OPPORTUNITY

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Glenn's Earth Day Committee celebrates 10 years of activities

Dan White of the Environmental Management Office started Glenn's Earth Day Committee (EDC) in 1993 to educate and enhance the awareness of Glenn employees and the general public regarding NASA environmental activities, issues, and concerns.

A decade later, the GRC's Committee sponsors or participates in more than 10 days worth of activities every April in observance of Earth Day on April 22.

This year the Committee emphasized the ideas that Earth Day is personal and that individuals can and do make a difference, much as White himself does.

Earth Day is definitely personal for OEOP Equal Opportunity Specialist Avis Hudson, who once again represented Glenn's Native American Advisory Council on the EDC. Because of the link Native Americans feel to nature, Hudson feels it is important for her to be on the Committee.

This year's GRC activities began April 11-12 with two Webcasts co-hosted by Glenn and the OhioView Consortium that went out to more than 1300 students in 16 states and Canada.

Scientists from the University of Toledo, Cleveland State University and Kent State University gathered at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo to teach students there and across the country about remote sensing, gathering and using satellite information and Rain Forest facts.

These "Zoocasts" were a kick off for Cleveland's EarthFest 2003, which is Ohio's biggest environmental education event. On April 13, EDC members and Glenn volunteers presented NASA displays at the Eco-Marketplace, part of EarthFest's public celebration at the zoo.

Events here at the Center, included displays in Building 15 from April 14-16 highlighting recycling, alternative transportation, information about environmental friendly cleaners and environmentally friendly office products, understanding our changing planet and the always popular Children's Activity Books created by White, EDC treasurer Michelle Kenzig and Kelly Shankland.

At left is Dan White of the Environmental Management Office who started Glenn's Earth Day Committee in 1993 and has been instrumental in its success ever since. Below is Glenn's Aeronautics Environmental Impact Exhibit Bus which travels around spreading the word about NASA environmental activities.

A special display this year was a 1/50th scale full stack space shuttle model with tribute to STS107 Shuttle Crew, several of whom visited Glenn during last year's Earth Day activities.

On April 15, Richard Shank, executive director of The Nature Conservancy's Ohio Chapter discussed Ohio's role in international wildlife conservation. He was introduced by Larry D. Richardson, director of the Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, who brought an endangered barn owl for public viewing and discussion.

Even the youngest people at Glenn got into the act, as the Little Folks Day Care Center enjoyed various Earth Day related activities on April 17.

On April 22, the EDC took the Aeronautics Environmental Impact Exhibit Bus to Youngstown State University for the school's Earth Day Awareness celebration.

More information about Glenn's Earth Day Committee is available on-line at http://earthday.grc.nasa.gov/.