

NEW NATURE CENTER OPENS ON HONEYMOON ISLAND

DUNEDIN, FL (MAY 10, 2007) – Visitors come to Honeymoon Island State Park for sun, surf and sand. Now there's a new reason to visit one of the best state parks in Florida -- **The new Rotary Centennial Nature Center at Honeymoon Island State Park.**

Housed in a building used as a beach cottage for the feature film "The Punisher", The Rotary Centennial Nature Center has a number of exhibits and interactive displays in order to better acquaint guests with the barrier islands and their natural communities. The exhibits allow visitors a better understanding of Honeymoon's ecosystem and the importance of preserving the island's beautiful, natural habitat. One of the main exhibits at the Nature Center is a 17 foot tall replica tree and osprey nest. A prominent bird species in Florida, ospreys have more than two dozen active nests located on Honeymoon Island. Nature Center exhibits will also feature the long history of Honeymoon and its neighbor Caladesi Island, the preservation of St. Joseph Sound, island seasons, seasonal fires, seasonal colors, seasonal migrations, bird nesting and resting areas, turtle nesting, trees, fishing and a replica of a "Honeymoon Hut".

Poised at more than 14 feet above the ground, the Rotary Centennial Nature Center offers visitors spectacular views of the Gulf of Mexico, St. Joseph's Sound, Caladesi Island, Clearwater Beach and Sand Key from the center's outdoor deck.

The goal of the Rotary Centennial Nature Center is to expose visitors to natural beauty while educating them on the concept of environmental ethics. The Nature Center will include a variety of new ecology exhibits plus guided nature tours. For more information about the Rotary Centennial Nature Center visit www.honeymoonnaturecenter.org.

Honeymoon Island State Park is open daily from 8 a.m. to sunset. The Nature Center is located near the entrance to Honeymoon Island State Park at the end of the Dunedin Causeway at the west end of SR 586. Daily admission is \$5 per car. Group rates are available. The Nature Center and Honeymoon Island State Park serve as a gateway to Caladesi Island. Visitors can access Caladesi Island via the Caladesi Connection Ferry.

The St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is the countywide tourism management and marketing organization responsible for developing and promoting the St. Petersburg/Clearwater area as a leisure, business, convention, conference, sports and film production destination. The St. Petersburg/Clearwater area is the leading destination on Florida's Gulf coast, drawing more than five million overnight visitors annually. The area is best known for record-breaking sunshine and 35 miles of spectacular beaches, including Fort De Soto Park, named America's Best Beach 2005 by Dr. Beach and Caladesi Island State Park named the # 2 Beach in America in 2006. A variety of attractions, world-class museums, sporting activities and nature-related experiences are also readily available. For more information about the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Area visit www.FloridasBeach.com.

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