

# Keep Nassau Beautiful Media Release

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**For Immediate Release**

## 14th Annual Wild Amelia Nature Festival Back On Tap

**Nassau County, Florida, April 15, 2023.** From live animal exhibits to foot-stomping music, the 14th annual Wild Amelia Nature Festival, set for May 19-21, has much to offer to residents and visitors alike and will be a blend of popular components from past festivals and some new offerings designed to make this 14<sup>th</sup> festival another fun celebration of the nature of Amelia Island. Wild Amelia, a Keep Nassau Beautiful program, conducts educational nature programs year-round that encourage appreciation and careful stewardship of the island's wild places and wildlife through education. Many Festival events and activities – including the Expo of exhibits and activities for adults and children on Saturday, May 20, as well as some of the ecotours – are free and open to the public.

The 14th annual Wild Amelia Nature Festival will hopefully kick off on **Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** with a popular event: a rehabilitated sea turtle release at Main Beach by the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. This heartwarming occasion – watching a healthy turtle returning to its ocean home – is a festival highlight, and the Georgia Sea Turtle Center is currently evaluating its patients in the hope that one of the Florida turtles will be ready to go back to its ocean home! Stay tuned for details. On Friday evening, a sunset cruise with Amelia River Cruises will be offered as a fundraiser for Wild Amelia. As in the past, the Festival offers ecotours: hikes, yoga, kayaking, sailing, boat tours, electric bike tours, and paddleboard adventures are offered throughout the three days.

**Saturday's** Festival activities include more eco-tours and a huge Eco-Expo at the Atlantic Avenue Recreation Center, 2500 Atlantic Avenue, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. This Expo will feature exhibits from nonprofit nature and conservation groups and other conservation-minded businesses in the community. New exhibitors will join old friends: The Center for Wildlife Education and the Lamar Q. Bell, Jr. Raptor Center of Georgia Southern University will be on hand with their amazing raptor exhibit: the Center asks that dogs be kept at a distance from these mighty raptors. Among the familiar faces will be Shari Blissett-Clark, the "bat lady," who will return with her live critters. There will be a special "Passport Program" for children: they will be invited to find the answers to several questions about the Festival's mascot – the loggerhead sea turtle – and they will receive a prize when they have done so. New this year is Wild Storytime for ages 5 – 8: participants will receive a special gift at the close of Storytime.



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Special hands-on activities for the children will be offered in the Kids' Niche on the lawn of the Recreation Center. Music by Laid Back and food trucks will add to the day. A spectacular raffle – ranging from items for children to art and photography to excursions – will be ongoing until 2:30 p.m.

There is something for everyone at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Wild Amelia Nature Festival, a celebration of nature the whole family can enjoy. Registration for events is ongoing. For more information, or to register for any events requiring registration, visit <https://keepnassaubeautiful.org/programs/wildamelia>.

**COME JOIN THE WILD BUNCH THIS MAY!**

Contact KNB: [KNB@KeepNassauBeautiful.org](mailto:KNB@KeepNassauBeautiful.org) or 904-261-0165.

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Keep Nassau Beautiful, Inc. is working to inspire, educate, and equip individuals, groups, businesses, and governments to take action to make Nassau County a place where residents, visitors, and wildlife can thrive and experience the beauty of Nassau County.

[www.keepnassaubeautiful.org](http://www.keepnassaubeautiful.org)



Wild Amelia Nature Festival, Eco-Expo, May 20, 2023