

Highland Conservancy E-Newsletter  
February 22, 2009

### **Earth Day Poster Contest**

The Highland Conservancy is sponsoring an Earth Day poster contest for elementary age students. Any elementary student in Huron Valley can submit a poster promoting earth day. The theme is Earth Day or "finding green solutions". Entries must be original and created on 11x17 inch paper or poster board using marker, crayon, colored pencil or paint. The first place winner will win a \$50 gift card and second place will win \$25 gift card. The conservancy has participated in Huron Valley Earth Day festivities since its inception. We encourage everyone to mark your calendars to attend this family friendly event which will take place **Sunday, April 19th** from noon till 4 at the Milford YMCA. For more specifics or to volunteer at this year's event, visit the HVED website: [www.hvedf.org](http://www.hvedf.org) If your child wishes to submit an Earth Day poster for the contest, please mail it to: Highland Conservancy, 205 W. Livingston Rd., Highland, MI 48357 before March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Call 248-887-4643 for more information.

### **Should we teach Children about the Environment?**

I just read an excellent article today: "Global warming is a hard sell during a Michigan February! However, it's great to read about many schools across the country that are participating in small and large projects to teach children how to protect our planet. An easy way for a school to start environmental education is to join 700 elementary and secondary schools who are taking part this spring in the first "[National Green Week.](#)" Schools can sign up and select any week until April 13, 2009 for their "Green Week." [Click here](#) for the full article or go to [www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com](http://www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com)

### **Unusual Electricity Drain**

Did you know there is an easy way to save roughly \$200 a year on your electric bill? It's as simple as unplugging appliances when not in use. Things such as TV's, radios, computers, coffee makers, and just about anything else draw a surprising amount of power even when turned off. Rather than manually unplugging each appliance, the easiest method is to turn off the switch to your power surge suppressor. Don't have one? You should. My neighbor blew out a TV during a lightning storm by not having it plugged into one. So if you already turn off the lights when you leave a room, you can kick off the surge protector. It's a simple way to save money and help save the planet!

### **Heating Bill Blues**

As this freezing cold weather hangs on and on, we've dialed down our heat to 62 degrees. Brrrrr! Then I did some research and discovered that if all Americans turned down our heat 6 degrees in the winter we could save 500,000 barrels of oil *every day!* When we use less oil, we are helping fight climate change, if only a bit. Changing the furnace filter will also...[click here](#) for the rest of the story or go to [www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com](http://www.highlandconservancy.typepad.com)

**Community Garden coming soon**

As you start browsing seed catalogs and dreaming of spring planting, it's fun to consider growing fresh vegetables and food for your table. Plans are already underway for another community garden in Highland. If you have limited or poor growing space for a garden, there are available plots in Highland's community garden. The location will again be off Livingston Road just as you turn in to Highland United Methodist Church on the right side. If you are interested, reserve your spot now. Call Katheryn Krupa 248-887-4643 or email [artfingers@comcast.net](mailto:artfingers@comcast.net) for more information.

THINK SPRING!