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PHOTOGRAPHERS CHOSEN FOR ROOKERY BAY EXHIBIT

Naples, Florida (January 21, 2011) - The United Arts Council and the Friends of Rookery Bay announce that works by 31 Florida photographers have been chosen for the "Photography Annual" exhibit at the gallery in the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road in Naples. The exhibit opens on February 3 and continues through April 1, and is free with learning center admission. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The Friends of Rookery Bay will sponsor an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 3. The reception is free to the public, and refreshments and entertainment will be provided.

Internationally acclaimed photographer **Clyde Butcher** served as juror for the exhibit. A total of 137 photographs were submitted for consideration. Winners of prize money totaling \$1,750 will be announced by Butcher at the reception on February 3.

Photographers selected for the exhibit are: Alessandro Abate, Paul Allen, Chad Anderson, Tim Bath, David Bosworth, Angie Chestnut, Marc Damon, Laura DePamphillis, Brett Donnelly, Terence Fitzgerald, Jim Freeman, Muffy Clark Gill, Dennis Goodman, Kayla Goodman, Richard Grant, Gil Ihrig, Nancy Job, John Johnson, Kim Johnson, Robert Kenedi, Jennie Kendrick, Gary Lefebvre, Dianne Magrone, Laurie Meehan-Elmer, Ann McCarty, Paul Stephan, Martin Surak, Teresa Trubilla, Dana Vannoy, Don Wendell, and Lisa Willnow.

The Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center is located at 300 Tower Road, just off CR951, one-half mile south of U.S. 41. The center features aquariums, interactive exhibits, nature films, kayak tours, guided cultural walks, a nature trail with observation platforms and other daily programs. Admission to the gallery area is free with learning center admission of \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6 to 12. For information about Rookery Bay, call 239-417-6310.

The United Arts Council is designated by the state of Florida as the official local arts agency for Collier County. The non-profit organization is responsible for promoting the arts locally and coordinating a consolidated calendar for the county's arts and cultural organizations. To view the calendar and for more information about the local arts community, visit www.collierarts.com.

The Friends of Rookery Bay organization connects people with Southwest Florida's dynamic estuarine environment through education, engagement and stewardship by supporting the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. This beautiful 110,000-acre reserve is home to more than 150 species of coastal birds as well as endangered sea turtles, manatees, dolphins and many mammals. In addition, it serves as a "nursery of the sea," providing crucial habitat for commercially important species of fish and shellfish. For more information, visit www.rookerybay.org.

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