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Think Green at Marvin's

Organic garden store hosts Earth Day event on Saturday

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Rumpke's mascot, Binny, stopped in for a visit to help teach about recycling at last year's Earth Day event at Marvin Gardens. (Credit: Provided)

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22.

Founded in 1970 to raise awareness about the effects of humans (via automobiles and industry) on the environment, Earth Day is now recognized in nearly 200 countries around the world, according to the Earth Day Network (www.earthday.net).

ORGANIC ACTIVISM

Several events are scheduled locally to celebrate the occasion - including one this Saturday, at Marvin's Organic Gardens in Lebanon.

Dubbed "thinkGreen," the event will feature food from restaurants such as the environmentally friendly Veg Head, Rumpke representatives offering information about recycling, and a company called Green Bird selling recycled birdhouses among other products. There will also be music and a petting zoo with animals from Sunrock Farms.

Audrey Keyes, who helps run the full-service nursery/landscape design company with her husband, brother and company namesake father, says the event is intended to "bring local resources together and help educate our community."

"We saw that downtown Cincinnati has a great event they do every year with Earth Day, and we wanted to do something on the northern end of town, up in Lebanon. It doesn't even matter how many events are going on in Cincinnati; all of it helps to educate," Keyes says. "The whole idea of it is to bring together these people in our area, the Cincinnati area, and get the community to come out and educate them in a fun way. We feel it has to be fun, to be entertaining in some way or people don't respond as well."

HEAL THE WORLD

Keyes believes the eco-friendly message of Earth Day is getting out to people locally, and events such as Saturday's are helping people realize the importance of thinking about the environment.

"Last year, we had probably around 350 people out there for the day. It was a great first-time event, and all of the participants were very happy with the turnout," she says.

"We want people to realize how simple it is to start making those small changes, and that it isn't always expensive to do so because we know that is a big, big thing. People think of organics or eco-friendly type things as being much more expensive, but there are definitely ways you can make some small changes that will make a big impact without spending a lot of money."