



On Earth Day, it's easy being green

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By Leslie Shaw Hi-Desert Star



Joann Dickerson displays her handmade crafts including her adorable kitten beanbags. She plans to be a vendor at Grubstake Days in May.

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YUCCA VALLEY — Many of the Hi-Desert Nature Museum events are geared to entertain children, but Earth Day's appeal was to the whole family.

The Saturday event played host to several conservation associations, which joined in the Earth Day fun by provided turtles and snakes for petting, along with educational literature and displays.



The Southern California Desert Video Astronomers set up two solar telescopes, fascinating visitors with views of both the corona of the sun and the sun spots on the surface.

Vendor booths attracted browsers and buyers. Elizabeth Green was showing her iridescent gourds, Valerie Davis displayed mandalas, masks and textured paintings and ceramics artist and rockhound John Greenfield showed off his textural creations and a selection of decorative minerals. Joann Dickerson displayed her handmade fabric creations.

Elizabeth Green has been a vendor at the Earth Day celebration for five years, “It is a nice mix of the town and it’s great that the mayor introduces the event.”

MazAmar Creations not only sold ceramic bowls, it was providing information about the upcoming Empty Bowls fundraiser to benefit the American Food Bank. From 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at the Red Arrow Gallery in Joshua Tree, everyone is invited to make a minimum \$15 donation for soup-filled bowls and bread. “People get to pick the bowl of their choice with the soup of their choice and all the proceeds go to the food bank,” Amara Alban, co-owner of MazAmar Creations, said.

Natural Sisters Cafe provided wholesome pastries, sandwiches and other appetizing goodss for sale.

This year’s entertainment included the band Vela, the Star Twirlers square dancers, the Rizorchestra Jazz Trio, the Strawberry Butterfly Belly Dancers and concluded with the popular Shadow Mountain Band.

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