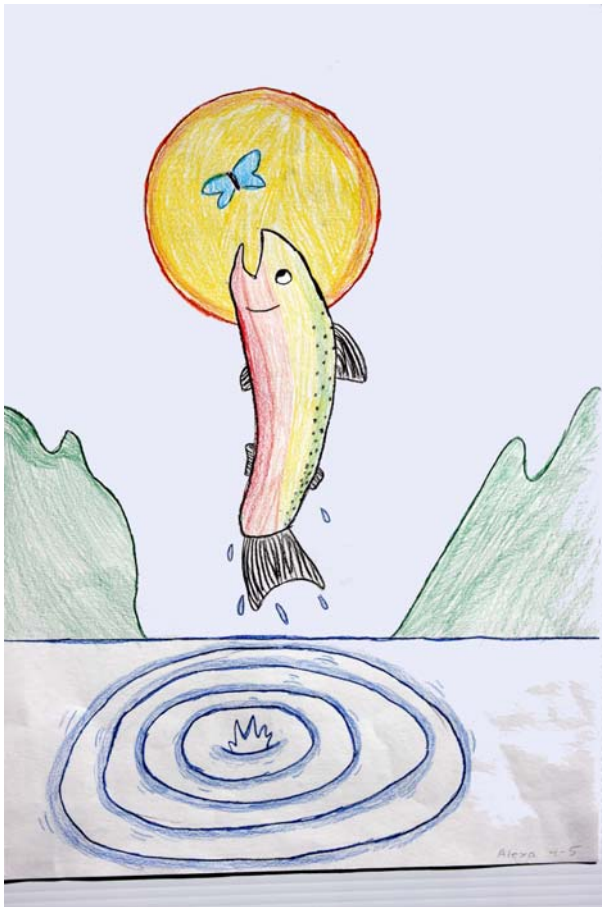


Come Have Fun at Water Day 2014 April 13 at the Mateel!



Drawing by Alexa, 4th -5th grades, Van Duzen Elementary School.

Don't miss Water Day, coming up on Sunday, April 13 at the Mateel Community Center in Redway. The event is an annual celebration of water and the Eel River. This year the schedule will be fast paced with more emphasis on FUN, but will also provide direct access to experts for people who are ready to get started with water conservation and pollution prevention projects on their land.

Come early at 9 AM to mingle and to share Signature coffee, organic bagels from Los Bagels, and fresh fruit. Supervisor Estelle Fennell's welcome to everyone at 10 AM will start the program, followed by State Water Board Volunteer Coordinator Erick Burres' keynote: *Working Together to Keep the Eel River Fishable, Swimmable, and Drinkable*

The late morning *Pulse of the Eel* session will answer people's questions about how the Eel River ecosystem fared in the drought of 2013.

How bad was the algae problem? Were algal toxins detected that might pose a public health risk? How did the salmon cope with record low flows? Was creek flow variable in different sub-basins? Did juvenile salmon and steelhead survive? Experts on forest and watershed health will explain the linkage between how we manage our land affects how much water the landscape stores.

Afternoon presentations will follow a hearty lunch featuring Humboldt grass-fed beef chili. Short but informative talks will be followed by lengthy panel discussions. Learn from water conservation experts, grey water system designers, permaculture practitioners, community water planners, and people with extensive knowledge of water rights in the *Using Water Smarter: Conservation & Pollution Prevention* session. Next the *Restoring Forests & Watershed Health* session will address questions like how to reduce fire risk, which is elevated during drought, and how thinning a forest can improve water yield. Road related erosion can cause sediment pollution and can trigger landslides that bury streams. Erosion control professionals will advise you on how to keep your roads from polluting and to insure safe access for you and your neighbors even during major storms.

Experts will be available "one-on-one" during extensive breaks and at the Poster Session. Information on financing for water systems and grants for fire safe or watershed restoration project will also be provided. ERRP is kicking off a major State Water Board grant and people will be able to sign up at Water Day for expert conservation and water pollution prevention consultations on their property.



Art by Mady, 4th -5th grades, Van Duzen Elementary School.

ERRP and the Friends of the Van Duzen River are involved in a large scale public school education project. Project Coordinator Sal Steinberg will give a short, late-afternoon presentation on the U.S. Forest Service grant-funded More Kids in the Woods project that is reaching 500 students. Student art will decorate the walls at Water Day, videos they made will run upstairs, and a book of their poetry will be for sale. Sal will be joined by educators who helped with More Kids in the Woods for a panel discussion on how similar projects can happen in other areas of the Eel River watershed.

The Eel Exploratorium upstairs will have numerous informative posters, working displays, exciting underwater video, and educational “how to” videos you can watch or even take home on DVD. Water Day will switch gears for the 5-6 PM Poster Session and Happy Hour with organic suds from Eel River Brewery, fine organic wine, and hors d'oeuvres including with grilled oysters provided by Coast Seafoods Company. Dinner will run from 6-7:30 PM and will feature rockfish or lingcod donated by Pacific Choice Seafood and delicious side dishes created of organic food donated by Chataqua Natural Foods, Eureka Natural Foods. Human Nature Does Theater will perform one of their classic comedic pieces during dinner.

This event is being organized by the Eel River Recovery Project and is supported by a number of non-profit co-sponsoring organizations including Trees Foundation, Redwood Forest Foundation, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, Institute for Sustainable Forestry, Friends of Van Duzen, Friends of Eel, Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), Sanctuary Forest, Mateel Community Center, CalTrout and KMUD.



Drawing by Alana, 2nd – 3rd grades, Van Duzen Elementary School.

In addition to the providers of food listed above, additional business underwriters and sponsors include Chataqua Natural Foods, Community Credit Union, Dazy's Supply, Pacific Watershed Associates, Whitethorn Construction, Shop Smart Garberville, Ray's Market in Redway, and Garberville Grass.

There is no charge for admission. Sliding scale donations will be requested for lunch and dinner. Please call 223-7200, if you want to help with Water Day.



Morning presentations, Water Day March 30, 2013. Photo courtesy of the Eel River Recovery Project.



Water Day 2013 afternoon crowd. 3/30/13. Photo courtesy of Eel River Recovery Project.