

Contact: Ryan LaFata 757/728-5328

Trudy O'Reilly 757/727-1132

## **24<sup>th</sup> Hampton Bay Days Celebrates "Working on the Bay"**

--Annual Festival celebrates life on the Chesapeake Bay with focus on Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab this year. Concerts by national recording artists are free and open to the public and feature, Delbert McClinton, Morris Day & The Time and The Charlie Daniels Band.

**Hampton, Virginia**, September 8-10, 2006 marks the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Hampton Bay Days. This year's three day festival is all about crabs, Crab races, Crab Picking Contest, Best Crab Cake Championship and non-stop children's stage entertainment and booths of inter-active fun where kid's play and learn about the Bay. And, there is an Estuary Essay contest where children can win awards by writing about why they care about the Chesapeake Bay. Hampton Bay Days is a festival with a serious purpose, to encourage a spirit of stewardship for the Chesapeake Bay.

What better way to appreciate the Bay then to eat your weight in seafood as you stroll through the ten square block festival and marvel at the creative crafts of over a hundred booths of hand-made jewelry, gifts, and art

Downtown Hampton, established in 1610, is located on the scenic Hampton River and it is the site of England's first port of entry and royal custom's house. The festival is anchored in local lore about the seafood industry and it is one of the largest and most visited family-oriented celebrations on the East Coast. The readers of the Chesapeake Bay Magazine have voted it the Best Waterside Event for 2006.

-More-

One of the biggest reasons to go to Bay Days is that all the great entertainment is free and open to the public. This year, the festival will include national recording artists, Delbert McClinton, Morris Day & The Time and The Charlie Daniels Band and an amazing line up of local and regional rising stars.

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*. Legendary funk master **Morris Day**, best known for his breakout role in the 1980's cult-rock movie sensation *Purple Rain*, will rock the night starting at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday September 9 and followed by a fabulous twenty minute Fireworks display that is one of the best shows in the area.

Country legend and national recording artist **Charlie Daniels** will play Hampton Bay Days at 4:15 p.m., Sunday September 10. Daniels is 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, over 100 merchandise and craft vendors, military exhibits include the Army Challenge inter-active games, 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.

Hours: Friday September 8, Noon – 11:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 9, 10:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M.

Sunday, September 10. Noon – 6 P.M

Downtown Hampton is located mid-point between Williamsburg and Virginia Beach, and can be reached from I-64, exit 267. If you are traveling west from Virginia Beach, after the exit you turn left on to Settlers Landing Road, traveling east after the exit you turn right on to Settlers Landing Road. .

Parking will be available in the downtown area for \$5.00 per vehicle. For a full line up of the Children's Entertainment and the talent showcased on three stages go to or call 757/ 727-1641

-more-

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 .

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 harbor 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.

DIGITAL IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

###