

EARTH DAY 2014

Earth Day Celebrations in Westford

The environmentally focused activities in Westford were spread out throughout the week in celebration of Earth Day, which fell in the middle of the week on Tuesday, April 22nd.



Trash and recyclables picked up by the Hiremath family at Edwards Beach. From left to right: Shobha, Medha, Sadhika, and Chaitanya

On April 19th, SEALOEarth volunteers picked up trash and recyclables in public places enjoyed by all, such as Edwards Beach, Forge Pond Beach, Hamilton Field and Jack Walsh Field. Several residents who had brought their young children to the playground at Edwards Beach approached the volunteers and said “Thank you for doing this.” The same gesture was extended by sailing regatta spectators at the Forge Pond. One parent at the Jack Walsh Field where several soccer games were played that day said, “The place is cleaner because of you guys. Thank you.”

The second SEALOEarth Earth Day Festival was held indoors on Saturday, April 26th at the JV Fletcher Library. Videos related to the importance of frogs in the ecosystem and the role of wolves at the US’ Yellowstone National Park were screened. An interactive game was played that demonstrated the interdependence of life on planet Earth.

There were several presentations from local groups. The President of the Environment Club, David Rosenberg, a Junior at Westford Academy, spoke about their work at the local level. Dr. Bill Harman spoke about the Westford Conservation Trust. Suraj Rajiv, a fifth grader at Day School, confidently presented his team’s work on their foam-free initiative in Westford. Mr. Gerry DiBello from Groton talked about the invasive plants in New England.



Dr. Bill Harman speaking about the Westford Conservation Trust.

The winners of the global essay contest organized by SEALOEARTH were announced at the festival. The submitted essays came from four countries across three continents and were graded by outstanding teachers from Westford Schools. Several students from Westford wrote impressive essays and won them. In the junior category, Ethan Mendes, a sixth grader from Stony Brook Middle School secured the first prize. In the senior category, Maia Cataldo, a sophomore at Westford Academy got the second prize. And in the youth category, Jesse Cataldo, a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts Lowell from Westford secured the second prize.

The winning essay from the youth category, written by Jan Pawlowski, a nineteen year old student at College de Saussure from Geneva, Switzerland titled “Bring me back my spring” was read by Ms. Rebecca Ingerslev, an English Teacher at Westford Academy. The audience’s emotional response at the end was the testament to this dazzlingly brilliant essay. It can be watched on the internet (<https://www.youtube.com/user/sealoearth/videos>).



Ms. Rebecca Ingerslev reading the winning essay.