



Earth Day 2002 Sprouts Up in Marin

By Rachel Stern, Science Interchange Reporter

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Flower buds are opening and the leaves are becoming greener with every morning's dew; the scent of Earth Day is lingering in the air.

April 22nd marks the 32nd annual Earth Day, the brainchild of former U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. Nelson, who was troubled that the state of the environment was not a political issue in the country, organized the first nationwide environmental protest in the spring of 1970. The outcome was participation from 20 million demonstrators and thousands of schools and local communities. In later years, Earth Day became part of the environmental movement that led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. Today Earth Day is celebrated worldwide, and this year in Marin and its surrounding counties, many organizations have planned celebrations to mark this day.

The Bay Trail

The Marin Conservation League and its partners are celebrating the opening of the newest section of the Bay Trail on April 21, from 1 to 4 p.m. The theme is "Celebrate and Restore the Bay." Visitors can walk, jog, bike or stroll along the 2.3 miles from Pickleweed Park to the Richardson Bay Bridge along the beautiful San Rafael shoreline. Naturalists will lead interpretive walks along the shore about wildlife and habitat restoration. There will be hands-on restoration to remove invasive non-native plants along the Bay Trail. Information booths will also be set up throughout the trail.

"Visitors should bring curiosity, a good set of ears and gloves for the restoration," said Tom Hinman of the Marin Conservation League.

Habitat Restoration on Mt. Tam

On April 20, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., a clean up and restoration on Mt. Tamalpais will take place. The event is organized by the Marin Municipal Water District. Those interested in volunteering can call the events volunteer hotline at (415) 945-1128.

Berkeley Earth Day

Berkeley will celebrate Earth Day with a festival on April 20, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival takes place at Civic Center Park in Berkeley and will include cultural performers, speakers, resources and ecological activities. Demonstrations of renewable resources, a farmer's market, the annual Eco-Motion Parade, an eco-art making for kids, a climbing wall, and over 150 booths of different varieties are included.

The Song of the Earth Festival

Set up by the Friends of Recreation and Parks, the Song of the Earth Festival starts on April 20 and is from 12 to 3 p.m. The festivities will be located in the west end of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and include performances by children's dance and music groups. Information and ideas on how people can care for the environment will be supplied in this day of fun for the whole family.

Baylands Restoration

The Marin Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to clean up the Baylands on April 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers will remove debris and pull out non-native vegetation so that the land can be restored to wetlands. After their hard work, volunteers can enjoy "restoration pizza." The Baylands are located north on Atherton Avenue, before the Petaluma River. The Marin Audubon Society recommends that volunteers bring gloves, boots, a hat and friends.

Set down roots for the environment's future by taking part in one of these events!

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EARTH DAY EVENTS

The Marin Conservation League: (415) 485-6257; mcl@conservationleague.org

Marin Municipal Water District: (415) 954-1455; www.marinwater.org

Friends of Recreation and Parks: Kimberly Merin at (415) 750-5220; www.sfparks.org

The Marin Audubon Society: Linda Cassidy at (415) 499-6128; www.marinaudubon.org