



EEVC NEWSLETTER

Published by the Eastern Electric Vehicle

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This year, while [we cannot gather together](#) to celebrate this milestone



EARTH DAY April, 2020 ISSUE

50th Anniversary of Earth Day !

For those of us who used to find ourselves towing cars, setting up displays, and talking enthusiastically to assembled crowds, every year when Earth Day arrived, there could be some nostalgic wishing we were still back there participating in changing the planet for the better. 50 years later here we are, sitting home waiting out a coronavirus shut down.

General Theme

April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. [Founded as a teach-in in 1970](#) by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to educate the public about the environment after a massive oil spill, Earth Day is now a day to inspire everyone to protect our planet. It is observed by over 190 countries and more than one billion people.

because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the current situation can serve as a wake-up call: if we do not take action to protect our planet, pandemics and extreme weather events could soon become commonplace due to climate change and our other impacts on the environment.

Today Earth Day is more important than ever.

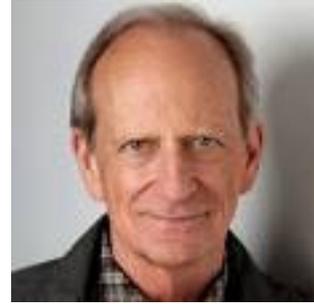
<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2020/04/17/celebrate-earth-day-covid-19/>

Why ?

It all depends upon who you talk to as to why Earth Day is more important now than ever.



I read a recent report from a person who participated in the first Earth Day. As young activists, among other things they despised at the time, they protested the use of cars as an acceptable form of transportation. Hammers were put to work bashing to oblivion a new Ford sedan that the purchaser donated to the cause. (That person was well enough off to have secretly purchased a second new car to replace the one that the students destroyed.) The writer of the article admitted that he still shudders when he relives the moment of hearing the first blow on the hood. In retrospect he questions the value of destroying a vehicle to prove a point.



Denis Hayes

Advocate

Denis Allen Hayes is an environmental advocate and advocate for solar power. He rose to prominence in 1970 as the coordinator (organizer) for the first Earth Day. Hayes founded the Earth Day Network and expanded it to more than 180 nations.

Born: August 29, 1944 (age 75 years),
[Wisconsin](#)

Jacqueline Cutler wrote a special for USA Today (which many of you may have previously read) commemorating the moment Denis birthed a movement.

“When Earth Day began 50 years ago, it was during a time of struggle. People felt they had no choice but to take to the streets, enraged. They fought for African American rights and to stop the Vietnam War.... And they fought to save Mother Earth.”



“At the time, the air was barely breathable in some American cities. Los Angeles was shrouded in a fog of miasma. Toxic dumps grew. Rivers burned.”

“Ohio’s Cuyahoga river was so polluted it caught fire... and that infamous 1969 fire wasn’t even its first. Like so many of our waterways, it had become a receptacle for poisonous industrial waste.”

“Many of those in power seemed unconcerned, but young people were. One in particular, Denis Hayes, became the main national organizer of Earth Day.”

“He remains dedicated to the cause serving in government positions, as a professor and lawyer and as president of the Bullitt Foundation. Yet he isn’t one to hog credit.”

“The late environmentalist, governor and senator Gaylord Nelson originated the EarthDay idea. Nelson, a Wisconsin Democrat, contacted Hayes, an anti-war activist and the former student body president at Stanford, who was studying at Harvard when Nelson called.”

“My role was to organize the teaching Hayes recalls.”

He admits that, as causes go, it was hard sell. “With the war raging and the civil rights devolving into an era of armed militants and Black Panthers...there were all these things raging on campuses..the environment wasn’t that hot.”

Why was April 22nd the date chosen for Earth Day ?

Nelson’s rationale was school-related. It was a date suitable for college students. It followed spring break and came before finals.

The name Earth Day came from an ad guy. “Gaylord never liked it and kept calling it Environmental Teach-in.

So Gaylord Nelson was the FOUNDER of Earth Day, and Denis Hayes the ORGANIZER. ... neither coined the name.

According to the writer Jacquelin Cutler, today Earth Day is the most widely observed secular holiday on the planet.

Hayes remembers starting the day April 22nd, 1970 with a sunrise ceremony with Native Americans in Washington D.C. From there he flew to New York City to meet with then-Mayor John Lindsay who worked hand in glove with their organizers. “Fifth Avenue was jammed. Hayes remembers climbing onto a platform 75 feet high and gazing into a sea of people.”

From NYC Hayes flew to Chicago and participated in an event there and then back to Washington D.C.

Estimates have about 20 million people across the United States turning out for the first Earth Day.

Today Earth Day is international celebrated by every country the United Nations recognizes.

Yet as far as the movement has come and as green as so many think we have become, Hayes states it would be folly to think the work is done.

(editor's comment...)

There are those who now more than ever feel that dooms-day is upon us because of climate change. They seem to accept the general opinion that fossil fuels are primarily responsible for a rise in temperatures which will cause a tipping point of no return that will end up destroying life as we know it via out of control climate disasters.

Little kids, who don't know much of anything will yell,, "Please save us !" "Stop destroying the planet for our sakes!"

Today it is climate tomorrow what will it be?

Those who feel Earth Day is more important than ever because we have not won the battle against the fossil fuel

industry, which according to them is the greatest threat to mankind ever in the history of the world...perhaps have not studied the history of mankind nor learned the methods of science. While bringing attention to the harms that fossil fuel usage presents our planet, many seem to have forgotten that death and destruction come to us in many other forms. Fossil fuels initiated benefits to mankind far beyond expectation. They delivered our country from labor intensive work and ushered in an age of discovery and innovation. Science and technology have rapidly disrupted the course of history.

Most advocates of man made climate change have also failed to comprehend the enormity of the weather and climate science which we still do not understand.

Recently I read an article which discussed in some detail the part that sun bursts play in affecting our ionosphere, which in turn plays a role in thunderstorms, lightning, and cloud formation. Clouds affect our planet's temperature greatly. The flow of electric charge from high up to the ground affects the seed nuclei needed to form water droplets, which in turn form clouds.

Today's theories may become tomorrow's fables. Inventions, discoveries, and surprise events on earth, both man made, and created by God (nature) may become total game changers in what we consider vital for survival on our planet.

There is no question that always there will be a better way for us to live sustainably.

But in our present political culture there are those who continue to clamor that their views are the only correct views and that opponent views should be crushed, not debated.

Ban all plastic bags ! Okay... along with plastic straws.. it is more important than fracking for more gas and oil... which should be quickly halted. Wait... a minute.. now, the progressive city in favor of such a ban now claims that the reusable bags, which replaced plastic bags, should themselves be banned because they are now a health risk!

Get rid of personal cars, live in the city, and use public transportation... to help save the planet. Meanwhile the coronavirus will multiply and spread so fast through our packed subway cars, busses, trains, and high-rise apartment elevators that our planet will be available for some new species. We will have saved our planet for the germs.

The point I am making is that too many well intended green political interventions fail to consider hidden costs and trade-offs which accompany most “Earth Day” advocated adventures. Surgeons who butchered their patients with chain saws may learn over time to use more suitable tools and acquired technical skills. One does not have to ban chain saws or throw surgeons out the hospital windows in order to find a better way.

Yes, liars, selfish men, polluters of all that is good and decent , as well as perverts,

exist who should be resisted. But theories, ideas, and perceptions from all sources and honorable men should be respected in the marketplace, not destroyed for the sake of the party.

Science Belittled?

Curt Schilling, a former successful baseball player, a while back began throwing pitches on Facebook against what we might call the more progressive activists of the day. Mr. Schilling was “sacked” by ESPN for being overly combative.

He took issue with a law providing anyone the right to decide which gender they preferred to be when it came to their choice of public bathrooms. His main contention was that “ a man is a man no matter what they call themselves.” His statement has been solidly established by science through X and Y chromosomes. Claiming you are a man when you have the female chromosome structure defies the basic scientific definition of what makes for male and female in the biological world. As William McGrun, writer for WSJ stated, in his op ed, Curt Schilling the Science Guy, “Mr. Schilling found himself in the position of Galileo with ESPN filling in for the Holy Office. “

McGrun agrees that ESPN had the right to fire Schilling since they are a private institution. And, I personally agree that private institutions should have the right to hire and fire for whatever reasons they

choose. But, Schilling brought focus to a growing list of progressive issues which result in labeling those who resist becoming labelled as heretics.

Back when Obama was president he declared at the Paris Climate Summit that 99.5 % of the scientists and experts believe in man made climate change and that it is a fact which we must do something about. According to McGrun Obama insinuated that his presidential successor must NEVER QUESTION this consensus.

I am not sure that every point that the consensus concluded should not be questioned. But as long as fake statistics, false claims, and forged data is not tolerated, objective research should be encouraged not eliminated. Discarded notes, equipment, and theories from time to time are re-worked and lead to breakthroughs. We can laugh at conclusions obtained from those who break the laws of science, but we should not ignore the findings of those questioning mainstream thought, providing their scientific procedures are sound.

“Is there anything more inimical to the spirit of science than the idea of squelching further inquiry, freeing our existing understanding in place and silencing opposition?” asks McGrun? “Because settled science and scientific consensus are designed to do that.”

Having open debate and encouraging free elections does not silence opposition. Allowing someone to continue to explore, do research, and work on new theories should be the norm.

All parties should refrain from politicizing the science which favors their political agenda. Science says...(whatever its experiments conclude)...., not, science demands that you must believe the following because of consensus.

Some scientists take time to come to the same conclusion that their peers do. Let them take all the time required. The proof is in the pudding... that is what is so refreshingly great about science. You can usually come to a demonstrable proof and an acceptable conclusion to those in the know.

“Remember the kid who yells..”I’m going to prove you wrong?” If he is challenging the law of gravity I can wait till he does all of the experiments needed to draw his own conclusions.. unless he chooses to drop me off the ledge.. then I might object.



Freeman Dyson

American physicist

Freeman John Dyson FRS was an English-born American theoretical physicist and mathematician known for his work in quantum electrodynamics, solid-state physics, astronomy and nuclear engineering. Wikipedia

Born: December 15, 1923, [Crowthorne, United Kingdom](#)

Died: February 28, 2020, Princeton, NJ

Awards: [Templeton Prize](#), [Max Planck Medal](#), [Enrico Fermi Award](#)

Freeman Dyson died Feb 28 at the age of 96.

Frank Wilczek, in his regular column in the WSJ under Wilczek's Universe, states that Dyson was one of the smartest people he has ever known. Wilczek worked with him in the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N.J. for several years.

When Freeman talked on the telephone he spoke louder than usual and expressed laughter, a source of enthusiastic joy.

According to Wilczek, Freeman in the last years of his life expressed some doubts about the significance of carbon dioxide emissions and climate change which put him at odds with most of the scientific community, including Wilczek himself.

An average human adult consumes about 2,000 calories a day in food. That is roughly enough energy to run a 100 watt lightbulb continuously. Today human beings use about 25 times that much energy per capita, including the use of fuel and electricity. In the U.S. the average is more like 95 times. This is a rough indicator as to how far our economy has advanced over bare human subsistence.

Freeman thought about putting huge collection devices into space, known as Dyson spheres, to collect energy to support mankind. Hypothetically they could support a much bigger economy and much larger population than we have today.

If, more modestly, we restrict ourselves to the solar energy that reaches the earth then we find only about 10,000 times our current energy consumption. That would suffice for quite a while. This is the basic reason why sustainable solar energy is extremely promising as a long term solution to human energy needs. Thus, Freeman believed that with the growth of technology our energy problems will solve themselves. (He did not seem to be worried about the end of the planet.)

Freeman also had a heterodox view of carbon dioxide, which MOST scientists see as the CHIEF culprit behind global warming. Freeman loved the idea of growing more trees, lush vegetables... for food, shelter, and nourishment...so he had a soft spot for CO2 whose abundance promotes photosynthesis.

When you talked to Dyson, Wilczek says, he listened and often responded with a twinkle in his eye when he had a chance to surprise or contradict you.

In Wilczek's mind he feels that Dyson underestimated the importance and danger of abrupt changes in the Earth's climate due to fossil burning.

IT IS REFRESHING TO SEE RESPECT DISPLAYED BETWEEN SCIENTISTS OF OPPOSING VIEWS. And in this case, although the climate change debate may appear to be settled in some minds, both understood, like other "settled" theories of the past, there could be surprises awaiting beyond the clouds. No need to brand our opponents as heretics.

Bill Nye the Science Guy

From "Scientific Regress" in the May issue of First Things First, by William A. Wilson, a software engineer in San Francisco

The best scientists know that they must practice a sort of mortification of the ego and cultivate a dispassion that allows

them to report their findings, even when those findings might mean the dashing of hopes, the drying up of financial resources, and the loss of professional prestige.

Now, however, science and especially science bureaucracy is a career, and one amenable to social climbing. Careers attract careerists, in Paul Feyerabend's words: devoid of ideas, full of fear, intent on producing some paltry result so that they can add to the food of inane papers that now constitutes scientific progress many areas.

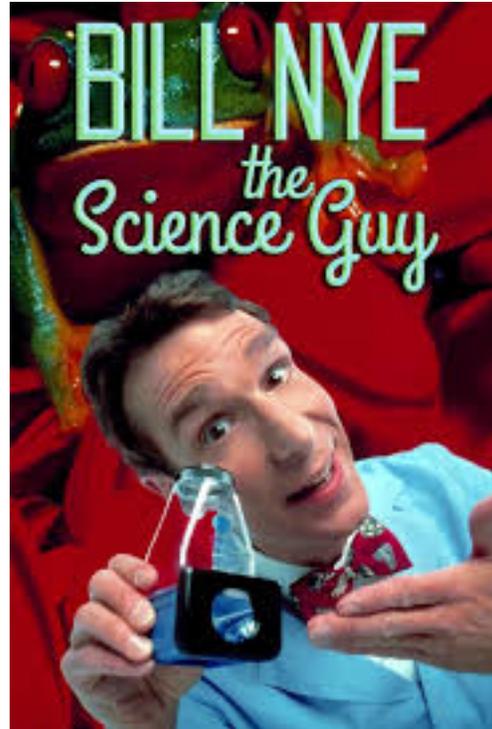
In addition... now enter the Cult of Science ! the Cult is related to the phenomenon described as "scientism"; both have a tendency to treat the body of scientific knowledge as a holy book or an a-religious revelation that offers simple and decisive resolutions to deep questions. But it adds to this a pinch of glib frivolity and a dash of unembarrassed ignorance.

Some of the Cult's leaders like to play dress-up as scientists - Bill Nye and Neil deGrasse Tyson are two particularly prominent examples, but hardly any of them have contributed to any research results of note. Rather, Cult leadership trends heavily in the direction of educators, popularizers, and journalists.

It's "Mr. Wizard" for a different decade. Bill Nye is the Science Guy, a host who's hooked on experimenting and explaining. Picking one topic per show (like the human heart or electricity), Nye gets creative with teaching kids and adults alike the nuances of science.

Is Bill Nye good, bad, both, or neither for the advancement of real science?

What is the consensus ?



Earth Day Memories

The 2010 Mechanicsburg Earth Day Festival



by **Gregg Witmer**
EEVC Chatline Moderator



On Saturday, **24 April 2010**, I drove my electric Saturn to the Mechanicsburg, [Earth Day Festival](#). It was kind of a last minute decision to do this since the car has only been "drivable" for a few weeks. Furthermore, I'm a bit disappointed with the power and range so the car is really still a work in progress and I dreaded the onslaught of "what is the range" questions.

I contacted the Earth Day Festival coordinator, Susan Kiskis, and asked if she'd like to have a home built electric car displayed at the event and she was more than happy to accommodate me with a free 10x10 booth space.

Having never done this before, I went into this event with minimal expectations and a bit of anxiety.

There was only a couple of weeks to get ready, so I cleaned up the car, finished some minor electrical updates under the hood and reinstalled the radio and some panels in and around the dash. The car looks finished -- no dangling wires, no missing parts, it's vacuumed, waxed, and Armor All'ed.

I prepared a single page handout, printed on front and back, that addressed what I expected to be the most common questions about my Saturn, EV conversions and electric vehicles. [A printable pdf of that handout can be seen here.](#)

Finally, I created a 10 minute video showing some of the highlights of my conversion process from beginning to end. While the video does have sound, I used subtitles rather than a narrative. [The complete video can be viewed here.](#)

On Saturday morning I loaded up the Saturn and drove it to downtown to the Earth Day Festival, backed diagonally into my rather tight 10x10 space, set up a table with a portable 15" TV/DVD player popped the hood and waited for the event to begin.

The first person I talked to, was a woman who loved her Prius and was unimpressed with the range of my car. The second person, was a young man in his 20s. After I explained the EV conversion to him he asked if it would have been easier "to just buy one."

Then there was a lull in the level of activity for about 15 minutes, at which point I realized that it was not quite 9 am and the event hadn't started.

It turned out to be a really good day. I had many great conversations and met many different people with various levels of knowledge on the subject of electric

vehicles and technology. To my surprise, I even met a local person who had built an electric vehicle back in the mid 70's -- he still has it, but it got too rusty to be inspected.

Most people would walk past my car and not even stop or glance under the hood -- however, anyone that did stop would talk to me for 5 - 15 minutes.

The handout that I made covered most of the questions that were asked. Even though I had a stack for anyone to take, only the people who were really interested got one. I gave out about 25 handouts -- the event organizers claim over 1000 were in attendance.

The most common questions related to range. This, of course, made me cringe because the honest answer for me right now is about 15 miles.

I was asked a few times to spin up the motor because people wanted to hear what it sounded like.

Many people mentioned the Nissan Leaf and only one person mentioned the Chevy Volt and that was in the form of a joke. No one that I asked knew what a Tesla was.

Media Coverage



The camera man for WHP, our local CBS TV station, walked right past my display and didn't stop. A photographer from the Carlisle Sentinel (news paper) stopped by and took a bunch of pictures and talked with me for a while. Two pictures made it onto the online version of the Sunday news -- but, no pictures appeared in the printed paper. This was fine with me because my biggest fear of the day was that I would be giving an on-camera interview and get asked some question out of left field and put my foot in my mouth. [The online Sentinel article can be seen here.](#)

What I learned for the next time

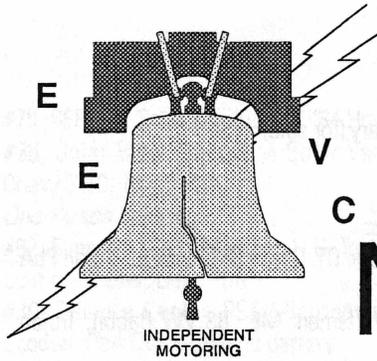
The video did not go over very well at all, no one watched it. It was too hard to see in the daylight and it was too long for this kind of an event. It would have been better to have a poster with a few clearly labeled 4x6 pictures.



The 10x10 booth was too small, this was my fault. When Susan offered me the booth, she asked if that would be enough and I said yes. I should have asked for 2 spaces so I could have positioned the car at a better angle to show the driver's seat and the fill hole with an electrical plug.

Finally, I would have liked to see some of the other technology booths grouped together with mine. There were solar electric and heating companies there but I was in between the Anderson Window company, aggressively registering attendees to win a free \$25,000 home makeover and a carnival game for children. I think most people walking by thought I was selling something or that my car was part of the Anderson Window display. This is not a complaint, just an observation. I was happy to be there and the space was given to me long after the deadline for exhibitor registrations had passed.

**Next Re-Visiting Earth
Day 2001 in Reading, PA**



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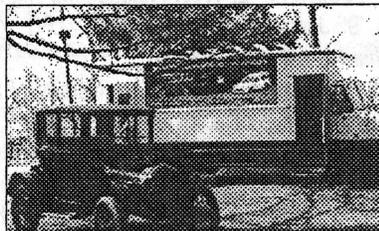
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EARTH DAY 2001

Festivities for the 30th annual Earth Day were blessed with cool weather, abundant sunshine, and fine crowds—

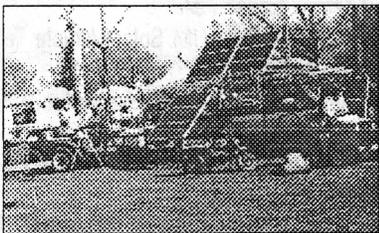


The Museum's 1919 Detroit next to the mobile display vehicle.

plus better music than in the past. The EEVC contingent, led by Guy Davis and Dan Carlin, arrived with the Boyertown Museum's 1919 Detroit electric and the travelling display vehicle. The cool weather was a double blessing in this case, since it meant there was no need to run the air conditioner in the display vehicle—which is powered by a noisy and none-too-clean onboard generator.

Mr. & Mrs Jim Gaut showed up with Jim's Honda Insight, along with John Price, of North Coventry, with a Toyota Prius.

Also there was Jim Crater, president of Recycling Services, Inc., of Pottstown, with his collection of solar



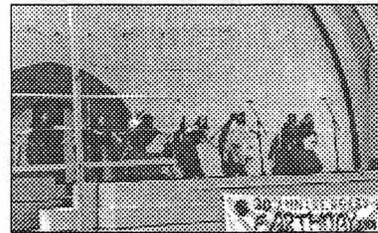
Jim Crater was there with his alternate-energy displays.



Jim Gaut's Insight (r) and John Price's Prius (l) were an attraction.

energy equipment, including GE and John Deere electric tractors, plus an electric scooter. Jim was back after an skipping several years because of his disagreement with what he considered excess commercialism in previous events.

As mentioned, the music struck this writer as an improvement over previous years. Those who have not been to Reading City Park may should know that a focal point is a concrete band shell, and in past Earth Days this had been occupied with bands playing rock, highly amplified. This year, perhaps in a nod the Earth Day's origins,



Middle Eastern music and dancers were a first for Earth Day.

energy equipment (photovoltaic panels and a solar-powered Stirling engine) and alternate energy equipment,

there were more folk-type singers and sing-alongs with the kids. But the longest musical presentation was a com-