

### **Kids eco-action group lends a hand with local historic habitat restoration project**

June 27, 2007 (Fort Lauderdale, FL) – On Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> volunteers with The Kids Ecology Corps will be at Bonnet House Museum and Gardens to remove invasive plants and clean up the grounds of the 35-acre historic facility. On the top of the removal list is the Brazilian red pepper which crowds out native trees like the red mangrove, a vital tree to over 60 species of Florida wildlife.

This historical habitat restoration is one of the many community action and educational projects taken on by The Kids Ecology Corps. The main goal of this project is to restore and preserve the natural ecological habitat of Bonnet House - home to frogs, turtles, fish, butterflies, manatees, cranes, foxes, swans and the Great Blue Heron.

The Bonnet House, owned by the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, is a designated Ft. Lauderdale Landmark and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The 35-acre property, located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway, is one of the few remnants of what was once a coastal wilderness in Broward County. The museum is located on a barrier island with seven different ecological habitats that are native to Florida and extremely rare in Broward County. Additionally, Florida State University has identified various endangered environments, plants and animals that exist on the property. The Bonnet House regularly holds educational classes where local children and adults can examine this natural Florida environment in four water views including the ocean, a natural slough, the Intracoastal Waterway and a protected mangrove swamp - reachable only by boat. Visit them at 900 North Birch Road, Fort Lauderdale or on the web at [www.bonnethouse.org](http://www.bonnethouse.org).

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 55,000 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 plays in beach conservation; water conservation; pollution prevention; global warming 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). Emily Nell Lagerquist, Executive Director and her team can be reached at Tel.: 954-524-0366 to volunteer or to schedule an education or eco-action presentation at your school.

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