

NEWS RELEASE

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THE 5TH ANNUAL DEERING SEAFOOD FESTIVAL IS A MAGICAL, ISLAND STYLE CELEBRATION

(MIAMI, March 9, 2009) – Seafood lovers get ready to party! The enchanting rhythms of steel drums and towering stilt walkers greet you as you're drawn into the magical, island-style celebration that has become the Deering Seafood Festival. Bring your family and friends on **Sunday, March 29th from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.**, and plan to spend the day because this event just keeps getting better.

Meet on the lawn of the biggest backyard on Biscayne Bay, where the Bay Roots Reggae Band play their calypso beat, and the colorfully costumed, free spirited Bahamian Junkanoo dancers weave playfully throughout the crowd. Every island celebration needs some fire eating and limbo dancing, and the entertainment at the Deering Seafood Festival offers that and more. Also, back by popular demand is the crowd-pleasing band, Mr. Nice Guy.

Throughout the day seafood markets, restaurants and caterers such as Golden Rule Seafood Market, Bizcaya Ritz-Carlton, Fleming, Shibui, Rodbenders, Sports Grill, Tropical Palate and The Les Seafood Express prepare an outstanding array of the freshest catch that includes delicious lobster, fried conch, shrimp egg rolls, grilled dolphin, garlic blue crabs and mountains of shrimp that are steamed, fried, or just peel and eat.

Under the big top tent local celebrity chefs conduct cooking demonstrations, and share their unique recipes and impart culinary advice. Taste delectable samples of seafood dishes prepared by Sean Bernal (Oceanaire); Barb Freda, (Les Dames d'Escoffier); Cindy Hutson (Ortanique on the Mile); Philippe Pinon (Bizcaya, Ritz-Carlton); and Paula Da Silva (3030 Ocean, Ft. Lauderdale) who was recently seen on Hell's Kitchen with Gordon Ramsay. Professionally attired culinary students from Robert Morgan Education Center work along side the chefs and offer assistance in food preparation. In the Lil' Shrimp Kids Zone, Ariana Kumpis (Ariana's Etiquette) conducts a cooking event designed just for children.

While festival goers of all ages are enjoying the scrumptious seafood and lively entertainment, some of the other exciting activities include an Artists' Village with original paintings, photography, crafts and jewelry; the Lil' Shrimp Kids Zone for kid-friendly fun; pontoon boat rides aboard the Pelican Skipper to Chicken Key; and nature hikes and tours of the historic

Stone House and Richmond Cottage. *Please note that the pontoon boat rides, nature hikes and historic house tours have limited space.*

Admission tickets include park entrance and entertainment, Adults \$12 in advance online/ \$15 at the gate; Children 4-14 year \$5, and Foundation Members Free. For more information call 305-235-1668 ext. 263 or log on to: www.deeringestate.org. *Proceeds from the event benefit the Deering Estate Foundation.*

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The Deering Estate at Cutler, a Miami-Dade County Park, is located at 16701 SW 72 Avenue in Miami. This 444-acre natural and archaeological preserve and historic site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as a center for education, culture and recreation. Historic house tours and natural area tours are offered daily with admission to the Estate. Eco-tours are also offered throughout the year for an additional fee. For more information on the Deering Estate's educational and cultural programs please visit www.deeringestate.org.

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Miami-Dade Parks provides quality and diverse cultural and recreational experiences for persons with disabilities. Call 305-365-3128 (V) or 305-365-6705 (TDD) to request materials in accessible format, a sign language interpreter (five days notice required) and for information on access for persons with disabilities.