MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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October 10, 2011 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Grand Bay Reserve Celebrates Grand Bay Day Oct. 15 at Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center

BILOXI, Miss. – **Grand Bay Day** is quickly approaching at the Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Bring your family and friends out to the reserve and learn about the research and stewardship activities that are going on in this outdoor "Living Laboratory." Interact with researchers and educators, help clean up the boat launch area for the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup, enjoy a free boat ride and walk along the birding trail.

This is a FREE event for the whole family. Please tell your friends! Activities include a Mississippi Coastal Cleanup Stewardship Activity, Estuary Discovery Boat Trips, Tours of the Research Labs with Lab Demos, Research Presentations, Poster Presentations and **Green** Building Tours.

The one-hour long boat trips will begin at 9:15 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. You must pre-register for these trips within an hour of the scheduled trip at the Grand Bay Coastal Resources Center located at 6005 Bayou Heron Road, Moss Point, Miss. **Boat trips will be filled on a first come first served basis.** The Mississippi Coastal Cleanup activity begins at 7:30 a.m. All other activities will begin at 9 a.m. Call Jennifer for more details at 228-475-7047. Visit the website at www.grandbaynerr.org for more information.

The Grand Bay NERR is located in southeast Jackson County and includes wetlands and waterways from Bang's Lake to the Alabama state line. A major goal 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 or endangered plant and animal species and serves as an essential nursery habitat for numerous important commercial and recreational fish species. The Reserve 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 and the Nature Conservancy—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.

PHOTO CREDIT: Photo Courtesy of Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Photo caption: Birders enjoying an early morning boat tour of the Reserve.

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NO SMOKING

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Presents October's Adventure Quencher Event

Grand Bay Day — A Morning of Research and Discovery at Grand Bay NERR

What: **A FREE community event designed to highlight the research and stewardship projects that are ongoing at the reserve:**

- MS Coastal Cleanup Stewardship Activity/Boat Tour (7:30-9:30 AM)
- Estuary Discovery Boat Trips (9:30 AM and 11:00 AM)
- Tours of the Research Labs and Lab Demos (9 AM– 12:30 PM)
- Research Roundup Presentations (9:00 AM—12:30 PM every 45 min.)
- Exhibits
- **"Green"** Building Tours

When: **Sat. Oct. 15, 2011 between the hours of 7:30 AM and 12:30 PM**

Where: **Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's Coastal Resources Center (CRC)** located at 6005 Bayou Heron Road near Moss Point in southeastern Jackson County.

How: Registration for the cleanup and the boat tours will take place at the CRC. Boat space is limited. Boat trips will be filled on a first come basis. All ages are welcome. Light refreshments will be served.

Help? Contact Jennifer Buchanan at 228.475.7047 or jen.buchanan@dmr.ms.gov

www.grandbaynerr.org — Check us out on facebook too!