

# **Media Advisory**

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

### **South Florida Ecological Services Office**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to Mark Earth Day and Hibiscus Festival With Free Open House at Downtown Vero Beach Office**

VERO BEACH, Fla. – The general public is invited to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s office in downtown Vero Beach on Saturday, April 16 for a free “open house” from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. to mark the 41st anniversary of Earth Day in conjunction with Hibiscus Festival activities.

The free open house will include kids’ activities, wildlife displays, presentations by local biologists and an exhibit of illegal wildlife products seized by law enforcement officials. “Earth Day is actually April 22, but we wanted to host this event on a date we could share with our friends on the Treasure Coast, who will already be celebrating at the Hibiscus Festival. This is an opportunity to enjoy the festival, then meet our biologists and learn about endangered species, habitat conservation programs, Everglades restoration and more,” said Ken Warren, open house co-coordinator. “This will be an educational activity for the entire family.”

The office, which also have a booth at the festival, is at 1339 20th Street across from the Post Office. The Service has operated a station in Indian River County since 1954, when it was known as the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. For more information, contact Ken Warren at [ken\\_warren@fws.gov](mailto:ken_warren@fws.gov). The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

The annual Earth Day is a national event designed to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth’s environment. Founded by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the first Earth Day was held as a symposium April 22, 1970 and has been celebrated on that date ever since.

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