



SARASOTA BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM
Restoring Our Bays

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Attached Photo:

Scott Lupinski and his son Wyatt participated in the Bay Guardian planting at Emerson Point Preserve. Scott is the leader of Boy Scout Troup 111. Photo by Sara Kane

**55 BAY GUARDIAN VOLUNTEERS PLANT HUNDREDS
OF NATIVE PLANTS AT EMERSON POINT PRESERVE**

SARASOTA, FL – A group of 55 adult and youth volunteers with the Bay Guardians planted hundreds of native plants on Saturday, June 4 at Emerson Point Preserve in Palmetto. Manatee County Natural Resources was a key supporter of the project organized by Around the Bend Nature Tours and the SBEP. Other participating groups included Boy Scout Troop 111 and the Marine Scene 4H Marine Science Club.

The planting was part of an ongoing effort to restore natural habitat at the popular preserve in Manatee County. Collaborative projects since 2005 have restored mangroves, coastal uplands, and freshwater wetlands throughout the 365-acre preserve. The unique history of the preserve includes the Portavant Temple Mound, southwest Florida's largest Native American Temple Mound and the site of early Florida pioneers.

Sarasota Bay Guardians is a family-friendly volunteer program established to attract volunteers interested in helping restore Sarasota Bay's habitat. At least six volunteer outings are held each year. The Bay Guardians program is a fun way to volunteer while learning more about the Bay. The next event will be held July 9 at North Lido Beach Park. Inquires are welcome at 941-955-8085 or sara@sarasotabay.org.

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The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is dedicated to restoring the area's greatest natural asset—Sarasota Bay. Its unique program strives to improve water quality, increase habitat and enhance the natural resources of the area for use and enjoyment by the public. Sarasota Bay is one of 28 estuaries in the United States that have been named by the U.S. Congress as an "estuary of national significance." Partners include Sarasota County, Manatee County, City of Sarasota, City of Bradenton, Town of Longboat Key, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.