

The nature of artwork

Create-With-Nature Earth Day Celebration inspires artistic side

By [Derek Wilson Marinscope Newspapers](#) 1 hr ago 0



Marco Sanchez

Beachgoers learn to make sand globes with organizer Zach Pine at Stinson Beach.



Zach Pine, like many children, spent hours of his youth at local beaches building sand castles, trying to fight off waves, and just having fun.

More than 50 years later, Pine is still building sand castles ... and encouraging others to use their imagination to create works of art with nature.

“When I was a kid, my mother took me to Stinson Beach and I made sand castles,” Pine recalled. “As I became older, the sand castles became elaborate. Eventually, I realized I was a kid making art. Eventually I became an environmental artist.”

Pine, 57, is returning to both his childhood roots and his artistic roots at south Stinson Beach on Sunday, April 23 for the 13th annual free Create-With-Nature Earth Day Celebration.

Using sand, rocks, shells, and other natural objects from the beach, participants create outdoor sculpture. In past years, beachgoers stacked rock towers, made spirals from seaweed, planted a forest of “trees” made of driftwood, and created dragons, fairies, and abstract designs.

Pine’s motivation for hosting the event comes from a desire to inspire environmental action not only on Earth Day but throughout the year: “My art-making with natural materials brings me a heightened connection with nature that stimulates environmental action in my daily life. I host this event to share that process of connection, learning, inspiration, and action with others.”

The art goes far beyond just the sand globes and rock towers, according to Pine, who describes the experience as socially-engaged art. More than 100 people joined in last year’s event.

“The art we make is all ephemeral,” Pine said. “We don’t remove anything. It will all be blown away by the wind or the tides. What we leave behind is experience, which is also artwork in itself.”

The site for the event, at the south end of Stinson Beach, offers an unusual diversity of natural materials and micro-environments: boulders, stones, tide pools, seaweed, driftwood, feathers, and sea glass. The event begins with beach cleanup/habitat restoration, and collecting natural materials.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Volunteer Coordinator Tracy Neal and her staff will be on hand to assist with the beach cleanup and habitat restoration.

“I have two main concerns,” Pine said. “One is that people in general and young people in particular are increasingly separated from the earth and coastal areas. My motivation is to protect and save the planet by reducing that separation. Also, I am concerned about the sea level rise and its effect on my home beach. The loss of coastal areas has a tremendous impact worldwide.”