The 11th beaver festival will be a full of surprises. A new time – a new park – and new beavers! Held now in historic Susana park in downtown Martinez, the location is ideal for showing off the street painting of artist Amy G. Hall. A lifelong fan of beavers who enjoys them in her home town of Napa, she was excited by the chance to complete a mural of a beaver pond and the wildlife it benefits. Amy will start the painting the Friday before, and complete it while crowds gather at the event. Children can even create their own designs along side her!

The improved venue has boosted interest in the festival too. More than fifty nature exhibits will make it the largest festival ever. In addition, east coast author Ben Goldfarb will be launching his important new book “Eager: The surprising, secret lives of beavers and why they matter” reading excerpts on stage. The book, published by Chelsea Green, will launch at the end of June but is already creating a stir. Chapter 6 focuses on California, starting and ending with the Martinez beaver story.

Another exciting first, Sarah Koenigsberg’s documentary about beavers and climate change “Beaver Believers” will have its west coast premiere in conjunction with the festival, Thursday evening, June 28 at the Empress theatre in Vallejo. Sarah and her students from Whitman college came to Martinez in 2013, interviewing Worth A Dam president Heidi Perryman, before filming the festival that year. Sarah explores the role beaver damming could play to recover water loss in the west, while devoting cheerful time to the Martinez story as well.

Saturday June 30th the beloved festival in its new venue will still have its familiar charms - an all day musical line-up (including bluegrass and Dixie land), wildlife displays, a nature-themed silent auction, beaver tours and activities for children. This year the first 100 be invited to “build a beaver pond” of their own by collecting wildlife stickers from exhibitors while learning how beavers help other animals. Their efforts will mirror the artist’s beaver pond mural filling up with wildlife as they work.

Perryman says the new venue will be worth getting used to. In addition to being larger, shaded and ideal for the street art, it has the essential benefit of being alongside a new family of beavers living in the creek right by the park.

“The other park served us well for a decade alongside our original beaver habitat” Perryman said “But this new home is ideal for the everything we’ve become. It’s like the beavers showed us the way!”
Where: Susana Park (corner of Estudillo and Susana streets downtown Martinez)
When: June 30th 11:00-4:00
Cost: FREE
More info: www.martinezbeavers.org

For more information contact:

Heidi Perryman (925) 228-3190 mtzbeavers@gmail.com
Amy G. Hall (707) 337-9889 amy@amyghall.com
Ben Goldfarb (914) 960-2066 ben.a.goldfarb@gmail.com
Sarah Koenigsberg 509.529.5543 info@tensegrityproductions.com