

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Monika K. De La Garza – CBBEP (361) 885-6246

Lois Huff – CBBF (361) 882-3439

Earth Day – Bay Day! **Free 🌍 Family 🌍 Fun!**

Corpus Christi, April 17, 2006 – COUNT DOWN TO **Earth Day-Bay Day!** This important Texas Coastal Bend outdoor education and outreach festival happens **Saturday, April 22nd, 10 AM to 5 PM, Cole Park, Corpus Christi, TX.** The Coastal Bend Bays Foundation has organized this exciting event for eight years to encourage citizens to learn more about our bays and estuaries, wetlands, native plants and animals, recycling, conservation and other important environmental issues. The whole family will have loads of action-packed fun - **and best of all, it's FREE!**

Opening Ceremonies begin at 10 AM with an Indian Blessing and Prayer, a *Presentation of Colors* by the Flour Bluff High School NJROTC, the *National Anthem*, performed by The Salvation Army Texas Divisional Lonestar Youth Band, and an *Invocation* in English and Spanish. The Honorable Mayor Henry Garrett will welcome visitors and officially open the event and introduce the 2006 Honorary Chair, Dr. John W. "Wes" Tunnel, Jr. Associate Director, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, who will speak on protecting our environmental treasures.

Earth Day-Bay Day offers the opportunity for people to visit with our many great partners, including over 90 exhibitors, vendors, entertainers, and sponsors. Guests can pick up a copy of this year's breath-taking poster by renowned coastal photographer, Dr. Juan Bahamon. The poster features an amazing Roseate Spoonbill in breeding plumage carrying nesting material to build its nest. Dr. Bahamon will be on-hand Saturday to autograph this collectors' poster.

Challenge yourself on the *Climbing Walls*; experience the *G-Force* and *High Strikers*; check out "*Living Off the Grid*" and *Sustainable Energy!* Get up close and personal with snakes and alligators, stroll through "*Ocean in Motion*," touch and learn about some of our own marine creatures. Learn about recycling, household battery disposal, storm water "do's and don'ts", protecting our bays and estuaries, gardening for birds and butterflies, and much, much more. The best part is - It's **FREE, FUN, and EDUCATIONAL!**

Volunteers are welcome and may register by logging onto www.baysfoundation.org, or calling 361-882-3439.

Earth Day-Bay Day goals are:

1. **Education** – Educate the public about bays, estuaries, other native habitats, and the importance of clean air, clean water, and a clean environment.
2. **Conservation** – Urge citizens to become pro-active in their day-to-day lives by recycling, composting, and conserving energy, water, and other resources.
3. **Habitat Protection** – Encourage protection of native habitats (such as sea grasses) by encouraging low- to no-impact outdoor activities such as kayaking, windsurfing, birding, fly-fishing, gardening, and hiking.
4. **Participation** – Encourage our visitors to become active in local groups, such as the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Beautify Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, Sierra Club, SurfRiders, the Outdoor Club, animal rehabilitation groups, Master Naturalists, and Coastal Bend Audubon.

Earth Day-Bay Day 2006 sponsors are the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (top sponsor), PPM Energy, Inc., H-E-B, Nueces River Authority, Cheniere Energy, Inc., City of Corpus Christi Water and Storm Water Departments, Trull Foundation, Valero, Environmental Defense, Port of Corpus Christi Authority, Texas State Aquarium, Lyondell Chemical Company, Coastal Bend Sierra Club, Flint Hills Resources, Naismith Engineering, Art Center of Corpus Christi, Jezebelles at the Art Center, U-STOR and Everest Water.

For more information, visit www.baysfoundation.org or call 361-882-3439.

Earth Day-Bay Day is a project of the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation in partnership with the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program.

Earth Day-Bay Day – Enjoying Our Bays & Habitats Now & Forever.

###