

DE 4/22/08

# Green Living Festival to include Earth Day music, workshops

BY ELLI FANNING  
Gazette Reporter

The earth's atmosphere is not expected to cooperate with Earth Day today.

A steady rain may fall on a host of Earth Day events being held from Skidmore College to the Pine Bush Preserve, according to the National Weather Service. The wet weather may draw more people to the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, where the Citizens Environmental Coalition will present a Green Living Festival that includes music and tips on "green living," said organizer

Matthew Shapiro. "The goal is to empower people by showing them what they can do every day to create a healthy environment and a toxic free future," Shapiro said.

Tickets to the festival cost \$22 and will buy access to seven music bands and eight environmental health workshops from noon to 11 p.m., Shapiro said.

The workshop topics range from solar power to safe lawn care.

Earth Day began in the early 1970s and has helped promote responsible environmental stewardship, said John Stouffer, legislative

director for the Atlantic Chapter of Sierra Club. The Sierra Club will have a booth at the environmental festival at the plaza Convention Center.

"Earth Day is a day for people to rally around and express their support for environmental protection. It gives people an opportunity to go out and do their part," Stouffer said.

At 9 a.m. at the New Karner Road headquarters of the Pine Bush Preserve Commission, volunteers will gather for a trail cleanup effort.

A separate group will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the traffic circle at the

University of Albany for a tour of old roads in the Pine Bush.

"Wear your rain coat and bring your smile," said Christopher Hawver, director of the commission.

National Weather Service meteorologist Joe Villani predicted "a good soaking rain" that would begin this morning and last until Sunday afternoon.

The rain comes after a four-week dry spell that has left water levels lower than normal and prompted early brush fire warnings.

"Once we dry out next week and get some rain, everything

should sprout out," Villani said. Skidmore College will host the Earth Day Music Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the school's South Park.

The state's Thacher Park has scheduled a roadside cleanup that will begin at 9 a.m. at Hop Field.

The Mabec Farm and Historic Site has planned an Earth Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. The farm, located off Route 55 in Rotterdam, will feature nature walks.

Members of the Hudson Crossing bi-county educational park in Schuylerville will join hundreds of other volunteers up and down the

Hudson River today for the Great River Sweep.

Scenic Hudson, the Poughkeepsie-based environmental organization, is sponsoring the Earth Day river bank clean up effort.

Volunteers will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Champlain Canal Lock 5 parking lot off Route 4, just north of Schuylerville. More information is available from Marlene Bissell at 859-1462.

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## COMING TOMORROW

The newly formed Saratoga Stampede Rugby Club is ready to host its first home match in Saratoga Springs.

## BUDGET SHOWDOWN

Gov. George Pataki and the state Legislature appear headed for a showdown over his vetoes of \$2.9 billion in the Legislature-passed budget. **B5**

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