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Lee County's Lakes Regional Park to host National Public Gardens Day

Fort Myers, FL, April 27, 2016 – The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation will host a celebration in recognition of National Public Gardens Day from 8 a.m. to noon Friday, May 6, at Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers.

Lakes Park joins more than 500 public gardens in the nationwide celebration. The free event includes educational exhibits, garden tours, vendors, demonstrations and several speakers. Feature sponsor Lowes will give away a pair of garden gloves to the first 50 people.

There will be tours of the Botanic Garden including the Community Garden, the Fragrance Garden, the Rose Garden, Succulent Garden and Water Garden at 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Tea and cookies will be served in the Community Garden. Educational tables will have information available on various garden related topics.

The following is a schedule of educational programs and book signings:

- 8:30 a.m. Adrienne Diaz, "Grow a Ton From Your Garden"
- 9 a.m. Wesley Higgins, American Orchid Society, "Phalaenopsis Culture" (book signing)
- 10 a.m. Gary Murza, Southwest Florida Orchid Society, "How to Mount your Orchids"
- 10 a.m. Karen Harty, "Companion Planting"
- 11 a.m. Adrienne Diaz, "Wow, It's Really Hot, What Do I Grow for the Summer"
- 11 a.m. Charles Sobczak, "Meet Your Neighbors - The Amazing Flora and Fauna of Southwest Florida" (book signing)

"The purpose of this event is to give the public a view of the present gardens as well as the future plans for a Children's Garden," said Wesley Higgins, chairman of the Botanic Garden Committee. "It also emphasizes the importance of plants in our daily lives."

The event is being sponsored locally by the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation, a non-profit organization that enriches the park with many projects including an expansion of the Botanic Garden at Lakes Park. The foundation's main focus is to assist Lee County Parks & Recreation by enhancing the park's environmental aesthetics, wildlife habitat and recreational amenities for the community to enjoy.

Free parking is available by downloading a voucher at www.LakesPark.org. Lakes Regional Park is located at on Gladiolus Drive between U.S. 41 and Summerlin Drive. For event information, contact Barbara Manzo at 239- 229-0387. For information on the foundation, to make a donation, become a

member or a volunteer, visit www.lakespark.org. For information about Lee County Parks & Recreation, visit www.leeparks.org or call 239-533-7275.