



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 2009

Meet our 2009 Eco-Heroes

Making a world of difference



Cameron Oliver
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Age: 12, First Place

Campaigned to save camels from plastic litter.



Adeline Tiffanie Suwana
Indonesia
Age: 12, First Place

Organized an environmental group and recruited students.

Erik Uebelacker
Maryland, U.S.A.
Age: 8, First Place



Wrote and published a book about butterflies.

Otana Jakpor
California, U.S.A.
Age: 15, First Place



Tested air purifiers and pollution; influenced state regulations.



Sam Levin
Massachusetts, U.S.A.
Age: 15, First Place

Grew a high school food garden for the cafeteria and the needy.



Clay McMullen
Ohio, U.S.A.
Age: 14, Second Place

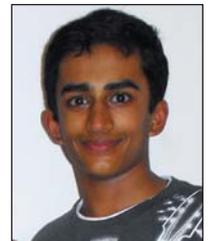
Created the Wetlands Education Team to inform youth & adults.

Apoorva Rangan
California, U.S.A.
Age: 14, First Place (joint award)



Helped rural farmers in India grow biofuel crops.

Adarsha Shivakumar
California, U.S.A.
Age: 15, First Place (joint award)



Helped rural farmers in India grow biofuel crops.



Dakota Palacio
North Carolina, U.S.A.
Age: 15, Second Place

Headed youth-driven conservation and community service.



Chitranshu Tewari
Bihar, India
Age: 15, Second Place

Founded the Green Brigade student eco-club.

Honorable Mentions: Matthew Erickson, 16; Kevin Huo, 10; Max Kesselman, 10; Brenda Mejane, 14; Ryan Morgan, 16; Samantha Muscarella, 10; Max Ozimek, 14; Sean Russell, 16; and Reza Tjahjono, 16.

Action For Nature
2269 Chestnut Street, #263
San Francisco, CA 94123 U.S.A.
Phone: 415-513-2421
Fax: 415-922-5717
mail@actionfornature.org
www.actionfornature.org

Board of Directors

Leslie Endicott
Karen Witte Gilchrist
Beryl C. D. Kay
William F. King
Adrienne Scroggie
Nicole Swenson
Jenna Musselman Yott

Shimon Schwarzschild
Founder, Emeritus

Evelyn Ballard de Ghetaldi
Past Chair, Emerita

And also...

Scott Bowling
Web Master

Lauren LePage
Public Allies & Newsletter Designer

Tamsin Orion
Tamzina Films

Hoi Poon, Poon Associates
Media & Public Relations

Kaer Southard
Executive Support Solutions

7 years of the
International Young
Eco-Hero Awards

90 youth honored for their
environmental activism

13 countries represented
in the Eco-Hero Awards

24 U.S. states represented
in the Eco-Hero Awards

1 Earth on which all life
depends that we must
nurture & protect

***What steps will you take?
How will you help?***

Letter from our President

Dear Friends of Action For Nature,

Each year we anxiously await the arrival of the International Young Eco-Hero applications. And for each of the last seven years, we have not been disappointed. Rather, we have been awed by the quality and diversity of projects and by the applicants' creativity and commitment.



Beryl C. D. Kay
AFN President

This year was no exception. Four of our Eco-Heroes spoke at our dazzling Evening with the Stars reception, held in San Francisco, and impressed attendees with their dedication and knowledge. For a majority of our Eco-Heroes, this award marks only the beginning of a long journey of success and accomplishment as they move on to even bigger endeavors.

Many people in the public and political sectors today tend to use short-term thinking. At Action For Nature, however, we are planning for the future: We recognize and honor young people for their environmental activism, and we encourage them to rise as leaders who will engage in environmental problem solving and decision making. It is vital that tomorrow's leaders take the necessary steps to protect the Earth's precious resources on which all life depends.

Clean air, food sources, wetland and wildlife protection, composting and crop growing, community clean-ups and education—all are projects undertaken by this year's applicants. Our Eco-Heroes' work has been profiled in newspapers, magazines, blogs, and textbooks, shared on the Internet and broadcasted on TV and radio. Their accomplishments inspire others, young and old alike, to take action to steward and protect the environment.

We hope you will continue to generously support our efforts as we head into a new year of opportunity, hard work, and endeavor.

With best wishes from our Board of Directors,

Beryl

Beryl C. D. Kay, President

Thank you to our major donors

We rely on individual donors—all of whom are "major" donors, because no gift is too small. From the bottom of our hearts we thank all of our generous supporters who have chosen to include Action For Nature in their annual giving. We owe our continued existence to each of you. To those whose donations have exceeded \$1,000, we extend our special thanks and gratitude.

Action For Nature is honored to have received a corporate gift from AAA of Northern California, Nevada and Utah. We would like to thank the following donors who helped with our 2009 reception: Evelyn Ballard de Ghetaldi, Cavallo Point Lodge, Paula Clark, Electronic Arts Inc., Hostelling International, Lovejoy's Tea Room, Marina Super, Nicole Swenson, Saha Restaurant, Starbucks, Trader Joe's, Estate of Ann E. Watters, Jenna Musselman Yott, and Yummy Pancake.



Evening with the Stars event honors 2009 Eco-Heroes

Four of our 2009 Eco-Heroes delivered powerful speeches about their environmental activism at our Evening with the Stars reception on Oct. 23.

Action for Nature founder Shimon Schwarzschild wrote to the youth: “Each of you saw an environmental problem. Each seized the moment and put energy into finding and working toward a solution. Each of you are an inspiration.”

We premiered our video showcasing our Eco-Heroes’ work throughout the world. Through our silent auction and Giving Tree, we raised more than \$1,200.



Photos by Paula Clark

Top, left to right: Eco-Heroes Apoorva Rangan, 14; Kevin Huo, 10; Otana Jakpor, 15; and Adarsha Shivakumar, 15.

Middle: Audience members applaud the winners.

Bottom, left to right: Chris Giorni, Executive Director of Tree Frog Treks and a member of the AFN Judges Panel; Evan (Stone) Green, a 2006 Eco-Hero; Daria Schwarzschild, daughter of AFN founder Shimon Schwarzschild, who read a statement from her father.

Eco-Hero Updates

“ AFN introduced a young girl from a small community to the world and made it possible for me to get the best biomedical engineering education in the world. I know that having been named as a Young Eco-Hero was an important criteria in my acceptance to Johns Hopkins University. — **Naz Belkaya**, of Turkey ”

Artwork by **Anjali Chandrashekar**, of India, was exhibited by the Natural History Museum in London to raise awareness about the carbon footprint.

Caroline Hodge, of California, entered Stanford University in September after traveling to various countries in South America to improve her Spanish.

Steven Muganzi, of Uganda, continues to install rooftop rainwater harvesting equipment. While launching a project in the home of an elderly couple, he discovered that local authorities have yet to comply with the central government and have not yet made rainwater harvesting compulsory in every household. Keep up the good fight, Steven!

Adeline Tiffanie Suwana, of Indonesia, has been awarded “Tunas Lestari Kehati”—one of the highest environmental awards in Indonesia—by the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation.

Samantha Muscarella, of New York, organized an Italy/U.S.A. Clean the Park joint venture with children in Torino, Italy. She said she was inspired to undertake this project by Eco-Hero **Andrew Leonard**, of California, who organized an exchange project with a school in China. Andrew is now studying at Columbia University in New York, where he has been named an Edwin Robbins Class of '53 Residential Scholar.

Mollie Passacantando, of Virginia, will be featured in the book *Girls Gone Green*.

Evan (Stone) Green, of California, continues to raise money to save the rain forests and coral reefs of Costa Rica. His film *The Green Clean* won a second place award in the Palo Alto Greenlight Earth Day Film Festival.

Cynthia Onorevole, of New Jersey, is attending Juniata College in Huntingdon, Penn., with a double major in environmental studies and elementary education.

Alec Loorz, of California, has become a much sought-after speaker and presenter at schools and conferences. He has now spoken to more than 20,000 people about the need for young people to get involved in projects that lower carbon emissions and to influence leaders to do the same. His Kids vs. Global Warming non-profit



Photo courtesy of Irene McMullen

Clay McMullen conducts a wetland conservation workshop for young people at the Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio.

inspires and trains youth to become activists. He wrote a Declare Your Energy Independence petition (you can sign it at www.acespace.org), which he will present to the U.S. Senate during a press conference with Sen. Barbara Boxer on the steps of the Capitol. Alec says: “Let’s work together to change the world—not just to occupy it.” www.kids-vs-global-warming.com.

Alex Lin, of Rhode Island, is featured in Chronicle Books’ new novel, *Heroes of the Environment: True Stories of People Who Are Helping to Protect Our Planet*.

Otana Jakpor, of California, has become a volunteer spokesperson for the American Lung Association. Her work has been published by *The American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, as well as the *Young Scientists Journal*. In September 2009, she was honored by Lisa Jackson, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in front of 2,000 attendees at the California Governors’ Global Climate Summit in Los Angeles.

Under the leadership of **Chitranshu Tewari**, of India, the Green Brigade, which he founded, now spans 12 countries and has won several international awards. Chitranshu is also organizing an event called Pihasa that will highlight the environment, child rights and education. www.greenbrigade.co.nr.



ACTION FOR NATURE

2269 CHESTNUT STREET, No. 263, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94123, USA

PHONE: (415) 421-513-2421 FAX: (415) 922-5717

WEB SITE: WWW.ACTIONFORNATURE.ORG E-MAIL: MAIL@ACTIONFORNATURE.ORG

November 23, 2009

Dear Friends of Action for Nature,

As another year comes to a close, we ask for your help. During these tough economic times we know that all of us are watching our dollars closely, but without your continued support the International Young Eco-Hero Award program and the environmental awareness it creates simply won't be possible. Action for Nature is sustained almost entirely by its all-volunteer Board, its Advisory Board, and by friends like you. We urge you to contribute any amount you can.

Once again our young winners have inspired all of us with their amazing environmental achievements. This year we recognized 18 youth from such diverse places as the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Cameroon, India, and the U.S.A. Projects include protecting camels in the desert from choking to death on plastic bags, encouraging farmers in India to change from tobacco growing to a sustainable biofuel crop, and educating the public and government officials about pollution and health issues.

The issues addressed serve as an awesome reminder that environmental stewardship is a global concern and that individual young people, indeed all people, can influence public opinion and put pressure on government leaders to protect the planet. The excellent media coverage of our Eco-Heroes furthers awareness of Action for Nature and its mission and offers, by example, inspiration for other young people to take similar actions in their own communities.

We hope you will choose to help make a difference in our natural world and in our organization's future by making a gift to Action for Nature. You are an integral part of what we do. Your gifts allow us to continue to encourage young people to take personal action to nurture and protect a healthy environment on which all life depends.

We invite you to send your tax-deductible contribution today. You can contribute by credit or debit card by **clicking here**. To arrange a stock donation, please contact us at mail@actionfornature.org. We also accept donations by mail. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support. Our Board of Directors joins me in wishing you and yours peace and acts of loving kindness throughout the coming year.

Warmest regards,

Beryl Kay

Beryl C. D. Kay
President, Action for Nature Board of Directors