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PHOTOGRAPHERS CHOSEN FOR ROOKERY BAY EXHIBIT

Naples, Florida (January 16, 2011) - The United Arts Council and the Friends of Rookery Bay announce that works by 25 Florida photographers have been chosen for the "Photography Annual" exhibit at the gallery in the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. **The exhibit opens on February 2 and continues through March 31**, and is free with learning center admission.

The Friends of Rookery Bay will sponsor an **opening reception from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7**. The reception is open to the public, and refreshments and entertainment will be provided. The reception fee is \$3 to the general public, and free to members of the United Arts Council and Friends of Rookery Bay.

Internationally acclaimed photographer **Clyde Butcher** served as juror for the exhibit. A total of 55 photographers submitted works for consideration. Winners of prize money for the top spots will be announced by Butcher at the reception on February 7.

Photographers selected for the exhibit are: Paul Allen, Chad Anderson, Timothy Bath, Kevin Boldenow, James Branaman, Marc Damon, Corky Ditekof, Laurie Meehan-Elmer, Terry Fitzgerald, Jim Freeman, Muffy Clark Gill, Dennis Goodman, William Hofer, Nancy Job, Mary Lundeberg, Tyler MacDonald, Paul Marcellini, Karin Smith, Ashley Snizek, Teresa Trubilla, Steven Valdespino, Cynthia Walpole, Don Wendell, Rod Wiley 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. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. 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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