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Film Takes The Measure Of Sarasota Bay: Economic Engine of Our Area

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Invites the Public to See New Documentary – *Sarasota Bay: Celebrating Our Water Heritage*

Sarasota, FL – July 29, 2008 The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) invites the public to a free viewing of its new documentary *Sarasota Bay: Celebrating Our Water Heritage*. Produced by local award-winning filmmaker, Florida Journey Communications, the 28-minute documentary makes a compelling case for what’s been achieved—and still needs to happen—to sustain the health of Sarasota Bay.

- Featured theme: Sarasota Bay as the economic engine of our area
 - Why healthy ecosystems make economic contributions that transcend conventional accounting
- On-camera interviews with area leaders, including Jack Merriam (Environmental Manager, Sarasota County), Ernie Estevez, Ph.D. (MOTE), Jono Miller (New College), Pat Glass (Southwest Florida Water Management District), Jon Thaxton (Sarasota Commissioner) and Charlie Hunsicker (Manatee County Conversation Lands Management)
- Sample topics covered in the film:
 - Habitat restorations—20 years of progress
 - Indications that the estuarine system has improved substantially
 - Why continued nutrient reduction is a top priority
 - Low-impact development—high-impact issue for the future
 - The “Water Connection”—why citizen participation matters so much
 - Gulf Coast Heritage Trail and ecotourism
 - SBEP’s vision for a sustainable future

There will be two showings at each of the following locations. Each showing will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

Saturday August 2 – South Manatee Library meeting room. 6081 26th Street West, Bradenton. First showing 11am. Second showing 12pm.

Saturday August 9 – Manatee County Extension Service offices, Kendrick Auditorium. 1303 17th Street West, Palmetto. First showing 10am. Second showing 11am.

Saturday August 16 – FTB Jacaranda Library meeting room. 4143 Woodmere Park Boulevard, Venice. First showing 12pm. Second showing 1pm.

Saturday August 23 – Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in the Cooley Theater. 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota. First showing 1pm. Second showing 2pm.

To **RSVP for this event** or for more information on the video, please contact the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program at 941-955-8085 or visit info@sarasotabay.org.

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."

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