

Arts in the Estuary celebration set for Sept. 28 at St. Jones Reserve; Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve's 20th anniversary event includes the Delaware Native Plant Society's Annual Plant Sale

DOVER (Sept. 17, 2013) –To celebrate the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve's 20th anniversary, the St. Jones Reserve is holding an event – Arts in the Estuary – and the Delaware Native Plant Society's Annual Native Plant Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 28. Admission is free to the event, being held, rain or shine, at the Reserve, 818 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover and at the John Dickinson Plantation located next to the Reserve at 340 Kitts Hummock Road – two of the most treasured natural and cultural areas in Delaware.

“On National Estuary Day, we invite families to join us and celebrate our 20th anniversary and spend the day experiencing the beauty of the St. Jones Reserve through the arts,” said Jennifer Holmes, Education Coordinator with the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve. “Families can discover the Reserve's natural wonders, enjoy the artwork, activities and presentations and purchase a native plant for their own backyards.”

The event is a celebration of the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve's 20th anniversary in advancing coastal and

estuarine conservation, research and education. At noon on the outdoor stage, DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara, along with a representative of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Delaware Coastal Programs Administrator Sarah Cooksey, will welcome visitors and highlight the work accomplished at the Reserve to establish, protect and manage estuarine habitats for research and education.

"Arts in the Estuary" features more than 16 artists, authors and exhibitors showcasing their work for sale amidst the lush landscape of the St. Jones Reserve. Visitors can view painting and carving demonstrations, speak to local artists, paint an estuary landscape and get tips on how to create their own piece of art. Children of all ages can demonstrate their talents by entering the "Thank You Delaware Bay" art contest or make a short video clip thanking the Bay for all it has to offer. Performing on the outdoor stage throughout the day are musician Em McKeever, the Itinerant Dance Theater and the Young Actors Guild, previewing their upcoming play "Treasure Island." At the John Dickinson Plantation, costumed interpreters will guide visitors through the mansion and demonstrate the colonial art of preserving, smoking and pickling foods. At the St. Jones Reserve, food will be offered for sale by Abbott's Grill of Milford.

For more information about the event visit:
<http://de.gov/dnerrarts>

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) was established in 1993 to promote the stewardship and understanding of Delaware's coastal areas through science and education. DNERR is a cooperative program between the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware Coastal Programs and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It is one of 28 National Estuarine Research Reserves across the country. For more information, visit <http://de.gov/dnerr>.

Visit us on the web

<http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/DNERR>

Join us on facebook <http://www.facebook.com/DNERR/>

Follow us on twitter <http://www.twitter.com/DNERR>

Read our [blog!](#)

Contact: Jennifer Holmes, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, 302-739-6377; or Melanie Rapp, Public Affairs, 302-739-9902.