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Earth Day — billions of green

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“A Billion Acts of Green” is a theme for Earth Day 2011 on April 22

this year.

According to the Earth Day Network web site, over 45 million pledges worldwide have come in to live and act sustainably. These pledges have come from individuals, organizations and corporations. The overall goal is to register a billion actions in advance of the Earth Summit in Rio in 2012.

In South Florida, “acts of green” can help us conserve energy in a place where we all rely on electricity to keep us cool, run our offices, and keep our home appliances humming. Some methods of observing Earth Day can involve planting trees, picking up roadside trash, using recy-

clable containers for snacks and lunches. Although April 22 is not a federal holiday where offices and government offices close down, the event is worth observing in our own ways.

Earth Day was founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1970 to promote ecology and respect for life on the planet, as well as recognizing growing problems of air, water and soil pollution. If you’d like to introduce your children to Earth Day activities, take a look at the web site at www.planetpals.com/earth-day2.html. You’ll find there a kid-friendly history of Earth Day, Earth Day fun facts, and an ample list of activities for children.

Although we may think of recycling, a common part of Earth Day, as an industrial practice nowadays, the ancient Greeks gave their endorsement to the practice. Archeologists have discovered evidence of recycling in many ancient villages and civ-

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ilizations. Today, the key aim of recycling is to prevent waste of raw materials and the energy associated with extracting, refining and processing them. In most cases, the use of recycled materials to create new products has proved to be cheaper than using raw materials.”

If you want to expand your own Earth Day-related knowledge, check out these web sites: Earth911.com, Recycle City (targeted at children), Athletes for the Earth (involving Olympic and professional sports stars), The Canopy Project (supporting global reforestation) and Green Schools.

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