



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Contact:

Sara Kane

Public Outreach Coordinator

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program

941-955-8085

[sara@sarasotabay.org](mailto:sara@sarasotabay.org)

[www.sarasotabay.org](http://www.sarasotabay.org)

## **SBEP MEDICATION TAKE BACK EVENT SET FOR NOVEMBER 13**

**SARASOTA, FL** – The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP) is encouraging area residents to turn in their unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications November 13 at the USF Environmental Fair. The free public event will be held 10am to 2pm at the newly renovated Clyde Nixon Courtyard located on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus at 8350 North Tamiami Trail in Sarasota.

Law enforcement representatives will be on hand to receive the medications safely for proper disposal. A variety of eco-friendly groups will also be on hand to educate visitors about various facets of green living and sustainability. Music will be provided by DJ Floss and Mote Marine Laboratory will display their mobile 1,200 gallon fish tank. The first ever USF Sarasota-Manatee Environmental Fair is being organized by the school's student government association.

The effort to promote safe disposal of prescription medications is a response to pharmaceuticals being detected in the environment. Even small concentrations of pharmaceuticals could have an adverse impact on people and marine life including aquatic organisms.

"We are encouraging people in our region not to pour or flush medications down the drain or into the toilet," said Sara Kane, SBEP's Public Outreach Coordinator. "The easiest way to keep prescription medications from entering our waterways is to practice safe disposal."

Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP)  
Sara Kane, Public Outreach Coordinator  
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### **BACKGROUND**

More than 100 pharmaceuticals have been detected in lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and streams throughout the world. More than 4 billion prescriptions are filled in the United States every year, and it has been estimated that as much as a third of the dispensed medication goes unused – leading to potentially 200 million pounds of pharmaceuticals that could adversely affect the environment if disposed of improperly.

### **SAFE DISPOSAL DROP OFF LOCATIONS**

Sarasota and Manatee County have approved places to dispose unused or expired medications safely. In Sarasota County medications can be dropped off at the Sarasota County Sheriff's Offices at 2071 Ringing Blvd., in Sarasota or 4531 State Road 776 in Venice. Drop offs can also be made at Environmental Waste Management at the following locations: North County at 8750 Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota; Central County at 4010 Knights Trail Road in Nokomis; and South County at 250 S. Jackson Road in Venice.

### **EXHIBITORS AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR**

Event exhibitors include Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, USF Student Government, Manatee County Natural Resources, Around the Bend Nature Tours, Mellaleuca Wellness Company, Wildlife Center of Venice, Keep Manatee Beautiful, Veg Sarasota, Manatee County Audubon Society, USF Office of Sustainability, and other organizations.

### **ABOUT SARASOTA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM**

*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.*

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