



Media Release

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**Contact:** Chris Verlinde 623-3868  
UF/IFAS Santa Rosa County Sea Grant Extension  
[chrismv@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismv@ufl.edu)  
Office (850) 623-3868

## The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Seagrass Awareness Celebration

Learn about seagrasses, marine creatures that live in seagrasses, and our coastal resources at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Seagrass Awareness Celebration on March 29 from 10 a.m. until 2 p. m. at Shoreline Park South in Gulf Breeze. The annual *free* family event offers activities including live marine life touch tanks, "*eat a seagrass bed*," make a shark tooth necklace, seining, games, fishing, marine creatures, arts and crafts, food, displays, boating safety, fishing, kayaking and more!

Seagrasses are a valuable part of the marine environment and support our local economy. Most commercial and recreationally important fish, crabs and shrimp spend some time of their lives in seagrass beds! Not only do these underwater grass beds help keep water clean, but they also provide food and shelter for young fish, shrimp and crabs. Endangered species, such as manatees and green sea turtles, depend on seagrass beds for food! Seagrasses, clean water and natural resources play a vital role in the economy of NW Florida.

Make plans now to attend this exciting day full of activities! Bring your family and friends, water, sunscreen, hat, water shoes, lawn chairs and join us for a fun filled day! Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/seagrasscelebration](http://www.facebook.com/seagrasscelebration). For more information contact: Chris Verlinde, [chrismv@ufl.edu](mailto:chrismv@ufl.edu) or (850) 623-3868.

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