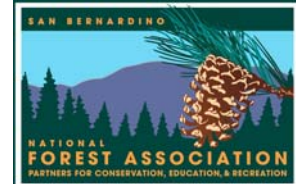


San Bernardino National Forest Association Launches its Bluegrass, Bluejeans & Beyond Fund Raiser in Living Green



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The San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) believes that bluegrass is the new green . . . in fact, the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF), the backdrop, home and venue of the 2009 Bluegrass, Bluejeans and Beyond music festival and fund raiser, is living green and going “greener” as the SBNFA is raising awareness and funds for its priority mission of restoring the burn areas on the SBNF from the 2003 and 2007 wildfires. Funds will also benefit SBNFA outreach conservation programs. Forest Aid is a partnership initiative with the SBNFA, U.S. Forest Service and LA-based TreePeople leading one of the largest volunteer-based tree planting programs in Southern California. Over 20,000 native seedlings will be planted during the 2009 spring season; continuing year two in the 2010 spring.

The 2009 fund raising date is Saturday, July 25, from 10am to 10pm in a festival format at the Big Bear Discovery Center featuring family-oriented fun and, what else . . . green music from such great Irish roots bands as The Black Irish, Sligo Rags, and local Big Bear band, Wake the Bard. Other bands joining their green partners on stage at the Discovery Center Amphitheater will be Scott Gates, Nathan McEuen and Chuck Hailes, Silverado Bluegrass; last year’s breakout band of SBNF forest rangers, The Ramblin’ Rangers, and a tribute to the “Man in Black”. After all, green is the new black; to that end, this year’s event will feature two shows; a Johnny Cash Bluegrass Tribute and the Johnny Cash Vegas Tribute of the “Man in Black”; closing the fund raiser with his legendary hits and special tribute guests.

"Coldwell Banker and The Tim Wood Group are returning for their 4th year as presenting sponsor of our Amphitheater program," said Sarah Miggins, SBNFA executive director, "they have been so steadfast in their support that we're excited to expand our relationship this year to include our Bluegrassfest. And, in doing so, we welcome The Lighthouse Project as an organization Music in the Mountains will support to benefit their Peace Gardens in the Big Bear elementary schools. Through this program, local school children, many who believe food comes from cans, will be able to experience growing their own fruits and vegetables while learning about their nutritional value and the wonders of nature."

Living green means holding the monetary green to its original levels; ticket prices will remain the same as the inaugural 2008 event; \$10 day pass for adults and teens (13-17) from 10am to 5pm; \$35 for adult all-day pass; \$25 for teen all-day pass; 10am to 10pm; and a VIP all-day pass for \$55 for all ages. VIP amenities include best in the “house, or forest as it were” seating; on-site parking and access to VIP hospitality area next to stage. Tickets go on sale May 15, 2009 online at SBNFA.org and at the Discovery Center Adventure Outpost. MasterCard and Visa are accepted; ticket sales are final.

For more green living, the festival will start at the Northwoods Resort in the Big Bear Village on Friday, July 24, at 7:00 pm featuring Irish band, Sligo Rags, performing some of the best Irish bluegrass in Northwoods’ outdoor amphitheater. Admission is free. Preferred seating will be available to Northwoods’ guests and Bluegrass, Bluejeans and Beyond ticket holders on a first-

come basis (please present ticket for access). Stillwell's Restaurant will be serving food and bar drinks in the outdoor space. For hotel-style lodging, check out Northwood's Living Green Bluegrass Pak, featuring 2-night hotel accommodations (Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25, respectively), all-day passes and complimentary shuttle to the event on Saturday, July 25, and access to the Friday night preview event. For more information, please visit northwoodsresort.com. Northwoods Resort is the official hotel partner of the Bluegrass, Bluejeans and Beyond music festival and fund raiser.

The event schedule includes opening gates at 10:00 am for family-oriented programs and crafts, a vendor showcase, themed "Gateway to the Great Green Outdoors and Music", Bear Valley historical renditions on the Discovery Center stage while Wake the Bard will kick off the music at 11:30 am. Featured bands will perform every hour through 10:00 pm. Bill Knicks café will feature festival-type food from 11am to 8:30 pm. A beer, wine and margarita bar will be available for purchase along with Flo's fun festival treats and snacks. Visit SBNFA.org for the music schedule and more festival information.

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About Forest Aid: The United States Forest Service, the San Bernardino National Forest Association and TreePeople are partnering to plant over 32,000 seedlings in 2009 to help rebuild a healthy San Bernardino National Forest. This partnership is based on a simple belief: That a single person planting a single tree can help revitalize fire-damaged areas, effect climate change, clean the air, capture rainwater and build a sense of community. Forest Aid's mission is to replant and revitalize the mountains of Southern California.

About the San Bernardino National Forest Association: The San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) founded in 1993 is a key education, conservation and recreation nonprofit partner to the U.S. Forest Service creating partnerships that bridge the gap between forest visitors and nature through environmental interpretive programming and initiatives that promote forest appreciation and restoration. The SBNFA offers outdoor recreational programs that foster respect for the forest, the environment and stewardship, while providing hands-on activities for all ages. For more information call (909) 382-2796 or visit www.sbnfa.org.

About The Lighthouse Project: The Lighthouse Project will create in Big Bear a child honoring community in which respect for one another, supportive relationships and our community values can be observed and felt throughout our community. The mission of the Lighthouse is to work collaboratively with other agencies, groups, organizations and individuals to create a community in which all members:

- Have a sense of worth and belonging
- Take responsibility for themselves, each other, and all children
- View children as assets, and use the positive language of asset building in personal and professional settings
- Are further inspired to achieve excellence in all endeavors

