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PHOTOGRAPHERS CHOSEN FOR ROOKERY BAY EXHIBIT

Naples, Florida (February 4, 2011) - The top prize winners in the annual Rookery Bay photography exhibition have been announced. Internationally acclaimed photographer Clyde Butcher served as juror for the exhibit. A total of 137 entries were submitted from photographers throughout the state of Florida.

First place went to Seminole resident, Laurie Meehan-Elmer, for her "Wave 101" photograph. She received \$1,500 in prize money.

Second place and \$1,000 went to Chad Anderson from Big Pine Key. His winning photograph was entitled, "Blue at Dusk." Third place and \$500 went to Estero resident, Marc Damon for "Turner River II."

A special award of \$250 was given to 10-year-old Kayla Goodman, who had two photographs juried into the show.

Selected for Honorable Mention awards were works by these photographers: Alessandro Abate, Paul Allen, David Bosworth, Jim Freeman, Teresa Trubilla, Dana Vannoy, and Don Wendell.

The exhibit was organized by the United Arts Council and will continue on display at Rookery Bay through April 1. Over 300 people attended the opening reception on February 3, hosted by the Friends of Rookery Bay.

Photographers whose works were 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, Robert Kenedi, Jennie Kendrick, Gary Lefebvre, Dianne Magrone, Laurie Meehan-Elmer, Ann McCarty, Paul Stephan, 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.

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