

**Local park celebrates Eco-Art and Environmental Authors on International Literacy Day**

September 5, 2007 (Dania, FL) - On September 8<sup>th</sup>, The Kids Ecology Corps will be participating in the International Literacy Day at John U Lloyd State Park, in conjunction with Sylvan Dell publishers and the Broward County Library System. The Kids Ecology Corps will be creating "Eco-Art" pieces with participating children using recyclable materials and reading environmentally friendly books like "The Great Trash Bash" and "Just a Gum Wrapper" that promote recycling and conservation to young readers.

Loran Wlodarski, author of "If a Dolphin Were a Fish," and Laurie Allen Klein, illustrator of "If a Dolphin Were a Fish" and "Little Skink's Tail" will be at the park to share their experiences and sign books for young readers. Various ranger-led programs and interactive activities will be open to children throughout the day, and Broward County Library Learning Services will have nature books on display while educating event attendees about "Library Card Sign Up Month". Admission is free into the park for the day with a library card, library book or donation of a used family appropriate book.

"Literacy is instrumental in an individual's development at personal, family and community levels," said Carmelo Duesler, John U. Lloyd Beach State Park Services Specialist and event coordinator. "The Florida Park Service wants to offer a venue for these individuals, families and communities to come together for the common cause of promoting literacy."

Also going on at John U Lloyd State Park, The Kids Ecology Corps' team of volunteers are continuing their county-wide sea oats plantings on the park's beaches through September, with plantings on Sunday evenings September 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.. Last Saturday August 25<sup>th</sup>, volunteers ranging in ages from 8 to 60 planted over 3,000 sea oats into the dunes. Over 150,000 sea oats have been planted to date on Hallandale and Fort Lauderdale beaches. Because of its extensive system of underground stems and roots, sea oats help reduce beach erosion by gathering and holding the blowing sand together into sand dunes, protecting against rising waves.

The Kids Ecology Corps is 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 57,000 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](http://www.kidsecologycorps.org) or contact The Kids Ecology Corps at [kec@kidsecologycorps.org](mailto:kec@kidsecologycorps.org). The KEC team can be reached at Tel.: 954-524-0366 to volunteer or to schedule an education or unique eco-action presentation at your school.

To find more International Literacy Day events or to learn more about Florida State Parks visit [www.FloridaStateParks.com](http://www.FloridaStateParks.com). For further learning, parents and educators can also find suggested "Teaching Activities" and "Learning Links" for free on the publisher's Web site, [www.SylvanDellPublishing.com](http://www.SylvanDellPublishing.com).