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OCEANS IN TROUBLE

WABASSO ISLAND, FL – On January 20, 2010, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM, at the Indian River Shores Community Center, Dr. Edith Widder will offer a deep-sea explorers view of the current state of our oceans. Her presentation is part of a lecture series given by noted environmentalists, and sponsored by the Environmental Learning Center.

Toxic blooms of algae, red tides, and lifeless waters called “dead zones” are all symptoms of the degradation of our oceans. Through her research and over 250 deep sea dives in submersibles, Dr. Widder seeks to develop innovative technologies and science-based conservation actions to protect marine ecosystems and the species they sustain. With our proximity to the ocean, Treasure Coast residents will appreciate her efforts to understand what is necessary to keep the ocean producing the food, recreation, and pleasure that they currently enjoy.

After receiving a BS degree, Magna Cum Laude, in Biology from Tufts University, Dr. Widder earned a Master Degree in Biochemistry, and a Ph.D. in Neurobiology from the University of California in Santa Barbara. She then became certified as a Scientific Research Pilot for Atmospheric Diving Systems. In 2005, Dr. Widder resigned from her 16 year post at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution to co-found the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA), located in Ft. Pierce.

Admission for the event is \$15 per adult. Reservations may be made by calling the ELC at (772) 589-5050 or emailing info@DiscoverELC.org. The Indian River Shores Community Center is located at 6001 North A-1-A, north of Beachland Blvd in Vero Beach.

The Environmental Learning Center is located north of Vero Beach off County road 510 at the end of the Wabasso bridge. Its 64-acre campus includes exhibit areas, native plant gardens, picnic facilities, gift shop, and visitor center. A list of its many field excursions, including hikes, boat excursions, nature walks, and bird watching can be found at www.DiscoverELC.org.

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