

Arkansas State University celebrates Earth Day

RACHEL RUDD

NEWS EDITOR

Arkansas State University celebrated Earth Day in the Red WOLF Center on Friday.

This year's theme was "Invest in Our Planet," in which numerous booths and speakers discussed recycling, conservation and Earth-friendly practices. It was hosted by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

A-State has hosted an Earth Day celebration since 2009.

Open to the community, the event saw an estimated 479 elementary students, 120 parents and 200 A-State students and staff. The elementary students came from 10 schools in the area.

"We'll be talking to students about the importance of using trash cans and not throwing things on the ground or letting them get into the ditches," said Melissa Dooley, director of EHS, who was dressed as Dr. Seuss's character "The Lorax" at the event.

The event was initially to take place at Heritage Plaza Lawn, but was moved inside due to weather.

While Earth Day fell on a Saturday, Jennifer Bouldin, Ph.D., interim dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, said the event was hosted on Friday to allow school kids to come.

Many A-State organizations came and spoke, including the Environmental Club. Club representatives Arissa Farmer and Katie Willis talked to the elementary students about reusable and recyclable materials.

"(We told them) about how reusable straws and paper straws are better for the environment and what they can do to get

those things, like where to buy paper straws. We also have pamphlets that students have made for our club about how to check your self care products for sustainable ingredients," said Farmer, a senior marketing major from Trumann and vice president of the club.

The Environmental Club is part of the planning committee for Earth Day.

"We used to have a really big (event) before COVID and then we obviously didn't have them for a while. We're finally getting it back up to where we're getting all kinds of students from the community, college students and just trying to raise awareness about going green in our community," said Willis, a senior psychology major from Blue Springs, Missouri, and president of the Environmental Club.

Also at the event was Tracy Klotz, a biology professor, and his wife, Barbara Parks, who works in the Office of Behavioral Research and Evaluation. The couple brought their snakes and other animals, including a frog, bearded dragon and a tortoise, for the students to hold and get pictures with.

"We do a lot of outreach to help people get over their fear of snakes," Klotz said. "One of the most common phobias is fear of snakes. So we bring up our nice snakes and show them that they're not big, bad, scary critters that they should be afraid of."

Klotz added the snakes also act as a wow factor, especially when they "see a big one like Georgia." Georgia is a 12-foot albino Burmese python.

Red Wolves for Red Wolves, the student organization dedicated to promoting



Photo by Rachel Rudd | News Editor

Tracy Klotz, a biology professor, showing off Georgia, his 12-foot albino Burmese python to local elementary school students. Klotz and his wife, Barbara Parks, frequently attend outreach events to help people overcome their fears of snakes.

conservation of the American red wolf, was there as well, educating students on protection and conservation efforts for the species.

"We're trying to really just spread word: stop killing them. Stop killing our red wolves," said Lilly Newton, a junior animal science major from Little Rock and club member.

Planning for the event began in January. Those in attendance were provided lunch, which was donated from various businesses, including Sodexo, Textbook Brokers, Frito-Lay and Coca-Cola.

CONTINUED:
EARTH DAY, 4A



Photo by Anna Cox | Copy Editor

Ilda Codjia (left), a first-year business major from Ivory Coast, West Africa and Allechia Bouaffon (right), a first-year sociology major from Ivory Coast, West Africa, painting terracotta pots at the International Program's Mother Earth Day celebration.

A-State recognizes Denim Day



Photo by Caroline Averitt | Photo Editor

Arkansas State University recognized Denim Day by reading anonymous stories of sexual assault from members of the A-State community.

Temma Balducci, chair of Art + Design and professor of art history, made a quilt out of jean pockets with students in 2018. Except for two years due to COVID-19, members of the A-State community have placed their anonymous stories into the quilt pockets to be read aloud on Denim Day.

The quilt hung in the Reng Student Union throughout April, which is sexual assault awareness month.

"Even though the topic is very somber, it turned out to be this really fun kind of community building project," Balducci said.

Perdeta Bush, the Title IX and Institutional Equity coordinator, said people recognize Denim Day internationally.

Since 1999, Peace Over Violence has been hosting Denim Day to support those impacted by sexual assault. A sexual assault case which took place in 1992 in Rome, Italy, inspired the movement.

"There was a case in Italy where a young woman was sexually assaulted and went to trial. The judge ruled that there was no way that she was forced into a sexual act because her jeans were so tight, that it would have been impossible to pull down in the manner in the time in which she claims," Bush said.

This year, Balducci and Chancellor Todd Shields read the stories people slipped into the pockets of the denim quilt.

CAMPUS CRIME



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April 20 | 6:43 p.m.
Officer Stephen

Montgomery responded to a welfare concern of an animal near the University Loop W./ Academic Circle intersection. Upon arrival, Montgomery made contact with officers on scene in reference to the incident.

Discovered on scene was a beaver that had a wire cable wrapped extremely tight around its neck. The cable was visibly cutting bone deep into the skin and was causing labored breathing for the beaver. Officers attempted to contact animal control and the Arkansas Game and Fish to assist the animal. However, neither party could be contacted.

Montgomery made the decision to put the animal down, due to its visible suffering. He fired a total of three rounds from his duty weapon to ensure the animal had died.

April 18 | 1:18 a.m.
Officer Stephen

Montgomery was dispatched to a suspicious person at 1203 University Loop St. Upon arrival, he made contact with suspect one.

Suspect one was found in the seating area of the laundry room. From reports and camera footage, it was confirmed suspect one had been in the area since 1 a.m., April 16.

Montgomery asked suspect one the nature of his presence and if he could present a student ID. Once it had been confirmed that suspect one was not a student, a state issued ID was requested.

Once identified, officers concluded that suspect one had been sleeping in the laundry room and was without a permanent living arrangement. Due to his trespassing on campus, suspect one was banned from the Arkansas State University campus.

Suspect one was then escorted off campus without further incident.

April 17 | 3:45 a.m.

Officer Sadie Magee was dispatched to 801 University Loop E. in reference to a woman who was having suicidal thoughts.

Victim one told SAGE she had been having these thoughts for several months and was seeing a campus counselor, but on that particular evening she was having a lot of feelings and thoughts about harming herself.

She told SAGE she had gathered up all of the items in her room that could be used to harm her so that she could not do anything to herself. SAGE asked victim one if she would be willing to go to the hospital and speak to someone and she stated that she would.

Victim one's friend then stated that she would take her and they left for St. Bernards.