



IRC page

March and April 2012

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THE WORLD WATER DAY

March 22th

World Water Day recognizes the critical role that water plays for people around the world. The U.S. is committed to effectively integrating water into its foreign policy priorities and simultaneously elevating the issue of water as a critical stand-alone issue.

By 2025, nearly two-thirds of the world's population will be living under water-stressed conditions. Approximately one billion people will face absolute water scarcity. Diseases from unsafe water and poor sanitation will be the second leading cause of death for children under five in the world.

Women lose many productive hours gathering water on a daily basis in order to have enough for their families. Too many adolescent girls drop out of school because they have to worry about sanitation issues. Women are exposed to unsafe conditions as they gather water. It increases the likelihood of gender-based violence and human trafficking. Additionally, 70 percent of fresh water is used for agriculture; finding ways to improve water storage or reduce water usage will be critical. Climate change also affects availability and access to water.



A man takes his buffalo to drink in a nearly dried-up pond in China's Yunnan province. As temperatures rise due to climate change, water evaporation will increase, leading to droughts and the loss of arable land.



California, where a dead almond grove stands in the San Joaquin Valley, continues facing dire water supply issues, with 2007 ranking as a record dry year in some regions. According to the Association of California Water Agencies, the collective impact of drought, climate change, increased population demands, court-ordered supply reductions and potential natural disasters means that conservation will not solve the crisis.

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THE EARTH DAY

April 22th



A unique vision of Earth rising above the Moon was captured during an Apollo 8 Mission. Apollo 8 astronaut Bill Anders put it in perspective in a documentary: "We came all this way to explore the moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth." (NASA Photo)

Earth Day, April 22, is the annual U.S. celebration of the environment and a time for Americans to assess the work still needed to protect the natural gifts of our planet. Earth Day has no central organizing force behind it, though several nongovernmental organizations work to keep track of the thousands of local events in schools and parks that mark the day. It affirms that environmental awareness is part of the country's consciousness and that the idea of protecting the environment — once the province of a few conservationists — has moved to the mainstream of American thought.

Quiz

Email your answer to
wfr@state.gov.

The first three persons who finds
the correct answer
will win a prize from us!

Why does the U.S. celebrate Earth Day and World Water Day?

- To raise the people awareness of the environment of our planet and help protect the environment
- To remember the day that the NASA discovered the Earth
- To raise the people awareness of the diseases from water

This was not always the case. In the 19th century, Americans, blessed with a vast land rich in natural resources, lived with the notion that fresh fields were always just over the horizon. When one exhausted the soil or forests or coal of a given place, it was possible to move on to another. As industry boomed in the early 20th century, people accepted without question skies blackened from smokestack emissions and rivers fouled with industrial waste. As early as the mid-1930s — and again in the 1950s — Ohio's Cuyahoga River, running through America's industrial heartland, was set ablaze by burning chemical waste from factories built upon its banks. There was no public outcry. Few people even noticed.

In 2012, billions of people in the United States and around the world celebrated Earth Day, affirming their commitment to preserving the environment.



Taking Pride in America, DOI employees, and Living Lands and Waters volunteers pick up trash along the shore of the Potomac River in the Capital River Relief cleanup project. Last year, Capital River Relief volunteers collected 70 tons of garbage over a 30-mile span of the Potomac River. (Janine Sides/State Dept.)

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The United States of America - Focus On: Boston

Boston truly is the jewel of New England. One of the best ways for visitors to encounter the city is via its dynamic chain of parks, such as Boston Common, featuring the family-friendly Frog Pond. The nearby Public Garden hosts its own pond with swan boat tours, which have been in operation since the 1870s. The city honors its key role in American history, but it never focuses solely on the past. For example, Faneuil Hall, where great orators stumped their protests before the American Revolution, now anchors a pedestrian-friendly market full of shops and restaurants. Boston Harbor, the site of the Boston Tea Party, now features the popular Harbor Walk, a trail that winds around the waterfront.



Boston skyline from the north side of the Charles River



Boston University

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Film Screening to Celebrate Earth Day 2012

On Thursday, April 26th, Embassy Phnom Penh hosted an educational movie screening of "An Inconvenient Truth" featuring former Vice President Al Gore.



The objective of the event was to celebrate and commemorate Earth Day (April 22) and raise awareness of the impact of climate change in Cambodia.

There were approximately 100 students and artists who attended the movie. Now "An Inconvenient Truth" DVD is available at the Information Resource Center. All the IRC's members can check out this movie.

Information Resource Center

Time of Operation

Visitors Walk-in Hours

Monday - Friday*

08:00 a.m. to 17:00 p.m.

13:30 p.m. - 16:30 p.m.

Phone: (855-23) 728-274 or

(855-23) 728-286

Fax: (855-23) 728-800

* Except public holidays

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