



## For the good of the planet

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Hi-Desert Star

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YUCCA VALLEY — “Welcome to Earth Day 2011!”



Naturalists Mark Wheeler and Stefanie Ritter collected 84 species of local wildflowers for the Hi-Desert Nature Museum’s exhibit. (Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star)

Yucca Valley Mayor George Huntington opened Saturday’s festivities at the community center and Hi-Desert Nature Museum. The annual event is dedicated to protecting and preserving our home world.

“Earth Day reflects on the dependence that exists among human beings, other living species, and the planet we all inhabit,” Huntington said.

Earth Day was created in 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, “to inspire awareness and appreciation

of the earth’s natural environment.”

Today, “it is celebrated in more than 175 countries and by more than 500 million people,” the mayor told the happy crowd. “You are part of those 500 million.”

And while the event was filled with music and fun, its higher purpose was always clear.

“As you wonder through the



Abigail Aubchon of Yucca Valley learns how to make a grass head sprouting planter at the Mojave Desert and Mountain Recycling Authority’s Master Composters craft booth. (Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star)

booths and exhibits today, you will be informed, educated and entertained by a vast array of efforts aimed at taking care of the planet,” Huntington remarked. “Learn from the wealth of knowledge these people have, and put what you learn into practice when and wherever you can for the good of the planet.”



Desert Wind Power brought examples of its local generation turbines.  
(Rebecca Unger Hi-Desert Star)



Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Junior Docent Sam O’Connell helps Colton Willis of Yucca Valley make friends with Rosie the Rosy Boa. (Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star)





“Delicious!” crooned Carol Ann Stumpf of La Quinta as she bit into an Earthwise Farms organic strawberry. (Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star)



Ritmo Loco’s Afro-Cuban jazz quintet was one of the eclectic entertainers who filled the air with music all Earth Day long. (Rebecca Unger, Hi-Desert Star)