

All Things Natural



photo: Anne Huber 2008

Venice - a city without cars

Earth Day 2008 - April 22

Earth Day was conceived by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005). The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 as an environmental teach-in, echoing the Viet Nam War teach-ins going on at that time. It currently involves nearly 1,000,000,000 world-wide in 180 countries.

War and the environment have often been at odds, and it is not an accident that the strengthening of environmental interests today have coincided with a time of war.

Read about the history of Earth Day in an article written by Senator Nelson at

<http://earthday.envirolink.org/history.html>



Climate Change. It seems unsettling to humans that the Earth that we depend on for our lives is not an unchanging place. But in fact, the Earth and her climate respond to changes in output from the Sun, activity of life, volcanic activity, impact by meteors and unknown events and cycles. In our Earth's history are hot steamy periods, ice ages, and a few short periods of stability.

In the period over the past century, the earth has been warming -- to levels last seen 1000 years ago. In the midst of those 1000 years there was a "Little Ice Age" which resulted from a cooling of the Northern Hemisphere of about 1 degree. The warmup from these levels started in about 1850. The continued warmup over the past 50 years seems to have been accelerated by human

activity -- likely due to the increase in greenhouse gases through the burning of fossil fuels.

Although political posturing has sometimes overshadowed the science on this issue, it seems to be in our best interest to act responsibly in activities that produce greenhouse gases and use up nonrenewable resources.

As with many activities, being mindful seems like an important overarching principle: mindful of our purchases, mindful of our use of energy, mindful of other living things on Earth, mindful of others. If we are mind-full, we are less likely to be thought-less.

Think about it.

My daily activities are not unusual,
I'm just naturally in harmony with them.
Grasping nothing, discarding nothing...
Supernatural power and marvelous activity -
Drawing water and carrying firewood.

Pang-yun (740-808)

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photo: Anne Huber 2008

Italian garden shop



photo: Anne Huber 2008

Traffic jam in the Venice canals

Between a quarter and a third of Los Angeles's land area is now monopolized by the automobile and its needs—by freeways, highways, garages, gas stations, car lots, parking lots. And all of it is blanketed with anonymity and foul air.

Alistair Cooke
America, 1973

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