permanent pen.)

Drop a seed (or several if they're small) into each labeled finger, then push a wet cotton ball down onto the seeds.

Blow a little air into the glove, tie it with a twisty, and place in a sunny window.

et Voila! Salad ;)



When you **visit Big Bear**, there are some actions you can take to avoid harm to our mountain's native wildlife.

- When you leave, please **TAKE YOUR TRASH** either to one of the two garbage sites up here (Garstin or BBB west), or take it home to throw out. Filled trashcans left out are a large concern—we have racoons, bears, coyotes, even wild donkeys in some areas who love to check out your garbage, and ingested plastic and Styrofoam can kill them!
- Allowing small pets to roam freely, even in a fenced backyard, could be disastrous! Our mountain lions, bobcats, owls find fencing laughable, and small pets are easy pickings and quite edible.
- Leaving dog/cat (or human) food on any outdoor surface is hugely problematic—racoons, especially, will invite their families and friends to a party on your deck. And they will leave a gargantuan mess! Also, be sure to lock doggie doors, especially if you're not home or asleep upstairs.
- If you come across any type of nest/den (birds, bunnies, snakes, etc.) please allow them to remain undisturbed! Within a food chain, these critters might be the predator or the prey. It's Mother Nature at work!



This e-newsletter is a publication of
Friends of the Big Bear Alpine Zoo
(a nonprofit organization/EIN 33-0350180)
April 2020 • Laurey Haviland, Editor



NOTICE—
The Big Bear
Alpine Zoo is
currently closed
due to COVID-19.