

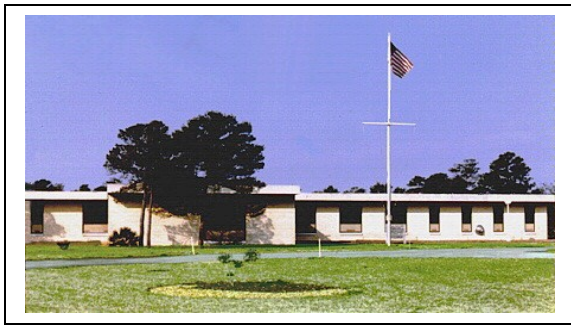
**200th Anniversary Open House at Historic Ft. Crockett Facility.** Families in the Galveston-Houston area, and beyond, recently discovered oceans in a free Saturday of fun and education.



Three hundred people attended the first annual NOAA Ocean Discovery Day in Galveston, Texas, where they toured among the 20 activity stations representing NOAA programs. Visitors learned everything from how Geographic Information Systems are used to characterize habitats in NOAA Sanctuaries, to why wetlands are important and how NOAA Fisheries protects them, to how to tie knots that a NOAA Corps officer might use on a research vessel. NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)-Fisheries Ecology Branch used the opportunity to highlight work supported by the CRCP, including reef fish and coral surveys by SCUBA-divers and ROV (Puerto Rico and NW GOM), coral disease and coral restoration monitoring in Mona Island (Puerto Rico), and the recovery of conch populations (USVI). The hands-on Conch Exhibit was a big hit and a great opportunity to educate visitors about the conch life cycle, fishery, and the tag-and-recapture and sonic tracking work that is underway. Enforcement was on hand to explain its role in protecting our ocean treasures, and NOAA's Texas Sea Grant University (Texas A&M) was available to provide information about education opportunities for young people aspiring to ocean careers. Girl Scouts of America were heavily represented among participants in this educational event where most of the activities met one or more requirements to earn various badges. As a special feature, visitors were treated to performances by Lucas Miller, the singing zoologist, who related wildlife science concepts through songs and stories. In addition, the NOAA CRCP SEFSC Activities and Accomplishments 2004-2006 Report were distributed during the event. The event was organized and hosted by the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and by NOAA Fisheries' Galveston Lab to celebrate NOAA's 200th anniversary and the Sanctuary's 15th anniversary. In addition to local staff, representatives from Monitor, Gray's Reef and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries were on hand to make the day a success. There were also 25 volunteers assisting with the program; several traveled over 250 miles to volunteer.

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**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House at Panama City Florida.**



The Panama City laboratory is planning an open house June 23, 2007 (rain date is June 30, 2007). The plan is to have participation by Galveston and Pascagoula Laboratory staff. Tentative displays include: sea turtles, TED testing, displays of research activities, touch tank, "do not touch" shark tank, live radio broadcast, slide show, posters, demonstrations such as NOAA Divers and a remotely operated vehicle in action. Giveaways, etc. are also planned. Laboratory Staff are trying to get other NOAA components to join in also. Stay tuned for further details.

## **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House at Miami, Florida**



**More details forthcoming**



# NOAA

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

Open House Celebration for  
the 200th Anniversary of the  
National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

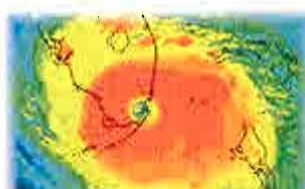
*Tour NOAA's Virginia Key Facilities*

- *Southeast Fisheries Science Center*  
75 Virginia Beach Drive  
Miami, FL 33149
- *Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory*  
4301 Rickenbacker Causeway  
Miami, FL 33149

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Open House