

News Release

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24th Hampton Bay Days Celebrates “Working on the Bay”

--Annual Festival highlights the seafood industry and health of the Chesapeake Bay--

Concerts by national recording artist are free at Bay Days

Hampton, Virginia- Join over a quarter of a million festival seekers as they flood the historic streets and scenic waterfront of Downtown Hampton, Virginia this September 8-10, 2006 for the 24th annual Hampton Bay Days. The festival is one of the largest family-oriented celebrations on the East Coast. This year, the festival will include national recording artists, Delbert McClinton, Morris Day & The Time and The Charlie Daniels Band.

On Friday September 8, **Delbert McClinton** will kick off the concert festivities at 8:15 p.m. McClinton just collected his third Grammy in the “Best Contemporary Blues Album” category for *Cost of Living*, his latest release on New West Records. Delbert recently said in A New York Times article, “I think I just became the guy who wouldn’t go away.” Apparently not, as his raucous blend of blues, rockabilly, country, and R& B has elevated him from cult status to mainstream appeal.

Saturday September 9 will feature the presence of legendary funk master Morris Day, best known for his breakout role in the 1980’s cult-rock movie sensation *Purple Rain*. Day’s latest release was the 2004 solo album *It’s About Time*, a combination of live classics such as “The Bird” and “Jungle Love” as well as his own solo hits and newer studio material. **Morris Day & The Time** will light up the night starting at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday September 9.

Country legend and national recording artist **Charlie Daniels** will play Hampton Bay Days at 4:15 p.m., Sunday September 10. Daniels has won numerous awards over his long career, including the Academy of Country Music Pioneer Award 1998 and the Country Music Founding Presidents Award 1980. Daniels is also a two-time Academy of Country Music Award winner and a three-time Country Music Association Award winner.

In addition to all of the great musical entertainment, the 24th annual Hampton

Bay Days festival will also include an indoor juried art show at the Charles Taylor Art Center, over 100 merchandise and craft vendors, military exhibits, a car & motorcycle show, and two full scale carnivals- one for the older crowd and a second for the little ones.

Other weekend activities include the The Abbitt Realty Bay Days 10K race and Saturday night's festivities will conclude with a 10:00 p.m. fireworks display.

The core mission of the festival is environmental education with hands-on activities and interactive presentations that promote the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay and its natural resources and history. This year more than forty Chesapeake Bay educational exhibits, work boats and research vessels will offer hours of free family fun. Children fourteen and under who visit at least ten of the educational booths (with their parents) will receive two free carnival tickets. The Bay Education area is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

During festival weekend, over 35 food vendors will be available throughout the downtown area. Those looking for more conventional dining options can choose one of the many eclectic restaurants that line Queens Way.

The Hampton Bay Days schedule is as follows: Noon-11:00 p.m. on Friday September 8, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Saturday September 9, and Noon- 6:00 p.m. on Sunday September 10. Both festival and musical entertainment admissions are free, though a fee will be charged for all carnival rides, games, and food and beverages.

Parking will be available in the downtown area for \$5.00 per vehicle but it is limited. Non-profit organizations help staff parking lots and proceeds help local charities.

The Fireworks Show is one of the largest in the area will begin at 10:00 p.m. In order to clear the Settlers Landing Bridge for the fireworks, the Harbour Centre Parking Garage and Settlers Landing Road will close at 8:30 p. m., an hour and a half before the 10:00 p.m. show. Folks who arrive after 8:30 p.m. will not be able to drive on Settlers Landing.

More information on the 24th annual Hampton Bay Days can be obtained by calling 757/ 727-1641 or by visiting www.baydays.com. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Hampton Visitor Center at 757/727-1102 or 800/487-8778. For hotel and package information, check out .

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 was, and still is, to provide an

entertaining atmosphere while ultimately serving a greater purpose, highlighting aspects of the Bay and promoting its upkeep and preservation. Each year, a prominent citizen leads the festival as commodore and Senator Paul S. Tribble, Jr, President; Christopher Newport University will start the festivities in 2006. Over the years, Hampton Bay Days has grown into one of the most anticipated festivals of the summer. Over 1,000 hometown volunteers help put on the event each year.

Bay Days was named one of the top three North American festivals for 2003 and 2004 by Events Media and . Bay Days is also listed on as a top event for 2006 on .

About Hampton: Hampton's new 344,000 sq ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area which is partially bordered by Hampton Roads harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. Hampton is nicknamed "Crab Town" because it is home to the first canned crab industry in America, it is the site of America's first seaport and it is the oldest continuous English-speaking settlement in America. It 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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