



Media Release

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Hampton Bay Days Announces Official Virginia Green Event Status

Hampton Bay Days is pleased to announce that it has been named an official Virginia Green Event by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. *Virginia Green Events* are those which have been thoughtfully planned in order to minimize environmental impacts and to help increase environmental awareness.

Located in the heart of Downtown Hampton, The Hampton Bay Days festival is a 3-day, free, public event that focuses on its Foundation's mission – that of promoting conservation of the Chesapeake Bay and its natural resources. As environmental stewards, "we strive to implement strategies that will help us reduce environmental impact and raise 'Green' awareness in the community. Our organization hopes to inspire people to learn more about the Bay and how to preserve the world's waterways, as this important effort involves everyone" said Shelly Ezanno, Hampton Bay Days Executive Director.

The focal point of Hampton Bay Days - the Chesapeake Bay Education Area - highlights the importance of environmental education by providing a wide variety of activities and entertainment, to include: a children's education and entertainment stage, hands-on science and art activities, environmental speakers and informative displays, a recycling contest, a fundraising station for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and more.

This year, Hampton Bay Days will continue to "Go Green" by providing: increased recycling opportunities, eliminating the use of Styrofoam products, minimizing printed materials, using recycled products whenever possible, reducing waste, conserving energy and promoting green activities and festival vendors.

The event will expand its education initiatives with programs that focus on environmental education, natural resource management and conservation of the Chesapeake Bay. In particular, Hampton Bay Days will support the principles of "Go

Green Hampton” by offering solutions-oriented information and programs to Hampton City Schools, including unique learning opportunities and scholarships; public environmental education programs; building partnerships with credible, environmental organizations; supporting higher standards of environmental education; and acting as an environmental resource for the community.

In addition to the Chesapeake Bay Education Area, the festival offers national headline and local entertainment, Arts & Crafts, Fireworks, Seafood, artisans, a Family 5-K Run, Community Lane and a wide variety of fun activities for the whole family.

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