

Community of species

More than 40 organizations, the largest community involvement yet, will participate in the 32nd annual Earth Day celebration

By Mikhael Romain
for the Emerald

The 32nd annual Earth Day Celebration will litter the streets of downtown Eugene from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The celebration will host a variety of events, from Frank Merrill's American Indian opening blessing to musical entertainment to Earth Action Arenas consisting of environmental displays and interactive workshops hosted by participating organizations.

Steven Remington, president and managing director of Downtown Events Management Inc., said there is a growing movement among community members to come downtown and celebrate Earth. This year's celebration marks the largest community involvement to date, with more than 40 organizations participating.

"The celebration is becoming as much about the community as it is about the earth," Remington said.

The festivities will take place from Broadway to Willamette

Street and will provide a variety of activities from education to entertainment. Eugene residents will create puppets and masks of their favorite animals to wear in the "Procession of All Species," an artistic celebration to honor the myriad forms of life. The Bloco Amazinha, a Brazilian percussion group, will lead the parade through downtown.

BRING Recycling education coordinator Sarah Grimm said growing momentum to celebrate Earth is due to "more visible needs of our earth, such as global warming and necessary energy conservation." BRING Recycling will participate in Earth Action Arenas by displaying recycled greeting cards that can be planted and transformed into a garden.

"The basic message this year is to get out there and learn," Grimm said.

The Eugene Water and Electric Board, a sponsor of the celebration, also plans to participate in the Earth Action Arenas.

Earth Day Celebration Events

11 a.m. —
Opening blessing by Frank Merrill

11 a.m.-2 p.m. —
Free bike registration by the Eugene Department of Transportation

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. —
Costume-making for the 'Procession of All Species'

11:30 a.m. —
Performance by the Edgewood Evergreen Children's Choir

Noon —
Performance by marimba group Jenaguru

1 p.m. —
Address by Lane County Commissioner Peter Sorenson

1:30 p.m. —
Performance by melodic rock band Abandon Ship

2 p.m. —
'Procession of All Species' begins on Broadway between Olive and Willamette streets

2:30 p.m. —
Performance by The Young Women's Theater Collective, a comedy group

3:30 —
Performance by reggae group l'Chelle and the Circle of Light

Participants can win free composting bins during drawings to be held at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Locally and globally created art will be on display throughout the day.

Spokesman John Mitchell said EWEB will have an informational booth that will focus on renewable energy sources and conservation, and it will feature an interactive display on solar heating and wind power.

The Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority will also have a booth to educate the community and bring a more holistic awareness to preventing pollution. The Toyota

Prius, an environmentally conscious car that combines a gas engine and electric motor, will be on display to "represent positive alternatives and promote clean air," LRAPA public affairs manager Kim Metzler said.

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide spokeswoman Maggie Keenan said participating in the Earth Day celebration will help educate Eugene citizens about global

environmental awareness. E-LAW will have informational pamphlets available at its booth.

"All of our work is done outside the United States," she said. "This will be a good way to let people of Eugene find out about what this organization is doing around the world."

Mikhael Romain is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

Dump

continued from page 3B

But the end result is the same shoals that create one of the most treacherous river-mouth passages in the nation. Dredging, which began more than a century ago, remains vital to the survival of up-river ports of Kalama, Longview, Vancouver and Portland.

Dredge ships stick 30-inch diameter pipes into the river bottom and vacuum clean a 6-mile-long channel to depths ranging from 48 to 55 feet. The work begins anew each June, and in a typical year it yields enough sediment to fill 450,000 dump trucks.

"Our primary mission is to maintain navigation for all the commerce coming into the river," said Eric Braun, a corps official who oversees the river-mouth dredging. "And we feel we do a good job at that."

In recent years, corps officials have recognized the value of river sands to Washington beaches. They've focused their dumping in a shallow "flush zone" that helps the movement of sand northward.

Known as Site E, the turbulent two-mile stretch of water has received the equivalent of 1.5 million dump-truck loads of sand in the past four years.

Corps officials say these sediments move north with currents to help replenish sands on an eroding submerged fan known as Peacock Spit. But no one knows how much sand eventually makes it to shore.

And in an area already infamous for perilous seas, commercial crabbers say Site E dumping has mounded up the bottom, creating navigational risks for them and recreational boaters.

"Protection of mariners' lives has to take precedence over other obligations," said Dale Beasley, of the Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Associations.

Corps officials say they still plan to use Site E in the years ahead to help flush sands north, but the clash with the crabbers has increased pressure to open the new deep-water site.

The site still needs an official permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), though spokesman John Malek says the agency has decided to approve it. Corps officials hope the first load of sand will hit the bottom this summer.

But the deep-water site also needs Washington permits. It faces a tough review by the state Department of Ecology, which is expected to rule on the permits later this year. State geologists say little if any of the sand dumped in deep water is likely to move north and wash up on Washington beaches.

The deep-water site also has

"Our primary mission is to maintain navigation for all the commerce coming into the river. And we feel we do a good job of that."

Eric Braun
Corps official

drawn scrutiny from state biologists, who say the corps has not complied with state laws to mitigate the damage that dumping causes to crabbing grounds and other marine resources. That mitigation typically involves efforts to improve marine resources in areas outside the dump zone.

Even with such efforts, they say, the deep water site is a nutrient-rich area that should never be hit with dredge sands.

"This is essential fish habitat of the highest quality, and its conversion from a highly productive fine-grained bedlands rich in aquatic life to a disturbed mound of coarse sand would be a travesty to the environment and the fisheries it supports," wrote Robert Burkle, a state Fish and Wildlife biologist, in a Feb. 6 letter to the state Department of Ecology.

While state officials review the deep-ocean permit, coastal communities are pressing the corps to switch directions and get more dredge sand up on the beach. No one expects this to halt the coastal erosion — but they hope to slow the pace and ease the damage.

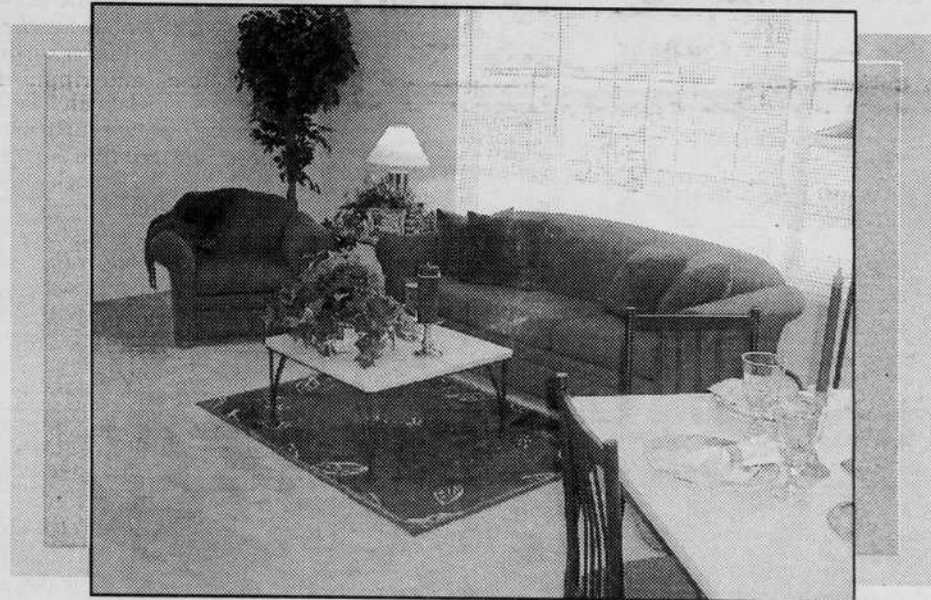
Corps officials say their annual dredging budget — \$4.6 million — leaves little room for expensive ventures in beach rescues.

But both downstream and upstream ports have embraced the idea, and their lobbying efforts yielded a \$200,000 congressional appropriation for a pilot project. Another \$300,000 in state money is expected.

UNIVERSITY COMMONS OBSERVES...

EARTH DAY

with ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING



Featuring:

- WASHER/DRYER IN EACH APARTMENT
- ON BUS ROUTE TO CAMPUS
- COMPUTER LAB, COPIER AND FAX AVAILABILITY
- ELECTRONIC ALARM SYSTEMS
- DECKED OUT KITCHENS
- PRIVATE BEDROOMS/INDIVIDUAL LEASES
- HEATED SWIMMING POOL
- BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- SUPERIOR WORKOUT FACILITIES
- STARTING AT \$325
- ROOMMATE MATCHING SERVICE.



NOW LEASING
FOR FALL
338-4000

or stop by our leasing office
at 90 Commons Drive
(open 7 days a week)



UNIVERSITY
COMMONS
APARTMENTS
www.universitycommons.com

ODE CLASSIFIEDS... worth looking into!