

# 17th Annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Charlotte Sports Park (2300 El Jobean Rd/SR 776 in Port Charlotte)



Black-Crowned Night Herons. Art donated by Linda Soderquist, [www.lindasislandart.com](http://www.lindasislandart.com). This art will be featured on festival promotion, magnets and tote bags.

Please help celebrate the splendor of the natural environment of Southwest Florida by sponsoring, exhibiting, volunteering and promoting this event.

The Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival is a regional family-friendly celebration where people can learn about topics affecting the natural environment of southwest Florida. This is accomplished through a wide variety of activities for both adults and children, which include guided walks in Tippecanoe Environmental Park, hands-on activities, exhibits and vendors, music, a Children's Discovery Zone and more. A committee of volunteers, who represent a diverse group of organizations, is dedicated to making this Festival exciting and informative. Admission and parking are both free. To learn more, watch the short videos we've posted on YouTube:

[2015](#)

[2014](#)

[2013](#)

[2012](#)

[2011](#)

We have established ourselves as an annual community event that will continue to grow and enrich the lives of our citizens. We have scheduled the next annual festival for Saturday, November 19, 2016. It will again be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Charlotte County Sports Complex located at 2300 El Jobean Rd/SR 776 in Port Charlotte. (Please note that there is no rain date.)

We look forward to seeing you Nov. 19 but there's no need to register to attend as a **visitor** unless you wish to receive updates. Register for updates at <https://chnf2016updates.eventbrite.com>.

We hope that you will participate as a **sponsor, exhibitor, volunteer or promoter** of the 17th annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival, making it bigger and better than ever. Thank you for considering these requests.

## SPONSOR & VENDOR INFORMATION

This festival is possible because of the support of many! This year the fiscal host of the festival is the Friends of Charlotte Harbor Estuary, Inc. Festival expenses are covered by generous sponsors and proceeds from an on-site raffle. We're happy to accept sponsorships of all amounts! (Raffle items are considered a separate and additional donation from sponsorship donations.) We must raise \$20,000 to cover all festival expenses. This includes the cost of a tote bag given away to the public. The quantity of tote bags will depend on funds available after other festival expenses are met. Please respond by August 1, so that you will be included in most of the promotional material.

The Friends of Charlotte Harbor Estuary is again serving as the fiscal agent. Thanks to the following who, as of Jan. 25, are sponsoring the festival this year:

- Eagle (\$2,500+): \* Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program \* Charlotte County Community Services \* Charlotte Sun \* Mosaic
- Florida Panther (\$1,000+): \*ROI Media \* Tents & Events \* WGPU Public Media
- Osprey (\$500+): \* City of Punta Gorda \* CHNEP Friends \* Mote Marine Laboratory
- Sea Turtle (\$250+): \* Coastal Wildlife Club
- Dolphin (\$100+): \* Linda Soderquist \* Maximized Living

This year we again ask you to register as a sponsor, exhibitor or volunteer at [this link](#). (If the link to the registration page doesn't work for you, go to [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search for Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival but change the location to Florida) This site is an online form to register as a sponsor, exhibitor or volunteer and can accept sponsor payments. The website at [www.CHNEP.org/CHNF.html](http://www.CHNEP.org/CHNF.html) provides festival history, planning committee information, promotional material, sample press releases and other important information. To ease communication for additional event information, participants are encouraged to provide an email address if available. Those who register or who express interest in helping will receive occasional updates by email as well as requests for input.

Sponsorship	Sponsor Donations	Exhibit Table	Name on Event Program as Sponsor	Name on Promotional Material (when possible)	Festival Area Named for Sponsor	Special Recognition (when possible)
<b>EXHIBITOR/VENDOR</b>	\$0 + Gift for Raffle	x				
<b>DOLPHIN</b>	\$100	x	x			
<b>SEA TURTLE</b>	\$250	x	x	x		
<b>OSPREY</b>	\$500	x	x	x		
<b>FLORIDA PANTHER</b>	\$1,000	x	x	x	x	
<b>+\$500 (total \$1,500)</b>	Have your company name printed on a festival tote bag. (Sponsor funds must be received by Aug. 1 for a company name to be included. This is when the bags must be ordered.)					
<b>BALD EAGLE</b>	\$3,500	x	x	x	x	x

The Festival has had as many as 70 exhibitors and more than 4,000 people attending, From one review of the cars we know visitors traveled from 13 counties in Florida, 17 states and Canada. This special occasion provides exceptional opportunities for environmental education and we need your help to make it a continued success. The Festival has become an indispensable showcase of our region's activities and it is a great opportunity to spread your message, advertise your business, demonstrate your accomplishments, build your constituency, and sell your creations.

**Exhibitors/Vendors:** Become an exhibitor or vendor by completing the [online form](#). An exhibitor or vendor can be any type of organization as long as it relates to the natural environment of Southwest Florida. Exhibitors and vendors with information on other topics are not invited to participate. All exhibitors and vendors receive free space and a table;

however, we request that you donate item(s) with a \$25 minimum value to the Festival raffle. Guidance on how to make these donations will be posted on the website. Final deadline for exhibitors and vendors will be Nov. 1, space permitting. For the third time, you can select the table of your choice when you register as an exhibitor.

Exhibitors and vendors may set up the day of the Festival beginning at 7:30 a.m. All exhibitors and vendors must be set up no later than 9 a.m. and we require that exhibitors and vendors stay for the entire Festival. Exhibitors and vendors must bring their own chairs and table covering but may also bring their own tables and tent but tents must comply with county requirements. Additional guidance will be posted on the website and sent by email to all who register.

**Volunteers:** As a volunteer you can join the planning committee, help promote the Festival, or volunteer the day before and day of the event. If you have any suggestions for new exhibitors or changes that you think will improve the festival, please let us know. We try to incorporate new ideas into each year's event.

**Promotion:** We need everyone to help promote the Festival and its goal of educating the public in the stewardship of our natural resources. Your promotion of the Festival may include coverage in your organization newsletter, website or correspondence - or any way that is available to you. The committee would like to recognize vendors who help promote the Festival so please send details to CHNEP.

If you wish to talk with someone about the festival, please contact Maran Hilgendorf with the Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program (941/575-3374 toll-free 866/835-5785, [maran@chnep.org](mailto:maran@chnep.org)).

Thank you for your support. We hope you'll be able to help make the 17th annual Charlotte Harbor Nature Festival the best yet.