



EarthLinks



Connecting People-at-Risk with Earth-at-Risk



Harvest 2010



From the Directors

Julie Schwab, OP, and Kathleen Cronan

Greetings!! We are excited to update you on all that has been happening at EarthLinks, especially since it has been about a year since we sent our last newsletter—much has been cultivated, tended and harvested.

A volunteer asked us one day if we ever had “success stories” at EarthLinks. Our response? **Every day.**

Every day that an individual arrives in our workshop in spite of the challenges of mental and physical health, addictions, homelessness, and alienation is indeed, a success story. It is a success story because community is cultivated, dignity is reclaimed, money is earned and Earth is tended. We are reminded every day that we need each other. We need you and your support more than ever to continue the work here. There is much yet to be harvested.

GreenFingers

Peace Garden- We've been blessed with a bountiful garden this year. The flowers have been bold in showing off their beauty to passerby and pollinator alike. The zucchinis and cucumbers, collards and mustard greens, tomatoes and cilantro, kohlrabi and cabbage have filled our stomachs in workshop and our bags to take home. Never before have we delighted in our harvest the way we have this year. There is a certain awe in experiencing our lush garden; we all remember how small those seeds were when we planted them, how bare the garden looked in early spring. We have grown together.



Workshop- The energy in our workshop is impressive as we create our crafts for sale. There is always pride in a job well-done and a sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself. We all need more than food and shelter to lead meaningful lives. The hourly income received is also a help to cover daily expenses.

Woodworking- Through making bat boxes and bee boxes, we are educating ourselves and others about the plight of bats and pollinators in our country. Bats are dying from white-nose syndrome and pollinators are disappearing due to human chemical use and lack of habitat.

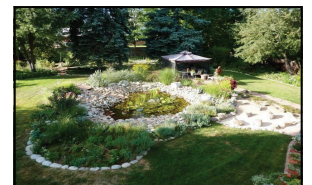
Worm Farm- Many of the GreenFingers participants bring food scraps on the bus or carry it in their bags to feed to our worms and to put into our compost piles. We are learning to send less waste to landfills and to understand that sustainable living includes seeing our waste as a renewable resource.

These Economic Times: Less to Harvest

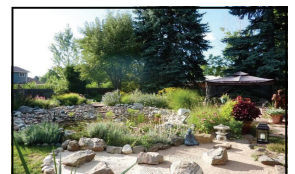
Like so many of you,
we are feeling financial struggles.
These are times to turn to one another,
and we are turning to you.
We are grateful for any
donations you can give.

Garden Tour Fundraiser

August 28, 2010, was the date of the first-ever Garden Tour benefiting EarthLinks! On this beautiful, sunny and warm day, more than 50 gardeners and would-be gardeners enjoyed amazing sites in the Lakewood area, in addition to touring our own EarthLinks Garden.



Whether it was learning about worm composting, bee keeping, the benefits of urban honey, the wildlife refuge located in the middle of Lakewood, gourds, the Zen garden, water pond gardening, chickens and coops, or just amazing flowers, all those attending enjoyed a fun-filled day. Our products were also available for sale of course, and new friends were made.



Plan to join us next year for our next garden tour!

New Eco Products

We are doing our part in responding to local, ecological needs and making it easier for others to do so also. It's not too early to be planning your holiday shopping!!



Mason Bee Boxes: \$42.50

Due to the peril of pollinators, we are now making mason bee boxes from reclaimed wood (when available) for this important, native bee that is one of our most efficient pollinators. They are easy to hang and already proven popular by the mason bees themselves.



Bat boxes: \$85.00 (single chamber) or \$120 (double chamber)

Single-chamber bat box (can hold 50 bats) or double-chamber bat box (can hold double that of single-chamber) are available for sale. Bats in our country are in trouble and dying by the thousands from diseases such as the white-nose syndrome.



Worms and Worm Bins: \$30.00 for worms and bin

Composting food wastes in a worm bin keeps unnecessary wastes from going to the land-fill and creates rich compost for potted plants and gardens, a sustainable practice.



Rain Barrels: \$119.99 or \$140 (Custom Design)

A popular item for rerouting rain to gardens rather than losing these precious drops to city drains. Can be custom-painted to match the color of your house. Just provide us with the exterior paint.



Jewelry from Locally Grown Gourds: \$24-\$35

We now have hand-made, unique-designed jewelry made from gourds grown in our garden. This can be one of your lowest carbon footprint purchases you will make this year.

Harvesting the Sun

By Julie Schwab, OP



There is a small group of EarthLinks participants who are learning to become beekeepers. We are tending nine hives this year and last month we harvested our first honey and wax from a hive in our Peace Garden. We all savored the fruity taste of urban honey and more specifically, the taste of **our** garden. Cody Meinhardt, our new Vincentian Volunteer, on his first day of work, delved right into the hive under the confident tutelage of two of our participants.

In our honey, there is a miraculous blend of sun, rain, and nectar from our pumpkin and gourd flowers, salvia, Russian sage and towering sunflowers. Within this blend exists the flowering efforts of our neighbors' yards in LoDo and Curtis Park. When we close our eyes and reach into our imagination, we can taste in the honey the rich compost we made from our food scraps saved and carried by our participants across Denver every week to Earthlinks on RTD (Rapid Transit Denver). From our bees, garden and our compost, we are learning how all is connected—nothing is left out of the Earth Community. The expression, "We are all one" is taking on deeper and broader meaning for all of us—staff and participants alike.



Thank You!



To **Emily Pease** for her outstanding work this year at EarthLinks! Emily came to us from the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers and did a wonderful job as our GreenFingers program advisor. We wish her continued success in life!

And Welcome!

To **Cody Meinhardt**, our newest intern from the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers! Cody will be with us for the coming year, and he is very excited to work in the garden, develop new product ideas, and build community with EarthLinks' participants and staff.



EarthLinks Wish List (Call us for details: 303-389-0085)

- ♥ **Contributions**—Monetary donations keep our programs vital and expanding to meet growing needs.
- ♥ **Sales locations**—We are looking for places to market our GreenFingers items such as festivals, church bazaars, or retail shops.
- ♥ **Your used car**—EarthLinks accepts any used vehicles, which are then resold at auction.

EarthLinks is a non-profit organization which empowers Denver's homeless and low-income residents through innovative and creative nature-related programs which build social skills and community.

♥ Julie Schwab, OP ♥ Cass Cronan ♥ Mary Nelle Gage, SL ♥ Cody Meinhardt ♥

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Volunteers

Over the last year, we had the benefit of more than 1,040 hours of volunteer time spent for EarthLinks. A Just Faith group has started to connect with EarthLinks, and blessed us with a regular volunteer, Craig Siracusa, who has continued to help us with woodworking and creating our new mason bee and bat boxes.



Craig Siracusa working on mason bee boxes.

Fundraising Efforts

- ♥ **Donations from you**- Each time we open the mail and find a kind note or donation from one of our benefactors we are encouraged to continue EarthLinks' important and unique work that benefits Earth and people made poor by poverty and homelessness.
- ♥ **"Bee the Change,"** in 2009, was a delightful event at Park Hill Golf Course, where friends gathered, a mason bee box design competition was held, and our new product, rain barrels, was unveiled.
- ♥ **Imagine Fundraiser** was held at the Mixing Room in Denver in June where our largest crowd ever joined us to celebrate a fun evening with the Medicinal Strings. It was our first opportunity to display our new gourd jewelry.
- ♥ **Pancake Breakfast** at Queen of Peace Catholic Church in April 2010 was a fun morning!
- ♥ **Eco Metro Guide sales** - This was a great success, and we look forward to selling it again this year, under the new name **Chinook Book**. You can get this great coupon book directly from us, which will also benefit EarthLinks.

Sales

We sold products at 42 venues during 2009, all of which added up to be our best sales record ever! We are grateful to our many volunteers who made this possible. This spring we took advantage of Earth Day sales to market our new eco-friendly products.

Workplace Giving

We are registered with several workplace giving campaigns which make supporting EarthLinks quick and easy. To direct your tax-deductible donation to EarthLinks, simply write us in or use the appropriate Campaign Code below:

- ♥ **Community Shares Colorado:** 5045
- ♥ **Denver Employees Combined Campaigned:** 5041
- ♥ **Colorado Combined Campaign:** 5041
- ♥ **Combined Federal Campaign:** 48607
- ♥ **United Way:** Simply write us in!

EarthLinks Board of Directors

- ♥ Edith Crowley ♥ Susan Goldbach ♥ Jeannine Halloran, OP ♥
- ♥ P. Daniel Hopkins ♥ Bette Ann Jaster, OP ♥ Robert Mailander ♥
- ♥ Laura Mauck ♥ Ruth Prochnow ♥ Patricia Sablatura ♥
- ♥ Margaret Swahn ♥ Linda Taylor ♥

Opportunities for Giving

- ♥ Our **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser** at Church of the Risen Christ is coming up on Sunday, September 19, 2010, from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Come Join Us!
- ♥ From 7am to 9pm on Thursday, September 23 **Whole Foods Market Washington Park** will donate 5% of their total sales to EarthLinks. This is an easy way to support EarthLinks! Whole Foods Market is located at 1111 S. Washington St., Denver, CO 80210.



- ♥ On September 30, 2010, **Ten Thousand Villages** will host a Community Shopping Event for EarthLinks. From 5-8 pm 15% of net sales will be donated to EarthLinks. Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages works with artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed.



- ♥ December 8, 2010, is the first **Colorado Gives Day**, an online giving day sponsored by Giving-First. Each online donation given to EarthLinks on December 8 will be "boosted" by a GivingFirst Incentive Fund. **FirstBank** is also offering a special promotion that benefits GivingFirst members, like EarthLinks. Any person who opens a personal checking account at FirstBank or online at www.efirstbank.com by November 30 can direct a \$50 FirstBank donation to EarthLinks.



- ♥ Did you know that in addition to getting a charitable deduction for your donation to EarthLinks, you can also receive a **25% state income tax credit??** The credit is available for all Colorado taxpayers who donate \$100 or more to EarthLinks – whether you itemize on your federal return or not! Call for more information about the **Enterprise Zone deduction**.

Our Grow Local Connection

Grow Local Colorado has been busy growing fresh vegetables for populations who do not have good access to fresh food. EarthLinks participants have received several harvests of wonderful greens, herbs, eggplant and squash.



EarthLinks is hosting the **Growing Our Local AgriCULTURE - a Potluck and Networking Party to Celebrate the Harvest** here at our offices on Friday evening, September 17, 2010, from 6 to 9 pm. Please join us to celebrate this growing season!

Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter

Help us reduce the amount of paper used for our newsletters, and the costs of printing and mailing them. Please sign up to get EarthLinks' newsletter via email. Send us an email at: cody@earthlinks-colorado.org and we'll add you to our e-list. Thanks for helping us save money and natural resources!

See more photos and news of our programs at our website:
www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org



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**Please join us for a
Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser!**

**Sunday, September 19th
8 am — 1 pm**

**Church of the Risen Christ,
3060 S. Monaco Pkwy
Denver, CO 80222**

Upcoming EarthLinks Sales: Mark your calendars!

EarthLinks is proud to announce our involvement in the following sales and markets. Come by our table at any of these sales to see all of the wonderful products grown in the Peace Garden and designed in the GreenFingers workshop! For more details on any of these sales, contact EarthLinks at 303-389-0085.

Sep. 14	Colorado Housing and Finance Authority Volunteer Fair, Denver	Nov. 1	Lookout Mountain Holiday Fair, Golden
Sep. 17	Grow Local Potluck at EarthLinks, Denver	Nov. 5/6	Shepherd of the Hills Falliday Sale, Denver
Sep. 18	Volunteers in Action, Sanctuary Church, Denver	Nov. 5/7	Park Hill Congregational Church Sale, Denver
Sep. 18/19	Sustainable Living Fair, Fort Collins	Nov. 6/7	Atonement Lutheran Church Sale, Denver
Sep. 19	Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, Church of the Risen Christ, Denver	Nov. 6/7	Pax Christi Whole World Market, Littleton
Sep. 23	Whole Foods Market Washington Park, Denver	Nov. 13/14	Evergreen Alternative Christmas Fair, Evergreen
Sep. 30	Ten Thousand Villages Community Shopping Event, Denver	Nov. 20/21	First Plymouth Church Sale, Englewood
Oct. 16	Light of the World Seniors Craft Fair, Littleton	Nov. 20/21	First Universalist World Gift Market, Denver
Oct. 16	Crop Walk at Highlands Lutheran, Denver	Nov. 27/28	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lakewood
Oct. 23/24	Broadmoor Community Church Alternative Gift Fair, Colorado Springs	Dec. 4	Mile Hi Church Craft Show, Lakewood
Oct. 29/30	Shop for a Cause Holiday Gift Market at University Park Methodist Church, Denver		

Volunteers!

If you're available to help us at any of the above sales, please call or email cody@earthlinks-colorado.org with your information. Your willingness to help EarthLinks grow and prosper is greatly appreciated!

Find EarthLinks Online!

www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org

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