

HAPPY EARTH DAY, APRIL 22

By Joan Mish

Fifty years ago, in Michigan Gaylord Nelson declared April 22 as Earth Day.

Dr. Seuss's book *The Lorax* had a famous quote that I loved: "Unless someone cares a whole lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

I began writing this on Wednesday, Earth Day. I am a firm believer that we need to recognize what we have been doing to the earth and becoming RELATIVELY involved with saving the earth.

This day, Earth Day, reminds us that we all need to think of the future for our children and grandchildren to protect the earth. We need to educate ourselves about what the emission of CO₂ is doing to our planet. Fossil fuels make way too much money. Wind and solar power hopefully will replace these high emission fuels that are killing off forests all over the planet.

We need to change our life styles: buy less physical products, reuse more items, recycle when possible. I remember becoming involved when I was pregnant with my last child in the recycling movement in our small town in Wisconsin. And later I joined a peace group in which we held workshops about making the earth more peaceful through many ways, including taking care of the earth. We need to demand our current president acknowledge our Climate Crisis and return to joining the other nations in Europe to reduce carbon released into the air. Our weather is getting warmer every year and is predicted that by 2030 or -40 we will be in real trouble.

Many of the forests around the world have been taken down: some for their wood and others to enlarge cities and farmland. It is the trees that used to take care of removing some of the carbon.

We cannot deny the evidence presented by scientist and climate activists about climate change. We must demand more from our government. We need to build a stronger relationship with our earth.