

May 27, 2007 marks what would have been Rachel Carson's 100th birthday. What Rachel Carson noted 44 years ago in her groundbreaking book, *Silent Spring*, holds true today:

"...we have put poisonous and biologically potent chemicals indiscriminately into the hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm. We have subjected enormous numbers of people to contact with these poisons, without their consent and often without their knowledge. It is the public that is being asked to assume the risks that the insect controllers calculate. The public must decide whether it wishes to continue on the present road, and it can only do so when in full possession of the facts." (*Silent Spring*, 1962)



**TEXANS FOR  
ALTERNATIVES  
TO PESTICIDES**  
SAVING THE PLANET ONE YARD AT A TIME.

[www.nopesticides.org](http://www.nopesticides.org)

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Cover art courtesy of M.B. Maher



*This  
holiday  
season,  
remember  
the  
butterflies...*

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CHARLOTTE WELLS, M.S.

*and the  
ladybugs,  
and the  
caterpillars,  
and the  
children...*

We do not inherit the earth  
from our ancestors, we  
borrow it from our children.  
~Native American Proverb

*Dear Friends,*

Often there is a need to control unwanted pests in our homes, businesses, gardens and fields. But control doesn't have to mean the decimation of all insects, including beneficial ones, like butterflies and ladybugs. Texans for Alternatives to Pesticides is committed to protecting not only beneficial insects, but our children and our children's children, from the dangerous over-use of chemicals in the pursuit of pest control. **Toward this end we have engaged in activities focusing on protecting all of us from the dangers of pesticides by:**

- presenting information to more than 25 groups. We now have many advocates and volunteers who promote alternatives to pesticides by distributing our brochures when they attend events and speaking engagements.
- monitoring the Sunset Review process as the Texas Structural Pest Control Board undergoes scrutiny in the 80th Legislative session.
- educating public officials and distributing asthma awareness information to parents, teachers and school nurses, informing them about the dangers of pesticide exposure.
- seeking support for regulations that protect the youngest of children in child care centers, much as students and staff are protected in our public schools.
- producing a brochure, "Pest Control in Child Care Centers," and distributing it to 500 professionals at the Texas Licensed Child Care Association Conference in 2006.
- airing Public Service Announcements, including "Children and Pesticides Don't Mix," which was broadcast over 500 times in Texas.
- focusing on water quality with Harris County's Yardwise presentation, Texas A & M's Watersmart Workshop and the Waterkeeper Alliance's international conference.

**TAP asks: "Why is there widespread use of potentially dangerous chemicals?"**

In the United States, chemicals are innocent until proven guilty. Pesticide manufacturers and applicators should demonstrate that their products are safe for people and the environment before introducing them to the marketplace. **At this time of year we turn to you, our friends, and ask that once again you support us.** Your generosity in the past has given a voice to these concerns. Please use the enclosed envelope and form to send your donation.

Sincerely,

  
President

Charlotte Wells  
Executive Director