

## Earth Day Challenge for Kid Artists!

**Background:** 2012 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. This book, published in September of 1962, helped launch the environmental movement. The book changed our society through the connection of human beings with all other life around us. Rachel Carson demonstrated the effects of dangerous chemicals, most notably the pesticide DDT, on the environment, particularly on birds. Bald Eagles and other species suffered huge population declines as a result of this poison.



**What:** Local kids are invited to create images, no larger than 8.5” by 11” of a pollution-free world in honor of Earth Day and Rachel Carson’s contribution to a cleaner environment. This artwork will be featured in a slide show on NRCM’s website at [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org).

**Why:** Primarily to nurture the connection between people and the natural world particularly as Earth Day approaches.

**Special Note:** Artwork submitted for this occasion will automatically be included in our search for an image to use on a t-shirt for our Rachel’s Run and Kids’ Fun event in September that will honor the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Silent Spring*. The event will raise funds for and awareness about NRCM’s ongoing work to keep toxic chemicals out of Maine’s air, water, wildlife, and forests.

Following the Earth Day creations, submissions for the slideshow are due by the end of April. They can be mailed or dropped off at the Natural Resources Council of Maine, 3 Wade St, Augusta, ME. Alternatively, send artwork electronically to Stacie Haines at [shaines@nrcm.org](mailto:shaines@nrcm.org). Questions can be sent to the same address. We look forward to seeing the creativity and care Maine children have for the environment, expressed through art!