

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cannon Beach Chamber of Commerce
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**CANNON BEACH WELCOMES TUFTED PUFFINS BACK TO
HAYSTACK ROCK**

“TWELVE DAYS OF EARTH DAY” CELEBRATION BEGINS THURSDAY, APRIL 22ND

In a twelve day event beginning on Earth Day, the city of Cannon Beach will celebrate the return of the tufted puffins. Visitors and residents alike can learn about these special birds from Haystack Rock Awareness Program volunteers, who will set-up puffin-viewing stations on the beach as conditions allow throughout the festival days.

On the morning of Thursday, April 22nd school children who have been studying the puffins will assemble on the beach in front of Haystack Rock carrying banners to welcome home our beloved puffin colony. Haystack Rock is a designated Oregon Marine Garden and part of the Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge. In the afternoon Haystack Rock Awareness Program volunteers will share their knowledge about the puffins with all beach-goers.

The Clatsop Nehalem tribe will add their energy to the festivities with an invocation on Friday, April 23rd, before the Gaylord Nelson Award is given to a community member who has most benefited the environment of Cannon Beach. A community potluck will follow, along with a talk on tufted puffins by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Shawn Stephensen.

Saturday’s events include Face Painting, a “Pets and People” Walking Parade, and a Street Fair where 15 different environmental groups will share ideas. Talks by local garden experts Mary Blake and Kristin Frost-Albrecht will follow in the afternoon, and the North Coast Land Conservancy will lead walks and talks throughout the day. Local shops and galleries will hold receptions and raffles, sell plant starts, and there will be a special show of local artists working in found or reclaimed materials.



Bronze Tufted Puffins by Georgia Gerber

A free yoga class celebrating the life-giving power of the sun starts Sunday’s activities, with an exploration of the Cannon Beach Trail that afternoon. On Tuesday, April 27th, Stiv Wilson of the Surfrider Foundation, recently returned from visiting the Atlantic Gyre, will present on marine plastic debris.

Friday, April 30th kicks off **Spring Unveiling**, a 3 day celebration of the arts in Cannon Beach. Galleries will show new works of art by local, regional and national artists, sprinkled with demonstrations and receptions.