



COUNTY OF LAKE

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ECOARTS: LAKE COUNTY SCULPTURE WALK OPENS WITH RECEPTION ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008

Middletown, CA – The sixth-annual *EcoArts*: Lake County Sculpture Walk, a five-month exhibit of sculptures “in dialog with nature,” will hold an opening reception for the 2008 installation on Sunday, June 8, 2008, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

EcoArts: Lake County Sculpture Walk, is a five-month exhibit of sculptures at the 107-acre Middletown Trailside Nature Preserve County Park, 21435 Dry Creek Cutoff/Hwy 175, in Middletown. Works of art by local, Bay Area, and national artists, who have given their time and material to create a public art installation, will be on display from June through October, 2008. The park is open from dawn to dusk every day and admission is free. EcoArts of Lake County also offers free docent-guided tours of the art installation to schools and youth organizations by reservation.

EcoArts of Lake County is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting visual art, visual art education, and ecologic stewardship to the public and visitors of Lake County, in Northern California.

Karen Turcotte, executive director of EcoArts of Lake County said that since the program’s inception in 2003, the exhibit has developed a reputation among curators, sculptors, and art lovers throughout Lake County and the Bay Area as an impressive cultural event.

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Nationally renowned fiber artist Sheila O'Hara is participating in the program this year. According to Turcotte, O'Hara and her students have created a work that is both beautiful and poignant. Lake County educational groups and schools participating this year include Middletown High School, Coyote Valley Elementary, and Redwood Children's Services.

Middletown Trailside Nature Preserve County Park

Middletown Trailside Nature Preserve County Park is a scenic 107-acre county park and home to a mix of oak, pine, manzanita and madrone. The preserve is located approximately 20 minutes north of Calistoga and accessed from Highway 29 to State Route 175 to Dry Creek Cutoff. The grounds are flat, containing numerous vernal pools and a small pond. Ponderosa pine and moss-laden oak groves are separated by grasslands sprinkled liberally with wildflowers, especially in the spring. The park is open year-round from dawn until dusk. Turcotte said, it "is a great place to visit and enjoy the artwork, spend quality time with families, and take advantage of the picnicking amenities scattered throughout the park."

The central trail at Middletown Trailside Nature Preserve County Park has been designated for *EcoArts: Lake County Sculpture Walk*. This trail is approximately 3/8th mile long and meanders to a picnic area with large oaks shading half a dozen tables. Temperatures can be quite warm in the summer, so visitors are advised to dress accordingly and pack water as no water is available at the preserve. Tall, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Located in beautiful Northern California, Lake County is just two hours by car from the San Francisco Bay Area, the Sacramento Valley, and the Pacific Coast. Lake County is home to Clear Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake in California and possibly the oldest lake on the continent. Visitors to Lake County experience the state's cleanest air basin, spectacular scenic beauty, fine wines, headliner concerts, and unsurpassed recreational opportunities – from hiking, biking, golf, and off-road adventures to boating, fishing, kayaking, birding, and even rockhounding. The local area code is 707. For visitor information, contact the Lake County Visitor Information Center at (800) 525-3743 or www.lakecounty.com.

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