



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 16, 2008**

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**NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY OBSERVED ON SEPTEMBER 27:**

***SARASOTA BAY EXPLORERS BOAT CRUISE AND MOTE AQUARIUM TICKETS  
AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY FOR A SPECIAL ONE-DAY RATE***

**SARASOTA, FL – September 16, 2008** - For the eighth consecutive year, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is celebrating National Estuaries Day with the offer of a discounted ticket package that includes a cruise with Sarasota Bay Explorers and admission to Mote Aquarium. Cost for the package is only \$7 per person (normally \$32-\$41) and is good for Saturday, September 27 only.

On the Bay Explorers cruise, participants will join a marine biologist for a one-hour, 45-minute cruise around Sarasota Bay. Cruise goers will also observe populations of bottlenose dolphins and Florida manatees while learning about the area's ecology, history and folklore. The highlight of the trip is identifying and handling a diverse sample of Bay marine life pulled up in a trawl net for viewing on the boat.

**Tickets for the National Estuaries Day celebration must be purchased and picked up *in advance at the Sarasota Bay Explorer desk* at the Mote Aquarium entrance. *Patrons will not be able to purchase discounted tickets on the day of the event.* Tickets are available from 9:00**

a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting Saturday, September 20 through Friday, September 26. The Aquarium address is 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota. For more information call 941-388-4200.

**Cruise times are 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.** If these cruises times fill up other times may be opened for the same rate. If the cruise is canceled because of weather, tickets may be redeemed for other boat trips within 30 days. However, all tickets are NON-REFUNDABLE.

**The Sarasota Bay Estuary Program** is dedicated to restoring the area's greatest and most important 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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