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**2011 Environmental Stewardship Awarded for Exemplary Service**

FORT MYERS, FL – (January 20, 2011) – The Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management is proud to announce that the 2011 Environmental Stewardship Award for Exemplary Service has been awarded to Mr. Harry Gottlieb and Dr. Nora Demers

Mr. Harry Gottlieb and his wife Jean have had a love affair with Estero Bay for more than half a century, where they continue to fish for snook, redfish, and seatrout using barbless hooks. He has served as a member of the ABM since its inception in 1996, as representative of the Fort Myers Beach Civic Association of which he formerly was a director. Harry is a member and formerly a board member of Estero Bay Buddies; a long time member of Responsible Growth Management Coalition, and a member of Sierra Club. Mr. Gottlieb has been a tireless advocate for the protection and enjoyment of Estero Bay through the practices of compatible public recreation and resource protection. He and Jean have often participated in Monofilament Madness, a clean-up of Estero Bay. He believes that Lee County's 20/20 program is important for the Bay's future wellbeing, and supports its continuation. He feels honored to have been selected for this award by the good members of the ABM.

Dr. Nora Egan Demers earned her PhD from Oregon State University in 1996 studying the effects of stress on immunity. She teaches Biology and Interdisciplinary studies classes at Florida Gulf Coast University. Her passion is sharing her enthusiasm for science and learning with interested individuals. She is the author of several scientific papers in addition to other articles on teaching and learning in the Biological sciences. Her interests span basic biology (molecular and cellular) to examining and understanding the influences that humans have on our awesome planet Earth. She thrills in seeing people apply critical thinking to relevant and interesting topics. Dr Demers works with local community organizations on "smart growth" initiatives and participates civically with agencies on topics related to protecting and preserving habitats. She has spoken to local groups about Gopher tortoises, Red Tide, native plantings and more. Dr. Demers has been instrumental in the planning and implementation of the Cela Tega series of conservation lands meetings and the Estero Bay Watershed Summit. In her spare time she loves to read, hike, bike and take photos on travels. Nora lives in San Carlos Park, Lee County, FL with her spouse, an excellent cook who gives meaning to her life, and their two Chihuahuas. She looks forward to working with folks who are also inspired and excited about our surroundings.

The EBABM is a non-regulatory advisory committee to the SWFRPC. Its directive is to make comments and recommendations regarding the management of Estero Bay and its watershed. The EBABM

collects and maintains data and it reviews and comments to regulatory agencies on issues affecting the watershed. Its members include Lee County legislative delegates and representatives of the Council, local chambers of commerce, citizen and civic associations, the Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Lee County, Collier County, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, the SFWMD, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Gulf Coast University, Federal agencies involved in natural resource management, commercial and recreational fishing interests, environmental and conservation organizations, scientists, affected property owners, and the land development community.

For further information, please contact Mr. Jim Beever at 338-2550 Ext 224.