

The Oregon Garden free for Earth Day



Carlee Wright, Statesman Journal 1:41 p.m. PDT April 22, 2014



(Photo: Special to the Statesman Journal)

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The Earth Day Fair at The Oregon Garden on Saturday will celebrate the Earth through hands-on activities, demonstrations and exhibits for the whole family. The theme for this year's event is "Protecting and Preserving our Planet."

"We've got different interactive activities for all ages, but aimed towards kids," Alan Pennington of Marion County Environmental Services said.

Eighteen exhibitors ranging from nonprofits to student groups to government organizations will help teach people about a variety of environmental issues including backyard composting and safe alternatives to hazardous household cleaners. Hands-on activities, such as making a reusable bag, will connect attendees with environmental alternatives. And local artisans will be selling products from upcycled clothing to art made of recycled materials.

"For presentations, we have Turtle Ridge Wildlife Center. They are going to be bringing out some birds of prey and possibly turtles for show and tell," Pennington said. "We also have the OSU Bug Zoo."

Early College High School's Emaa Da drumming band, Woodburn High School Mariachi Band and Bush Elementary rhumba band will provide entertainment.

"It is the only day of the year that the garden is free to the general public," Pennington said.

"It is an opportunity to stroll around the grounds until they feel at home," Pennington said. "80 acres of glory. People should get out and appreciate that, especially on Earth Day."

Earth Day Fair

When: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday

Where: The Oregon Garden, 879 W Main St., Silverton

Cost: Free; \$5 for parking or free shuttles will be offered from First Baptist Church and the gravel lot north of Roth's Fresh Market in Silverton

Information: (503) 874-8100