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FAU Harbor Branch Announces Series of Events in February to Focus on the Indian River Lagoon

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (January 28, 2014) – FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) has announced a series of special events in February that will focus on the Indian River Lagoon. The events include a scientific symposium, “Meet the Scientists” poster session, a public meeting on lagoon health and the third annual “Love Your Lagoon” dinner.

The first event is the “Indian River Lagoon Symposium 2014: Lagoon Biodiversity,” which will take place on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the HBOI Johnson Education Center, 5600 U.S. 1 North, in Fort Pierce. The draft schedule is posted at indianriverlagoon.org/symposium.html. Admission is \$25 for the public, \$15 for students and people interested in attending can register online at fauf.fau.edu/irls2014.

The community is encouraged to attend the “Meet the Scientists” poster session following the symposium from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Johnson Education Center Annex. Admission to the poster session is free.

The public is also invited to attend a public meeting to discuss the lagoon with the Indian River Lagoon Counties Collaborative on Friday, Feb. 7 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the HBOI Johnson Education Center, 5600 U.S. 1 North, in Fort Pierce. The collaborative, comprised of county commissioners from counties that border the lagoon, will hear several scientific presentations, discuss progress and plans for the future on issues of lagoon health and hear public comment on these matters. The agenda is posted at indianriverlagoon.org/symposium.html. The event is free and open to the public, and registration is required at fauf.fau.edu/irls2014.

The final event will be the third annual “Love Your Lagoon” dinner on Friday, Feb. 7 from 6 to 10 p.m. in the HBOI Plaza, 5600 U.S. 1 North, in Fort Pierce. Hosted by the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation (HBOIF), the dinner aims to raise awareness about the lagoon and raise funds to support HBOI’s ongoing Indian River Lagoon Observatory research and outreach efforts. This year’s honoree is Alma Lee Loy, selected by the HBOIF Board of Directors for her long-standing role in local leadership and commitment to the environment and the Indian River Lagoon. Sponsors include: Mangrove Sponsor: PNC Bank

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For more information on HBOI's February event series, or to register and purchase tickets for the "Love Your Lagoon" dinner, visit indianriverlagoon.org, or call 772-466-9876 ext. 221.

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About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:

Founded in 1971, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit www.hboi.fau.edu.

About Florida Atlantic University:

Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit www.fau.edu.