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Events planned to celebrate Earth Day

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Twitty Park, located on either side of Sea Island Road on the east side of the intersection with Frederica Road, will play host to Earth Day events.

Bobby Haven/The Brunswick News

Earth Day and the three days following it will be busy for Rachael Thompson and the team at Glynn Environmental Coalition.

Five events are planned to celebrate Earth Day in four days, ranging from a pizzeria fundraiser to a centennial celebration for a local park.

Thompson, the coalition's executive director, said when she came on board six years ago at the coalition she wanted to reinvigorate the local energy around Earth Day.



"At that time, it seemed like the enthusiasm had dropped off a bit from what it once was," she said, noting that Earth Day events were part of the foundation for how Glynn Environmental Coalition was launched in 1990.

This year, the celebration of Earth Day has spread and other organizations like Tidelands Nature Center and Keep Golden Isles Beautiful are in on the action.

"What I'm excited about is that this year... other organizations are celebrating with us," Thompson said.

The celebration will highlight the need for public spaces and the Public Trust Doctrine that protects public land for use by everyone.

TWITTY PARK

To kick off events, the coalition is hosting a ribbon cutting to celebrate the 100th year of Twitty Park on St. Simons Island. Twitty Park is near where Sea Island and Frederica roads intersect and has been the focus of an effort by the coalition and others in the past several years to ensure it remains a park for public use.

T.L. Cain deeded the property to Glynn County in 1924 for use as a public park and for access to Sea Island.

The event will feature a small ceremony honoring the history of the park with light refreshments. Guests are invited to bring their own chairs.

The event is from 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, at Twitty Park. Parking is available at 501 Sea Island Road.

To RSVP, go to GlynnEnvironmental.org/EarthDay and click on the event's listing.

YOGA IN THE PARK

The next day, people can connect with nature at the park as yoga instructor Jen Hatcher hosts Yoga in the Park under the iconic live oaks at Twitty Park.

The hour-and-a-half event begins at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 21. The yoga session is 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., with refreshments and time to mingle after the session.

To RSVP, go to GlynnEnvironmentalCoalition.org/EarthDay and click on the Yoga in the park listing.

EAT FOR A CAUSE

Eat for a Cause is celebrating its fifth year as an Earth Day event. Thompson said it began during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 as a way to raise money for the nonprofit.

This year's event will be held 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday, April 22, at Broomelli Boys Pizzeria, 706 Scranton Road.

The restaurant will donate 10% of proceeds taken in all that day to the Glynn Environmental Coalition.



"I always tell people, it's the tastiest way to give back," Thompson said.

EARTH DAY FILM SCREENING

Also on Monday, April 22, the coalition will host a showing of "Public Trust," a film about the fight for America's public lands, at the Ritz Theatre, 1530 Newcastle Street in downtown Brunswick.

The film looks at threats to public lands in America from development to climate change and other factors.

Thompson said while much of the film focuses on public lands in the Western U.S., places like Cumberland Island, the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge and smaller places like Twitty Park face many of the same threats.

The film begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 22.

To RSVP, go to GlynnEnvironmental.org/EarthDay and click on the event's listing.

GOLDEN ISLES COASTAL RESILIENCE

The coalition and other organizations will host a conversation on April 23 with residents about building a more just, equitable and climate-resilient community, Thompson said.

The conversation will inform priorities for how organizations like Glynn Environmental Coalition and others address resiliency challenges posed by climate change, sea-level rise and other things.

Reserving space at the event, which will be at College of Coastal Georgia's Stembler Theater, is strongly encouraged by going online and visiting bit.ly/gi-0424.

Thompson said the event will feature door prizes, refreshments and plenty of community dialogue.

"We hope people will bring their families because resiliency affects everyone," she said.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Keep Golden Isles Beautiful is celebrating Earth Day with its annual Electronics Recycling and More event from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday April 20, at Glynn Place Mall in Brunswick.

A \$5 per automobile donation is suggested. When people arrive, they must stay in their vehicle. Volunteers will unload the electronics, scrap metal, textiles, batteries and more, all of which will be recycled instead of deposited in a landfill.

EARTH DAY AT THE BEACH

Tidelands Nature Center on Jekyll Island will celebrate Earth Day with a guided walk on the beach where participants will learn about what they see at low tide, how the tides and sand dunes shift and change over time and how sand moves along barrier islands.

Along the way, participants are encouraged to pick up any trash they may find on the beach.

The walk will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 19.

To sign up for the walk, call 912-635-5032, or send an email to MS55951@uga.edu.



Michael Hall