

311 words, column #51  
Java Talk  
(for April 17 to April 23, 2008)

## Every Age Is The Best Age

*Happy Earth Day!*

*Once there was a wise old man. He was so wise he could answer any question anyone ever asked him, no matter how difficult. One day, two young people were talking and they said, "We're going to fool that old man. We'll catch a bird, and go to the old man, and say, 'This that we hold in our hands today, is it alive or is it dead?' If he says 'Dead,' we'll turn it loose and let it fly, and if he says 'Alive,' we'll crush it."*

*So they caught a bird, and they carried it to that old man, and they said, "This that we hold in our hands today, is it alive or is it dead?" And that wise old man looked at those young people and he smiled. And he said, "It's in your hands."* (From <http://www.sisterschoice.com/ecostories>).

There's a lot of progress to celebrate and be happy about, for International Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>), but not enough room for it all here, as I write my penultimate (second to last) article for a connected collection of a year's works and stories, which began with the article, "Old Mr. Jennings and His Sheep."

For example, since then, there are new little black lambs. The one wearing a red ribbon around its neck gets special care, including short walks along the road, to and from Jane's and her mom, Alice's house. With their help, the sheep get to live out their full lives in their now protected pasture which has been bequeathed by Mr. Jennings to The Land Conservancy.

Meanwhile, I know at least one garter snake has returned since I started leaving my lawn alone so that it could become a Garry Oak meadow again, because I discovered a huge snake skin at my feet, just as I was being doubly surprised to see another lamb go by!

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