



## MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES

1141 Bayview Avenue, Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Shelly Becker

Phone: 228-523-4051

**11-59-SB**

**May 17, 2011**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***NERR to Sponsor Nature Photo Essay Workshop***

BILOXI, Miss. – The Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) will host an informal workshop on “The Art of the Photo Essay” this Saturday, May 21, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the NERR Coastal Resources Center in Moss Point. Leah Bray is a restoration ecologist and has been a semi-professional nature photographer for over ten years writing photo essays for newspapers and magazines. With assistance from Bray, participants will learn to tell a story with their nature photographs and associated captions. After a brief classroom lesson on how to take nature photographs, participants will take photos in the field and then discuss how to use them to construct or support a story. Be sure to bring cameras, notebooks, hats, bug spray, sunscreen and shoes appropriate for semi-wet terrain.

Participants should meet at the NERR Coastal Resources Center located at 6005 Bayou Heron Road in southeast Jackson County before the start of the tour. Directions to the Reserve are located on the NERR’s Web site, <http://www.grandbaynerr.org/contact>.

For more information or to pre-register, contact Jennifer Buchanan at [jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov](mailto:jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov) or Elise Stephens at [estephens@handsongulfcoast.org](mailto:estephens@handsongulfcoast.org) or call 228-475-7047.

The NERR is located near the community of Pecan in southeast Jackson County and includes wetlands and waterways from Bangs Lake to the Alabama state line. A major purpose of the Reserve is to provide for research coordination and dissemination of scientific data to the community and local decision-makers to provide sound information on which to base management decisions.

The 18,000-acre Reserve is home to several rare plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. NERR is managed through state-federal partnership between the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and its local partners: Mississippi Secretary of State’s Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mississippi State University, The Nature Conservancy, The University of Southern Mississippi and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at [www.dmr.ms.gov](http://www.dmr.ms.gov).

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