



# City of Coos Bay

## *Office of the City Manager*

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August 26, 2011

### Press Release

**South Slough Celebrates National Estuaries Day in Historic Empire** – The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and the City of Coos Bay invite you to join us for the 2011 celebration of National Estuaries Day on **Saturday, September 24th**, at the Empire Dock/Hollering Place from 12-4. The theme of this year's event is "Go with the flow." This family-friendly celebration of Estuaries: the richest places on earth, welcomes all to stop by the historic Empire bay-front location that has hosted celebrations on the estuary shore for thousands of years. All are welcome be part of the free, water-themed festivities that will include things to see and do for people of all ages and interests.

Tour the newly opened **Coos Bay Boat Building Center**, Take a "Down the Drain Adventure" in a giant interactive maze that follows the path of water we use, view displays of children's art, sign up for a ride in a multi-passenger canoe, check out boats from the Y-Marina, explore the Marine Auxiliary's B.A.T. mobile, Learn how we keep water in the estuary clean on a tour the Empire water treatment plant, observe live fish in ODFW's giant fish tank, learn about the history of the estuary shoreline, learn how to explore the underwater world with a remotely operated vehicle, enter a photo in the second annual "Day in the Life of an Estuary" photo contest. Here a live radio broadcast from MHS Pirate Radio. Food will be available for purchase. See you in Empire! Look for the GIANT Crab! For more information, call 541-888-5558 x 58 or visit [www.southsloughestuary.org](http://www.southsloughestuary.org)

### Activity Schedule

12:30, 1:15, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30	Multi-passenger canoe rides
12:15 - 12:45	Crabbing around Empire Docks
12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00	Live how our watershed works demonstrations and stories
1:00 - 3:00	Empire water treatment plant tours
12:00 - 2:00	Remotely operated submarine demonstrations
12:45-1:45, 3:15-3:45	Guided nature walk along the Sawmill & Tribal Trail
1:45 - 2:15	How does water flow? Watch scientists drop and track a hundred current drifters around the bay!
2:30 - 3:15	Estuary fish beach seine demonstration
3:15 - 3:45	Beginning bird watching

**Helping Hands for America's Lands** – Join more than 180,000 volunteers at over 2,000 sites throughout the United States to help restore the beauty and vitality of our public lands as part of our 18<sup>th</sup> annual National Public Lands Day. South Slough Reserve and the Charleston Community Enhancement Corporation will be Co-leading Two joint National Public Lands Day clean-up events from 9am-12 noon. Participants have their choice of two locations, Hallmark Creek in Charleston (Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>), or **Empire Docks** in Empire beginning at 9 a.m. until 12 noon, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. At both sites, we will remove invasive weeds and trash, and investigate the impacts of these on the estuary. (Coffee and snacks for volunteers will be provided.) This is a SOLV sponsored event and you may register at the site or online in advance at: <http://www.solv.org/> Then click “Find a Volunteer opportunity”, “Project Oregon”, “Volunteer”, (Coos Bay National Public Lands Day-Go With the Flow”)

Get outdoors, Get dirty, Have fun! For more information contact Deborah Rudd at 541-888-5558 x 58 or [Deborah.rudd@state.or.us](mailto:Deborah.rudd@state.or.us)