



News from...

Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Don't Miss the **FREE** National Estuaries Day Annual Celebration *Saturday September 25!*



Explore the Snail Trail! The **NEW half-mile nature trail** which begins at the end of the Environmental Learning Center's new observation bridge will be open for self-guided and guided experiences during the event. The crushed shell surface makes it accessible to wheeled visitors including strollers. This trail leads to a **NEW boardwalk and viewing platform** overlooking Henderson Creek. Other **NEW** trail loops may be open for exploration depending on trail conditions. *Trail photo courtesy of Up A Creek Kayak Tours.*

What is an Estuary?

An estuary is a place where fresh water from land meets and mixes with salt water from the sea. About two-thirds of the nation's commercially and recreationally valuable fish and shellfish species depend on estuaries as spawning grounds or nurseries.



Get off the beaten path and get on a kayak! As part of the event, enjoy **FREE guided kayak trips** on Henderson Creek, as well as **FREE** tours of the Reserve aboard the *Good Fortune* and *Cruise Naples* (space is limited - get there early).

Also on the schedule:

- fish feeding at the 2,300-gallon aquarium
- children's crafts, face painting, music, food
- films, boating safety information, and more!

Fishing enthusiasts: Don't miss our lineup of special National Estuaries Day lectures!

Research Update:

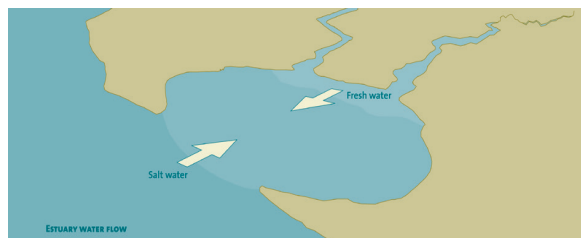
Pat O'Donnell, Reserve Fisheries Biologist

Local Fisheries and Seafood Safety:

Bryan Fluech, Collier County Sea Grant Agent

Restoring the Everglades:

Erica Robbins, Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project Outreach Coordinator



Kids of all ages can get up close and personal with marine life at the **Touch Tank!** Meet hermit crabs, horseshoe crabs, sea stars, and other critters of the estuary.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center **September Events - all FREE**

September 15, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Snook Seminar with Bryan Fluech, Sea Grant

September 16, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Summer 2010 Ecotour Providers Series
Citizen Scientists

September 23, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Art Exhibition Opening Reception
2nd Annual Friends & Family of the Estuary

September 25, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

National Estuaries Day - FREE admission

Open: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 kids 6-12, under 6 FREE.

Daily programs offered at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m.

Rookery Bay, located in southwest Florida, is recognized as one of the few remaining pristine, mangrove-forested estuaries in the U.S. The Reserve is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, and as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System it serves as an outdoor classroom and laboratory for students and scientists from around the world.

(239) 417-6310 www.rookerybay.org 300 Tower Rd., Naples, FL 34113 (located off Collier Blvd. 1 mile south of U.S. 41/East Tamiami Trail)