

Community Focus

Fifth-year celebration!!

Arlene Hanna
Extension Assistant
earth wellness festival co-chair



Kudos! Hurrah! On Thursday, March 25th, **earth wellness festival** is celebrating its fifth year of educating future stewards of the earth. In these five years, approximately 16,000 youth and their teachers have learned about the relationships and interdependency of land, water, air and living resources. Youngsters have discovered how their actions impact our planet and...that each person, young or old, can make a difference!

It all began in the spring of 1994 when over 325 Lincoln Public School teachers signed a petition identifying the need for a local water festival. Recognizing that water quality and the environment were priority issues in Lancaster County, a steering committee representing ten resource agencies responded to this need — **earth wellness festival** was created.

Steering Committee agencies include: City of Lincoln, The Groundwater Foundation,

Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department, Lincoln Public Schools, Lower Platte South Natural Resources District, Southeast Community College-Lincoln, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension in Lancaster County, University of Nebraska Water Center/Environmental Programs and Ventures in Partnerships.

earth wellness festival is an innovative and exciting environmental education program for fifth-graders. These youth are provided quality experiences that link environmental issues with science-based curriculum, yet youngsters have fun by exploring in an atmosphere that promotes imagination and discovery. Wouldn't you like to climb inside a whale...or touch a snake? Maybe you'd rather make recycled paper or listen to a native story teller or learn about raptors and watch them fly. You could learn about your watershed or participate in an erosion experiment. And what about composting with worms? All of these ventures are at the festival, but there are many, many more...about 70 of them.

Over 80 area educators, environmentalists and government representatives teach 25-minute sessions in each area of water, land, air and living resources, then youth gather for a culminating session with a featured presenter. These presenters and around 200

volunteers donate their time to this exceptional event each year, while grants, organizational agencies, businesses and other individuals finance the festival through cash and in-kind services.

earth wellness festival fosters year-round learning through Kits for Kids. In October, a unique pre-festival learning kit is provided to classrooms attending the festival. Each kit contains curriculum, equipment and supplies needed to complete over 20 environmental, science-based activities and further prepares students for the festival. Impact games are included in the kits so they are left in the schools until the middle of May.

earth wellness festival is pleased to have received the 1995 Ventures in Partnerships Pioneer Award for outstanding and innovative programming for Lincoln Public School students, the City of Lincoln's 1995 Honorable Mention Environmental Award and the 1997 University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Team Programming Award.

As **earth wellness festival** approaches its fifth year, public and non-public schools in Lancaster County continue to attend, making the festival a priority event for their fifth-graders. So...if you have a fifth grade student, ask about his/her adventure, or better yet, become a festival volunteer and experience it for yourself!

Featured speaker at forum, April 14

The E.N. Thompson Forum on World Issues will present a free lecture at the Lied Center for Performing Arts, 12th & R Streets on Wednesday, April 14, 3:30 p.m. A cooperative project of The Cooper Foundation and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the E.N. Thompson Forum is about presenting new perspective that will expand your world vision.

during the early months of 1991 as the only Western reporter based in Iraq for the duration of Operation Desert Storm.

Among his many accomplishments since joining CNN in 1981, Arnett won a Sigma Delta Chi Award for his report on the Salvadoran Army's use of U.S. supplied planes in the bombing of Tenancingo, was CNN Bureau Chief and Correspondent in Moscow where he continued CNN's aggressive coverage of development in the Soviet Union, and served as National/International Security Correspondent in CNN's Washington bureau where he reported on broader aspects of domestic and international policy.

Prior to joining CNN, Arnett spent 20 years as a correspondent for the Associated Press. In 1962 he was assigned to cover the Vietnam War, a story he would stay with through the fall of Saigon in 1975. Arnett's compelling firsthand accounts of the American involvement in Vietnam earned him several prestigious awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting in 1966. His 1994 book, "Live from the Battlefield," chronicles his storied career as a war correspondent. (GB)



Peter Arnett

Live From the Battlefield: From Vietnam to Baghdad to Bosnia, April 14, 1999

Arnett is one of the world's leading war correspondents, having spent over 35 years as a journalist covering the world's war zones. His reporting from the field has encompassed 17 wars including his 57-day live coverage of the Persian Gulf War. He distinguished himself

Help make sure your children can see to learn

Each year, 20 percent of children entering kindergarten have a vision problem that could affect their ability to learn. With vision problems affecting more than 70 percent of juvenile delinquents and 60 percent of individuals enrolled in adult literacy programs, early detection and treatment of vision problems can have a profound effect on a child's success in school and, ultimately, in life.

In an effort to make sure vision problems don't hinder children's ability to learn, the Eye Care Council has developed the SEE TO LEARN® Children's Vision Program. This innovative, three-step program has received support and cooperation from schools, childcare facilities, public health departments and civic groups.

Through SEE TO LEARN®, participating optometrists offer free visual health assessments for three-year-old children and alert parents, grandparents and educators about the importance of early preventive eye care and the warning signs of vision problems.

More than 6,000 three-year-old children have received vision assessments since the program's inception, and more than 400 optometrists from 14 states have joined the program to alert educators and parents about the signs of a vision problem. Members of the Nebraska Optometric Association are working with the Nebraska Foundation for Vision Awareness and the Eye Care Council to focus on the early detection and treatment of vision problems in children.

The Eye Care Council is a special vision-health information resource created to educate the public about their vision and appropriate eye care. Participating optometrists contribute time, money and professional advice to help people see more clearly longer.

For more information about the SEE TO LEARN® Program or about how to schedule your three-year-old for a free vision assessment, call the Eye Care Council at 1-800-960-EYES. (GB)

Area men and women encouraged to apply for LEAD fellowships

The Nebraska LEAD Program is a state-wide agricultural leadership development program. Annually participants are selected for a two-year (\$10,000) fellowship. The program features 12 in-state seminars, involving spouses for four occasions. Seminars are hosted on 11 cooperating public and private college and university campuses from across Nebraska. Learning occurs with a wide mix of presenters representing academic professors, government and corporate executives, entrepreneurs,

organizational interests and prominent leaders. Topics include interpersonal skill development, communications, sociology, education, public policy issues, macro economics, community development, natural resources, cultural understanding and leadership.

During the first year, participants focus on studying local, state and national issues which culminates into a national study and travel seminars to major U.S. cities. Stimulating meetings with key business, industry leaders, national

organizations and elected governmental office holders provide first hand exposure to various issues impacting our nation.

In the second year, the programs curriculum builds on first year topics with additional dynamics of global focus. International trade, foreign policy, cross cultural understanding and geopolitics add to participants interest and practical measure of understanding. To capstone the second year's study is a international study and

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Kiwanis Club Lincoln Northeast Scholarship

A scholarship in the amount of \$500 will be provided to an entering freshman student at the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, UN-L. Admission and enrollment are required to receive this award. The scholarship will be given in two payments: \$250 for tuition and fees at the beginning of the first semester and the same amount on February 1st for the second semester.

Applications should provide their full name, birth date and the following information:

1. Copy of official high school transcript and SAT or ACT score.
2. One reference letter from a teacher or counselor.
3. Collateral learning experiences and activities (e.g. 4-H, FFA, part-time employment, school and community activities, etc.).
4. An indication of need (other scholarships, financial resources).
5. Career plan.

Applications for the 1999-2000 academic year scholarship should be submitted by May 3, 1999 to:

Dr. Glenn Froning
7420 Whitestone Drive
Lincoln, NE 68506

If you need additional information, call Glenn Froning at (402) 488-6142. (GB)