



The Kids Ecology Corps

For Immediate Release

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For Additional Information

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The Kids Ecology Corps and Best Buy partner to protect Florida's environment with an invasive plant removal at Boca Raton's Gumbo Limbo Nature Center

Volunteer youth from The Kids Ecology Corps and Best Buy employees will team up Saturday morning to remove the highly invasive exotic plants from the coastal regions of the park

Boca Raton, FL (March 20, 2008) – On Saturday, March 29th the non-profit environmental education organization The Kids Ecology Corps, volunteer children and their families will be teaming up with local employees of Best Buy to help protect one of Florida's natural habitats at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center in Boca Raton.

In recent years, local parks like Gumbo Limbo have experienced a rash of invasion from exotic invasive plants. Even common houseplants have found their way into the grounds of Gumbo Limbo, added by human hands. Invasive plants pose one of the biggest threats to our natural environment, destroying habitat and food for wildlife. Free from the array of natural controls present in their native lands, exotic plants often experience rapid and unrestricted growth in new environments. When this happens, native plants can get crowded out, even to the point of extinction.

Jim Duquesnel, Manager of Environmental Education and Conservation at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center expressed the dangers of invasives and the importance of volunteers to local parks. "In many of the coastal parks of Boca Raton, a common houseplant has spread unchecked under the sea grape trees, eliminating native plants that provide food and shelter for songbirds and other native wildlife. Fortunately, most of the infestations at Gumbo Limbo are in our coastal dunes, where loose sand makes the weed easy to uproot by hand. With the help of volunteers like these, many hands will make the project less daunting." said Duquesnel.

Volunteers from the community are welcome to lend a hand and are encouraged to wear "gardening" clothes such as jeans, long-sleeved shirts, a hat, sunscreen, work gloves, work shoes and socks. Small garden trowels or digging tools are also encouraged. The event begins at 9:00 am and runs until 12:00 pm, with refreshments provided by the park.

This will be Best Buy's third sponsored volunteer event with The Kids Ecology Corps in which employees from their local corporate offices volunteer their time at a local park in need. This community action project is part of the Best Buy Children's Foundation's "Local Giving Program", an initiative supporting local non-profit children's organizations nationwide. To learn more about their programs, visit the Foundation's website at www.bbycommunications.com.

Invasive plant removal, coastal and habitat restoration are just a few of the many community action and educational projects taken on by The Kids Ecology Corps, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to inspire young people to make environmental action part of their everyday lives and in the lives of those around them. KEC has reached over 60,000 young people from pre-k through high school, offering unique hands-on presentations and eco-action programs that educate children and youth about: keeping our oceans clean; the importance of trees; the role re-planting our coastal wetlands play in beach conservation; water conservation; pollution prevention; global climate change and energy conservation; and, protecting local natural habitats for native wildlife. Visit them at www.kidsecologycorps.org or contact The Kids Ecology Corps at kec@kidsecologycorps.org . The KEC team can be reached at Tel.: 954-524-0366 to volunteer or to schedule an education or eco-action presentation at your school or business.

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