



## Earth Day 2004 in Bloom in Marin County

By Rachel Stern, Earthscope Reporter

(This article was published in the Marin Scope Community Newspaper of April 13-19, 2004)

Sunlight is making its presence known, lush green grass is sprouting at rapid rates, and arrays of flower patches are in bloom; the scent of Earth Day is lingering in the air.

April 22 marks the 34th annual Earth Day, the brainchild of former US 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 Marin and its surrounding counties have planned celebrations to mark this monumental day.

### April 17- People's Earth Day

At this dynamic celebration, youth activism will be recognized, and ways to improve the environment, sustainability and environmental health will be discussed. Participants will help restore the native habitat of India Basin Shoreline Park, receive energy efficient light bulbs and free bike repairs, chat with representatives from local environmental organizations, tour a recycling facility, and let their creative juices flow in many other activities. Shoreline Park is located in Hunter's Point, in San Francisco. The festivities will take place from 10 am to 4 PM. Call (415) 508-0575 for more information.

### April 17- Earth Day Garden Celebration and Free BBQ

People are gathering together to restore Pinole Creek, improve the habitat for fish and wildlife, and celebrate Friends of Pinole Creek Watershed's success in creating a native plant demonstration garden. A free lunchtime BBQ is included. Preregister with Nicholle Fratus at [nicholle@aoinstitute.org](mailto:nicholle@aoinstitute.org), or call (510) 231-5787.

### April 17- El Sobrante Earth Day

Volunteers are arriving bright and early at 8 am, working until noon, and then relaxing to a free Barbeque. There are an array of activities to improve creek health and the riparian environment, from removing native plants, to helping people sign in. The action is taking place at the El Sobrante Boys and Girls Club, located at 4660 Appian Way. For more information, contact [anouk@aoinstitute.org](mailto:anouk@aoinstitute.org).

#### April 18- Make Merry with Mud in Honor of Earth Day

No matter what their age, participants can shape mud harvested from the Palace of Fine Arts Lagoon into columns of living microbial art. Attendees are taught how to create Winogradsky columns, using materials like cheese, water and mud. The creative excitement can be found at the San Francisco Exploratorium at 2 p.m. Call (415) 561-0363 for more information.

#### April 18 - Bernal Hilltop Restoration Project Work Party

Working amidst a backdrop of spring bloom, participants will help control invasive species, maintain restoration areas, and pick up trash. Those who are ready to work can meet at the southwest corner of Bernal Heights Boulevard at 11 am. Call (415) 282-5066 for more information.

Help set down the roots of the environment's future by taking place in one of these events!

To learn more about Earth Day, and hear Senator Gaylord Nelson's historic speech on its founding, check out <http://earthday.envirolink.org>

For ideas about hands-on, educational Earth Day activities, check out <http://earthday.wilderness.org>