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“Chester the Crab” to honor winners of the first Hampton Bay Days “Estuary Essays”

Barnes and Noble, Hampton Public Library and the Daily Press join together to bring fun summer essay contest about the Chesapeake Bay to Hampton Bay Days

For Release, Hampton, VA, June 28, 2006.....Quick, how many of you can tell me the definition of an Estuary? “We want the children of Hampton Roads to know they live on a fragile estuary that is the under sea nursery for the Atlantic Ocean,” states, “Trudy O'Reilly, executive director, of the Hampton Bay Days Festival.

In 2006, the Hampton Bay Days Festival is launching a pre-festival event, a summer reading and writing program called, “Estuary Essays.” Just in case you are wondering, “an estuary is where rivers meet the sea in shallow, protected bays.

The “Estuary Essays” book list has been developed by the Hampton Library and it includes Awesome Chesapeake: A Kid's Guide to the Bay by David Owen Bell and the charming “Chadwick the Crab” series by Priscilla Cummings and for older readers, Waterman's Boy by Susan Sharpe and Beautiful Swimmers by William Warner.

Children can check-out the books from their neighborhood Hampton libraries or purchase them from Barnes and Noble. Barnes and Nobel, Hampton Coliseum, has a store display of books on the “Estuary Essays” reading list. The Daily Press is providing promotional support and “Chester the Crab” will give the awards.

To enter the “Estuary Essays” contest; children have the option of reading one book or several books from the list to develop the background to write an essay about what they have learned about the Chesapeake Bay. Essay must note the books read and age of the writer. All children under eighteen in the Hampton Roads Area are eligible to enter the contest. Entries will be judged by the Hampton Public Library.

Award winners will receive vouchers for books from Barnes and Noble and be recognized at a special ceremony during Hampton Bay Days. Awards will be presented by the Daily Press “Chester the Crab.” Prizes will be awarded at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, 2006 at the Cousteau Society, 710 Settlers Landing Road, Hampton, VA during the festival.

The “Estuary Essays” book list available at the Hampton Public Library or Barnes and Noble after July 6, 2006. Essay Entries must be submitted to the Hampton Public Library by August 15. Winners will be notified by September 1, 2006.

Teaching children about the Chesapeake Bay is why Bay Days was founded 24 years ago. The Hampton Bay Days Foundation’s mission is to encourage elementary and middle-school children to become stewards of the bay.

Bay Days presents the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay with fun and entertaining arts, crafts and other activities in the “Kid’s Play” Chesapeake Bay Education area with more than 25 groups represented and live children’s entertainment all day on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The festival draws 250,000 people to the working waterfront in downtown Hampton on September 8, 9 and 10.

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2006 Estuary Essays Reading List

Titles owned by the Hampton Public Library are in blue.

For Younger Readers:

By Aiken, Zora/Aiken David

Finding Birds in the Chesapeake Marsh: A Child's First Look

By Bell, David Owen/ Marcy Dunn Ramsey

Awesome Chesapeake: A Kid's Guide to the Bay 15 copies

By Bell, David Owen/ Wharton, Jennifer Heyd

Chesapeake Bay Walk

By Cummings, Priscilla

Chadwick and the Garplegrungen

Chadwick Forever

Chadwick the Crab 1

Chadwick's Wedding 1

Chesapeake 1-2-3 4

Chesapeake ABC

Chesapeake Rainbow

Meet Chadwick and his Chesapeake Bay Friends

By Henry, Kristina/Dombek, Jeff

Sam, the Tale of a Chesapeake Bay Rockfish

By Stearns, Carolyn

Quiet Please- Eaglets Growing

Where Did All the Water Go? 2

For Older Readers:

By Sharpe, Susan

Waterman's Boy 1

By William W. Warner

Beautiful Swimmers 4