



SARASOTA BAY
ESTUARY PROGRAM
Restoring Our Bays

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2011

Media Contact: Sara Kane
Public Outreach Coordinator
Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
941-955-8085 / sara@sarasotabay.org
www.sarasotabay.org

MARCH 1 IS THE DEADLINE FOR BAY PARTNER GRANTS FOR 2011

Eligible organizations receive up to \$3,000 for local projects that benefit the Sarasota Bay watershed. Grants are for fully funded and partially funded projects.

SARASOTA, FL – March 1 is the deadline for grant applications from organizations seeking funding support from the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program (SBEP). The purpose of SBEP's Bay Partners Grants is to promote environmental education, awareness and stewardship that improves the quality of Sarasota Bay and its tributaries.

Funding is available for projects that focus on education outreach, habitat restoration or Florida-friendly landscaping. Businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, academic institutions, and various condo and homeowner associations located in Sarasota and Manatee counties are eligible. The watershed boundaries are from Anna Maria Sound south to the Venice Inlet as well as all of the barrier islands.

Bay Partners Grant applications must be received at the SBEP offices by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011 to be eligible. Emailed applications will not be considered. Applications can be downloaded from the SBEP website on the Neighborhood Action page at sarasotabay.org. The website also lists the 15 grant projects funded for 2010.

Inquires are welcome at 941-955-8085 or sara@sarasotabay.org.

Note: Here is the online link for the application – <http://www.sarasotabay.org/nar-grants.html>

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.

###