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Fun and facts festival

What the world needs is a way to spread the word about the conservation of water and other natural resources that's not only informative, but entertaining as well.

The California-Friendly Gardening Festival on Saturday at the Water Conservation Garden in El Cajon does both.

“Gardening in general is a fun pastime for people, and we show how it can be fun and environmentally friendly, too,” said Elizabeth Ramos, event coordinator. “We want to entice people with the fun and then intrigue them with education.”



TED SALOIS
This little girl at the 2005 California-Friendly Gardening Festival was on a roll.

The second annual festival is a family affair featuring events for adults and children. For kids, there will be a scavenger hunt, face painting and a Great Pumpkin Walk (a variation of musical chairs). Dr. Wilderness (Kevin Barnes) will present a magic show featuring Socrates, an animatronic toucan that makes learning about water conservation fun for children and adults. Winners of a scarecrow contest will be announced at the event.

For adults, there will be lectures on designing with native plants, irrigation, composting and other subjects.

Landscape designers and architects will be giving free, 20-minute consultations to the public. Reservations are needed and can be made by calling (619) 660-0614.

The California-Friendly Gardening Festival is free and open to the public. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 21 at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon.

For more information, call (619) 660-0614 or log on to www.thegarden.org.

—CATHY LUBENSKI