

Coastal Cleanup expected to draw large crowds in West County

By Chris Treadway

West County Times

Article Launched: 09/17/2008 05:08:44 PM PDT

The International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday is a chance to join volunteers at area shoreline sites as part of the largest volunteer event of its kind in the world.

According to sponsoring organization Ocean Conservancy, 378,000 volunteers from 76 countries and 45 states took part last year, clearing 6 million pounds of garbage from oceans and waterways.

In the East Bay, there are many cleanup events along the shoreline of San Francisco Bay and the Carquinez Strait, as well as at Del Valle Lake in Livermore and a creek in Oakley and Brentwood.

"I expect we're going to have a larger turnout even than last year," said Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, whose office co-sponsors a shoreline and marshland cleanup effort fanning from Marina Bay in Richmond. "We've got 100 kids from (Richmond-based education program) Making Waves."

Anyone interested in participating should wear old clothes, sturdy shoes and work gloves, and bring a refillable water bottle.

Show up at any of the following sites:

Richmond

The Marina Bay Beach cleanup is from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at Shimada Friendship Park at the end of Marina Bay Parkway. A free barbecue follows at noon.

Point Pinole Regional Shoreline on Giant Highway, 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Point Isabel Regional Shoreline, 8:30 a.m. to noon, meet at the parking lot at the end of Rydin Road off Central Avenue in Richmond.

Pinole

Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. for the event at Bay Front Park at the end of Tennent Avenue. Supplies will be provided, and a barbecue follows at noon. Transportation will be available from the Senior Center and Fernandez Park to the park.

Albany

Meet at the foot of Buchanan Street next to Golden Gate Fields racetrack. Cleanup is from 9 a.m. to noon. Snacks will be provided.

Volunteers will meet at Talbot Avenue by El Cerrito Plaza along Cerrito Creek at the Albany-El Cerrito border for a creek cleanup and natural history walk. Space is limited, and preregistration is required for this site by contacting Martha Berthelsen at the Watershed Project, 510-665-3689 or martha@thewatershedproject.org.

Crockett

Meet at Eckley Pier at the Bull Valley Staging Area on Carquinez Scenic Drive just east of Crockett. The event is from 9 a.m. to noon. Snacks will be provided and a barbecue will follow.

Rodeo

Meet at Lone Tree Point at the end of Pacific Avenue in Rodeo. Cleanup is from 9 a.m. to noon. Snacks will be provided and a barbecue will follow.

Martinez

Meet at Martinez Regional Shoreline at the north end of Ferry Street. Cleanup is between 8:30 a.m. and noon.

Brentwood and Oakley

Cleanups along portions of Marsh Creek will be organized by the Brentwood and Oakley recreation departments between 9 and 11 a.m., followed by picnics. Preregistration information can be viewed at www.FOMCW.org.

To register or get details for the Martinez, Livermore, Pinole, Rodeo, Crockett and Point Pinole events, call Kathleen Fusek at the East Bay Regional Park District, 510-544-2515.

To register or get details for the Albany, Point Isabel and Shimada Park events, contact Martha Berthelsen at the Watershed Project, 510-665-3689 or martha@thewatershedproject.org.

Reach Chris Treadway at 510-262-2784 or ctreadway@bayareanewsgroup.com. Staff writer Denis Cuff contributed to this story.