

## MAKE EARTH DAY A BEACH DAY

**Unearth the environmental artist within**

By Sam Mandell, Bolinas

For the fourth year and counting, environmental artist Zach Pine will celebrate Earth Day on Stinson Beach by helping others explore and examine nature through creating sculptures and other artwork with natural materials. The occasion is one of Pine's many group art-making events.

"I want to impart a sense of discovered knowledge, to release creative energy, to arouse a sense of delight in nature, and to inspire collective action on behalf of the environment," Pine told *The Citizen*. One of his most important goals of the Earth Day event is to offer an inspiring model to show the power of working together to effect change. "Environmental action must be collective, not only individual," he said.

Pine's environmental work is not confined to one day - it is a year-round job for the Berkeley artist. His work with natural creation takes on two forms, group art-

event site was easy. Growing up in the Bay Area, he spent time there as a child, and as an adult he returns to make many of his solo nature sculptures there. "In the process of doing so I've reiterated and deepened my early sense of wonder about nature and a primal sense of connection to place. Sharing that experience with others in the same place seems particularly fitting to me," he said.

Pine said he's drawn to the event site because, unlike most of Stinson Beach, the extreme south end is very rich in terms of terrain and natural materials to both use and inspire. "I'm especially drawn to the rocks there, but there's also lots of driftwood, seaweed, shells, feathers and more," he said.

Pine is grateful for the consequences of inspiring others to care for the environment, but he finds the results of such events gratifying on a personal level as well. "One of the great satisfactions in my



**ALL ARE WELCOME** to attend and participate in the Earth Day event. "I'm not choosy!" Zach Pine says of those whom he aims to inspire. "I get great satisfaction from inspiring children, since they have so much potential to influence the future. But I also get a special thrill from 'unsuspecting' adults - those who happen to encounter me or my work by chance." Image: Muir Beach residents Leah Joy and Patrick Numair with the beach angel they created with Zach on Earth Day 2005. (Photo by Zach Pine)

making events like the Earth Day celebration and the solo sculptures he creates at other times.

"My solo work forms an important foundation for my environmentalism," he said. "Through exploring and connecting closely with nature, I deepen my commitment to it. And because of the ephemeral and fragile quality of my artwork, I get to practice working with unpredictability and adversity. That special state of mind is a source of strength that I call upon in all my pursuits."

Pine's natural art endeavors are intended to communicate connections with nature. He photographs and exhibits his solo work. "I get to spread my sense of connection with nature, and that special state of mind as well," he said.

But occasions like the Earth Day celebration give Pine an added bonus. "I'm happy to know that my efforts are multiplied in these collaborative events," he said. "Sometimes the environmental impact is very immediate, for example, when a group removes invasive plants and then uses the debris as an 'art material.' Sometimes the impact is less immediate, such as when a participant gets particularly interested in the materials or the site, thus offering me an opportunity to engage in didactic environmental education."

Pine said choosing Stinson Beach as the

work is that I hear from people about how they have been inspired, sometimes in unexpected ways," he said.

At its heart, the Earth Day event is a simple concept. However, Pine calls planning and carrying it out "a complex dance." In advance, he completes a permit process with the National Park Service, in concert with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. He also does extensive work to publicize the event.

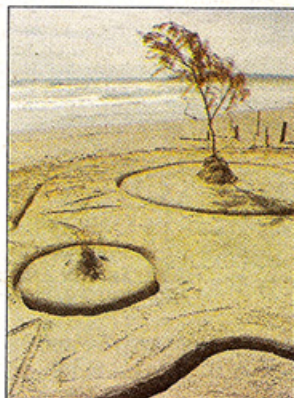
"During the event, my role is to fuel creative expression, collaboration, celebration, and connection with the environment," Pine said. "I count on my 'regulars' to add the same fuel to the event as they focus on newcomers." Afterward, Pine creates a web-based report and photo gallery, which he said, serves to strengthen the experience for all the participants as well as those who are not able to make it.

Environmental artist Zach Pine will host his fourth annual participatory Earth Day celebration at Stinson Beach on Saturday, April 19. All are invited to drop in between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.; south end of Stinson Beach; free. [Naturesculpture.com](http://Naturesculpture.com)

*Sixteen-year-old Tamalpais High School junior Sam Mandell is a violinist, hiker and avid reader. She intends to pursue journalism in college and hopes to become a reporter. She lives in Bolinas.*



**MERRICK ALES** WAS INSPIRED to fling himself in a back flip next to this rock sculpture he created in 2005 on Earth Day at Stinson Beach. (Photo by Zach Pine)



**A FALLEN BRANCH**, twigs, and driftwood were "planted" in the sand and made part of a landscape created spontaneously by Pine's Earth Day celebrants in 2005. (Photo by Zach Pine)