

River Arts Festival at San Lorenzo Park

Events

May 16 and 17

Aptos Times 5.1.09

In a fun, engaging and educational fashion, this year's River Arts Festival May 16 and 17 at San Lorenzo Park in Santa Cruz continues to raise awareness about local culture and ecology in Santa Cruz County.

The River Arts Festival celebrates Santa Cruz's rich cultural and natural resources while paying tribute to the illustrious "Santa Cruz Venetian Water Carnival" of 1890's. The River Arts Festival brings the community together in an exciting cultural extravaganza, raising funds in celebration and support of art in our schools and community.

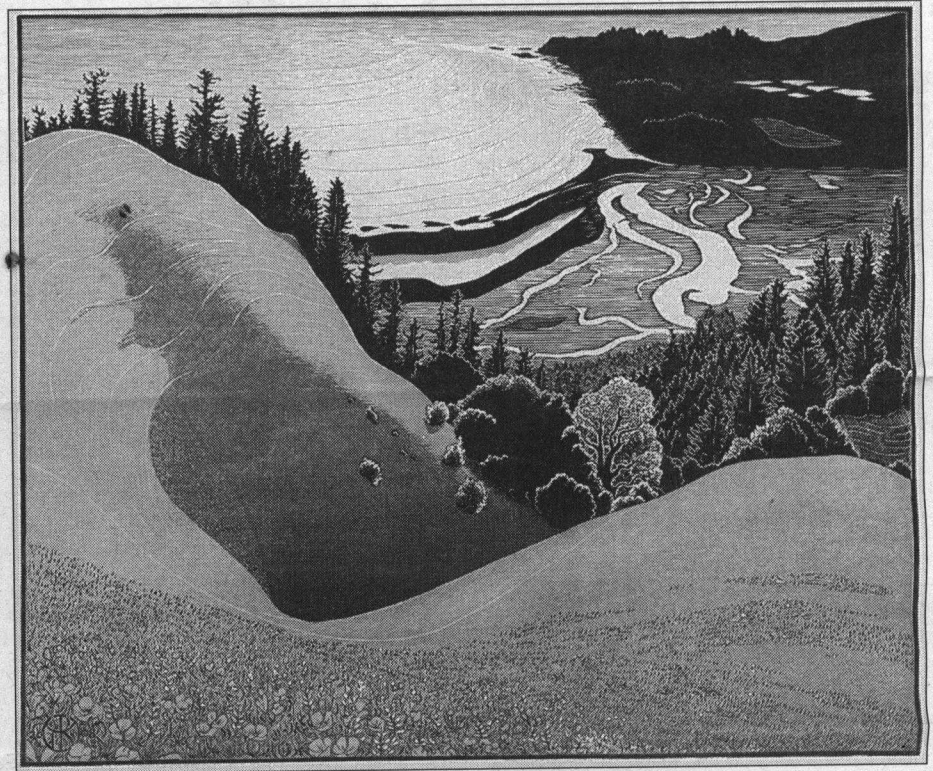
On May 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., the San Lorenzo Park will become the "Piazza di San Lorenzo," an aesthetic

contemporary arts and crafts marketplace. The public is invited to enjoy inspirational art installations, musical performances, great food and free art activities for the whole family. Admission is free.

The River Arts Festival activities do a whole lot more than just entertain (although there's a LOT of entertainment this year). Beyond high quality arts displayed and for sale, this year's art activities, installations of sculptural artworks, and artist's demonstrations provide a free, exciting and inspiring education for all ages.

Kathleen Crocetti, local artist and long time teacher at Mission Hill Middle School, involves her media students in timely and profound projects throughout the year. Over the last several months, her students have been involved in the 350 Project, dedicated to lowering the upper limit of CO2 in our atmosphere to 350.

They are involved in an international campaign to unite people and organizations all over the world to help fight global warming. But 350 is more than a number--it's a symbol of where we need to head as a planet. www.350.org The students have hand designed and painted over 100 flags, made from recycled Russian flour sacks, which will fly over the San Lorenzo River (on the downtown pedestrian bridge) during the Festival.



Tom Killion's "Bolinas Ridge Sunset"

Kathleen says, "We are having a great deal of fun while being globally conscious."

The Art Activity space will have eight different "stations" happening all day long over both Saturday and Sunday. There are creative and educational activities for young and old. Several of the organizations hosting activity tables are promoting education about local flora and fauna through creative artistic activities: California State Parks and the Creative Reuse Project both lead the way creating sea and river creatures from recycled materials. The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History will have a "hands-on" touch table.

About ten local artists will be demonstrating their process in creating their work, from woodcut block printing (Artist Bridget Henry — www.BridgetMaryHenry.com) to tooling, shaping copper to form weathervanes (Thomas Nawrocki, master weathervane maker, www.WestCoastWeatherVanes.com)

River Arts Festival

May 16 & 17, 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
www.RiverArtsFestival.com

River Arts Festival Features: Live demonstrations of artists working in different mediums give insight into various

artistic processes: such as glass blowing, metal work, ceramics, painting, etc.

Art Installations by Local Sculptors: 80+ of the West Coast's best artists will exhibit and sell their original contemporary fine art and crafts.

Art Activities / Art Stations: For children and adults, lead by professional artists. Education through Art; excitement abounds! Engage in a hands-on creative experience.

Kinetic Art Cruz: Sunday, 10 a.m. starts on Pacific Avenue. Wild, human-powered vehicle artfully decorated, designed by young and old!

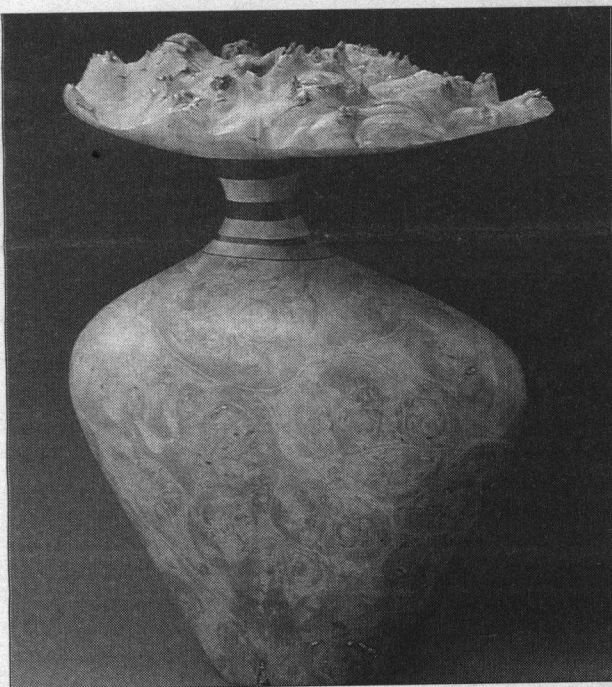
Food Court around the Piazza: Serving savory selections of snacks, coffee, tea, smoothies, and desserts. Gourmet food is available in the Wine Garden.

Wine Garden: Sample local wines & enjoy gourmet foods

Spectacular Musical Performances: A showcase of the wealth of our local talent on the Duck Island and River Arts Wine Garden stages.

Enchanting Troubadours: Strolling through the marketplace throughout the festival.

San Lorenzo River: Learn about the ecology of the river and plans for its future. ■



Tom Killion_Bolinas Ridge Sunset

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