



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **TREE PLANTING AT MUDDY CREEK SHELL CHEMICAL LP DONATES TREES**

**Mobile, Ala – January 15, 2009.** The Alabama Coastal Foundation (ACF) and the Alabama State Port Authority (Port Authority) will conduct a tree planting on Saturday, January 17, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Muddy Creek Mitigation Area in Mobile County. The Alabama State Port Authority began construction of Muddy Creek in 1999 as part of a marine terminal development project located on the Theodore Ship Channel. The 200 acre project sets aside public recreation land that focuses on wetland and upland restoration efforts incorporating invasive species removal techniques and management techniques, while creating native habitat for beavers, birds and other wildlife. Muddy Creek opened to the public in 2002 featuring walking paths and boardwalks, longleaf pine plantation, beaver pond, and nesting boxes.

The tree planting at Muddy Creek is part of ACF's "Gift a Tree" Program. All of the trees scheduled for planting Saturday were gifted in a recipient's name as part of ACF's ongoing habitat restoration programs. Shell Chemical LP is a long time sponsor of ACF's habitat projects and is the primary sponsor for the Muddy Creek Planting.

ACF Board Member Gena Todia is a local native plants expert who consults with the Port Authority for ongoing environmental management of the site. "We will be planting several native trees at Muddy Creek, which will not only enhance the local wildlife habitat, but will also help with ongoing initiatives to control invasive exotic species," says Todia. The different types of trees that will be planted are Red Maple, Persimmon, Dahoon Holly, Tulip Poplar, Southern Magnolia, Sweetbay Magnolia, Swamp Tupelo, Swamp Azalea, American Snowbell and Live Oak.

"We appreciate the opportunity to partner with the ACF in this valuable preservation of habitat," said Bob Harris, the Port Authority's manager for Environmental, Health and Safety.

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“ACF’s tree planting program is a great opportunity for local volunteers to get involved in hands-on projects that help improve and protect the quality of Alabama’s coastal resources. We are grateful to Shell Chemical, as well as our ‘gift a tree’ participants, for providing the resources to continue programs that enhance the quality of life in South Alabama,” Bethany Kraft, ACF Executive Director, said.

Scout troops, civic groups and schools are encouraged to participate in the tree planting, which will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until all trees are planted. Volunteers should bring a shovel, gloves and sturdy shoes.

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