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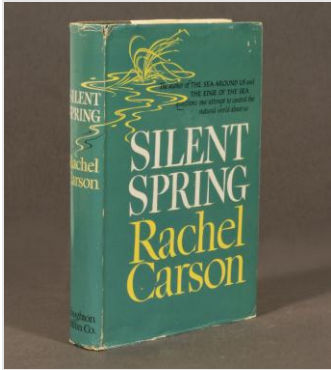
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## E-Newsletter | April 2011

### Women Environmentalists: Stewards of the Earth

Women have been involved in every social movement in the U.S. Women fought for labor laws, developed a safety net for the poor among us and championed education, for example. Women have also taken a leading role in the environmental movement. During April, environmentalists are recognized when Earth Day is celebrated each year on April 22. The three women we profile this month are **Rachel Carson, Margery Stoneman Douglas** and **Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards**. These women contributed significantly to the stewardship of the Earth's resources, to ensure that those resources would be available to future generations.



Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"

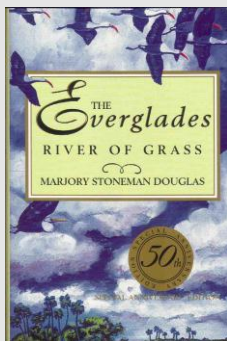
In the 1950s marine biologist, **Rachel Carson**, who often wrote about the ocean, presented the idea that is deeply embedded in all of her writing, that we, as humans, are only one part of the nature chain and that as individuals we have the capacity to powerfully alter the environment, in some cases irretrievably. In 1962, her book *Silent Spring* was published. This book, an exposé on the dangers of the pesticide DDT, is credited with launching environmental awareness, leading to the first Earth Day in 1970 and to the entire environmental movement of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The title was derived from Carson's dire view of the future when birds would no longer be living, due to the damage from DDT.

Carson had no role model when she took up the unique challenges she espoused. The same can be said of chemist **Ellen Swallow Richards**, who analyzed more than 100,000 samples of the State of Massachusetts' water and sewage. As a result, she and a colleague produced the world's first water purity tables and the first state water quality standards in the U.S. Richards is considered the foremost female industrial and environmental chemist in the 1800s. Richards' interests were broad. She pioneered in the field of home economics, and is credited for groundbreaking work in the fields of sanitary engineering and ecology.

*There are no other Everglades in the world. They are, they have always been,  
one of the unique regions of the earth; remote, never wholly known.  
Nothing anywhere else is like them.*



Ellen Swallow Richards



"The Everglades: River of Grass"

These opening words from **Marjory Stoneman Douglas'** immortal book *Everglades: River of Grass* not only crystallize the uniqueness of the Everglades, they demonstrate the passion and life work of the woman. Her book was published in 1947, the same year that Everglades National Park was established, and it has become the definitive description of the natural treasure she fought so hard to protect. To add a voting constituency to her efforts, in 1970 she formed the 'Friends of the Everglades', and until shortly before her death remained active at the head of the organization. Marjory Stoneman Douglas modeled leadership through activism. Her stewardship has enabled the generations who follow her to enjoy the unique beauty of that special place.

We salute these women whose efforts certainly helped make the world a better place for all of us. Their legacy and vision continues to make a difference today.

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2011 - and support the efforts of millions of women and men working to protect the planet by participating in a local event in your community. For a listing of opportunities, visit: [Earth Day 2011](#)

**Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America**  
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