



NEWS RELEASE

www.marincounty.org/news

MARIN COUNTY
PARKS
PRESERVATION · RECREATION



Contact:

Sam Abercrombie

Ring Mountain Stewardship
Coordinator
Marin County Parks

Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 260
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 2128 T
415 473 2495 TTY
sabcrombie@marincounty.org
www.marincountyparks.org

For Immediate Release

November 23, 2011

Marin County Parks and Girl Scouts Provide Marin Families with Chance to Harvest Christmas Trees on Ring Mountain *Restore Habitat, Get a Christmas tree*

San Rafael, CA - Marin County families will not have to venture far to harvest their own Christmas tree this year. On Saturday, December 3, 2011, Marin County Parks invites the public to pick out, cut down and take home a holiday tree from the Ring Mountain preserve in Tiburon. From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. volunteers can participate in the holiday habitat restoration event which will remove invasive pine trees from the preserve. Parks staff will assist families as they use maps to locate and pick out a pine tree from the preserve before cutting it down. Pre-cut trees will also be available so that no one goes away empty handed. In addition, two local Girl Scout Troops from San Rafael will help volunteers make and decorate their own garlands and wreaths from greens harvested from the preserve. The Girl Scouts will provide decorations at their holiday swag-making booth.

Pine trees are an invasive species on Ring Mountain, and in recent years have spread rapidly into new, sensitive habitats, threatening native ecosystems. Ring Mountain is home to serpentine grasslands, a threatened ecosystem type that provides habitat to some of the rarest plants in the world, including the Tiburon Mariposa Lily, which occurs nowhere else on earth. Marin County Parks Director Linda Dahl noted that "because pine trees are invading the preserve and threatening native habitats, this event will serve as both an important restoration project as well as a fun holiday event for the whole family."

This is an exceptional event in that it will allow access to areas of the preserve normally off-limits to the public. Furthermore, it is not normally permissible to remove anything (vegetation or otherwise) from the preserve. Linda Dahl warns that "these trees have been growing in the wild, not in a Christmas tree lot, and therefore come in all shapes and sizes." Many of the trees could serve as a terrific addition to holiday decorations, but may not necessarily replace a traditional holiday tree.

Participants should dress in layers and wear clothing that is appropriate for hiking through scrub in difficult terrain. The trees are scattered throughout the preserve, and may be difficult to access. Refreshments, tools and interpretive talks will be provided. For more information, contact Ring Mountain Stewardship Coordinator Sam Abercrombie at SAbercrombie@marincouny.org. Heavy rains may cancel. Please call (415) 473-2128 on the morning of December 3 to hear a recorded message if the event is cancelled.

###