

More Important Than Earth Day

By Arne Anselm

All month long, Ventura County will be celebrating Earth Day with a variety of events. Festivals with hands-on kid's activities, live music, entertainers, and vendors and exhibitors showcasing planet-friendly products and services can be enjoyed from the beach in Ventura to the trees of Thousand Oaks.

Earth Day is April 22 and arguably the most important day for our planet. It's a day set aside to reflect on how we depend on the earth, and how it depends on us for protection. But far more important than Earth Day is the next day, the next week, and the next month. One day a year is just not enough to keep our planet healthy for future generations.

Make the spirit of Earth Day part of your life long after you've turned the page on the calendar.

- Walk or bike – take pleasure in your surroundings and enjoy being outdoors.
- Pick up trash while walking. The Community for a Clean Watershed's message "We can do this" reminds us that we can make a difference and keep trash out of our watershed.
- Practice recycling, reusing and reducing your carbon footprint. Avoid heavily packaged items. Use reusable drink containers and grocery bags. Shop local to support local growers as well as use less gas.
- Learn how to reduce your use of pesticides, chemical fertilizers and herbicides – and never use more than the directions say.
- Plant California-friendly landscaping for beautiful yards that requires less water and chemicals, and water only plants, not sidewalks and gutters.

Have fun while learning to make a difference at these Earth Day events:

City of Oxnard Earth Day 2011

Saturday, April 9, 11:00AM to 3:00PM

Downtown Plaza Park, 5th and "C" Streets

Environmental education with juggling, magic, and comedy by "EarthCapades Environmental Vaudeville"; and CanUnDrum performing percussion on recycled buckets.

Simi Valley Earth Day

Friday, April 15, 9:00AM – 8:00 PM

Simi Valley Town Center

An electronic waste (e-waste) disposal event from 9:00AM-3:00PM, then mall-wide events and sales from 3:00-8:00PM.

Ventura Earth Day Eco Fest

Saturday, April 16, 10:00AM to 5:00 PM

Promenade Park, Ventura

A family-centered community celebration with a green products expo. Volunteers are welcome prior to the event to help with a beach clean-up.

Moorpark Arbor/Earth Day 2011

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 - Noon

Civic Center Park, 799 Moorpark Avenue

Information and activities about recycling, water wise gardening, and landscaping information, including free tree and bagged compost giveaways.

Earth Day Camarillo

Sunday, April 17, 10:00AM to 4:00 PM

Camarillo Community Gardens on Burnley Street at Carmen Drive

Kids activities, ecological exhibits and a demonstration of sustainable landscape designs from the Ventura County Master Gardeners.

Earth Day film screening of "Treasure of San Buenaventura"

Friday, April 22, 6:00 – 7:00PM

E.P. Foster Library 651 East Main Street, Ventura

Ojai EarthPlay 2011

Saturday, April 23, 11:00AM – 4:00PM

Oak Grove School, 220 West Lomita

The day will include art and outdoor activities for all ages, live entertainment, food, and environmental exhibits and a green marketplace.

Green Business Expo

Saturday April 23, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Working Artists Ventura, 175 Ventura Ave, Ventura

Learn about the "green economy", composting, rain barrels and the county of Ventura's Recycling Market Development Zone, providing incentives to companies for using recycled material.

Thousand Oaks Arbor/Earth Day

Saturday, April 30, 11:00 AM- 4:00 PM

Conejo Creek Park North on Janss Road

Over 100 planet-friendly vendors and exhibitors, children's activities, a mobile marine lab, entertainment, and tree and plant giveaways.

If you are interested in learning more about Earth Day 2011 and its Billion Acts of Green[®] initiative, go to www.earthday.org.

— *Arne Anselm is a water quality manager with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District. Representatives of government or nonprofit agencies who want to submit articles on environmental topics for this column should contact David Goldstein at 658-4312 or david.goldstein@ventura.org.*