



Media Release

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Contact: Ryan LaFata, 757/728-5328
ryan@hamptoncvb.com
Shelly Ezanno, 757/727-1641
shelly@baydays.com

August 18, 2009

Bay Education Area Returns to 27th Annual Hampton Bay Days!

--Exhibits include Wyland Mobile Learning Center, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation and more--

Hampton, VA- This September 12-13, educate yourself on the value and importance of the Chesapeake Bay by stopping by Hampton Bay Day's Bay Education Area, located in Carousel Park in downtown Hampton. Featuring over 20 booths, the area is great way to learn about environmentalism, conservationism, and one of our area's most important natural resources (and the nation's largest estuary), the Chesapeake Bay. Families will have the opportunity to discover live animal shows, aquatic art workshops, interactive presentations, and children's entertainment all focused on the "Go Green Generation."

This year the fully interactive Wyland Mobile Learning Center returns to Bay Days, helping to inform children on how pollution affects our water. Through a series of small activities, visitors can spin the wheel of (mis)fortune to discover the food web, bring rain down over a polluted city to see the impact on a watershed, divert a flowing river to learn about water management, use a computer model to see changes in a lake region over 200 years, and transform a raindrop in the 30-person on-board theater. Wyland, a world-renowned painter, is also known globally as a sculptor, photographer, writer, SCUBA diver, and marine life conservationist.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will make its presence felt in the Bay Education Area with a display that includes the Bay Oyster, the organization's new skiff boat, as well as the "Test Your Bay Knowledge" game board. Other activities include coloring, a display on how

oysters filter dirty water, and information on oyster gardening. Festival attendees can also hear the latest news regarding pollution's impact on human health, storm water runoff pollution, and more.

New to the Bay Education Area this year is the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, whose mission is to “fund inspired scientific research and innovative educational programs to encourage conservation and best management practices for sustainable marine environments.” Founded by marine biologist and artist Guy Harvey, the organization promotes conservation of marine environments by passing on valuable information to the next guardians of our seas, the children. The foundation will be on site Saturday and Sunday.

The Bay Education Stage, sponsored by the Verizon Foundation, will host a variety of live entertainment throughout the weekend, including Flumpa and Friends LIVE! and the Rainbow Puppets. The Virginia Living Museum will put on a live animal show and there will even be a Magic Show with William Warren's Animal Friends. Other highlights include various storytellers and a Chesapeake Bay Pirate Show and School for Scalliwags.

Other exhibitors in the Bay Education Area this year include Tidewater Oyster Gardeners, the Seaport Foundation, Virginia Marine Science (VIMS), Virginia Natural Gas, Hampton History Museum, WVEC-13 News, Virginia Seafood AREC, TFC Recycling, the Boy Scouts and more. The Pamunkey Indian Reservation will be on-site displaying pottery for sale, in addition to displaying various artifacts. On Sunday only, the Virginia Aquarium will showcase their “Ocean in Motion” mobile aquarium.

Bay Education Area hours are 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 12 and Noon- 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 13. Carousel Park is located at 602 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton, VA 23669. For more information on the 27th annual Hampton Bay Days and the Bay Education Area, check out www.baydays.com or call 757/727-1641. The Bay Education Area is presented by VacationChannels.com.

In 1982, Hampton Bay Days was created as a unique outlet to educate the public on the importance of the Chesapeake Bay in the Hampton Roads region, as well as the rest of Virginia and Maryland. The goal of the festival is to provide an entertaining atmosphere while ultimately serving a greater purpose, highlighting aspects of the Bay and promoting its upkeep and preservation.

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center, is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center and Riverside IMAX® Theater, the Cousteau Society, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, Fort Monroe, award-winning Hampton Coliseum, The American Theatre, among others. Hampton was twice-named All-America City, the nation's oldest and most prominent community recognition award.

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