

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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FAU Harbor Branch to Host Community Forum on Lagoon Health This Friday

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (February 4, 2013) – FAU Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) is hosting a series of events related to the health of the Indian River Lagoon this week. On Friday, February 8 from 9 a.m. – noon there will be a community “Forum on Lagoon Health” at the HBOI Johnson Education Center. The forum is free and open to the public and aims to bring together scientific experts and concerned citizens for a discussion on the challenges facing the lagoon and sustainability efforts for one of our area’s most precious resources.

Any media interested in covering the “Forum on Lagoon Health” should contact HBOI Assistant Director of Communications Carin Smith to register at carinsmith@fau.edu or 772-242-2230.

Forum Agenda:

8:15 – 8:55 Registration and Coffee

9:00 – 9:10 Opening Remarks

Chuck Jacoby, St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, FL & Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Palm Bay, FL

9:10 – 9:25 Science for Management

Robert Virnstein, Seagrass Ecosystems Analysts, Palatka, FL

9:25 – 9:40 Public Involvement

Kathy Hill, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Palatka, FL

9:40 – 9:55 Linking to Government

John Orcutt, Citizen, Vero Beach, FL

9:55 – 12:00 Discussion

Facilitators: Chuck Jacoby & Dennis Hanisak, FAU Harbor Branch

For more information on HBOI’s February event series, visit indianriverlagoon.org.

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.