

For Assignment Desk: MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR RELEASE ON OCTOBER 1, 2002

Habitat Stewards Meet to Help Increase Wildlife Habitats in SW Florida Backyards

What: An education coordinator from the National Wildlife Federation in Atlanta will be hosting a gathering at Caribbean Gardens for area Habitat Stewards to discuss improving backyard habitats for wildlife in SW Florida. Stewards are conservation minded volunteers who assist people in restoring wildlife habitat everywhere from a window box to a schoolyard. The Habitat Stewards are a key part of NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat program that has certified over 33,000 habitats across the country since its inception in 1973, but only about 30 in Lee and Collier counties. Stewards will also have input into the plans to incorporate a certified exhibition Backyard Wildlife Habitat in the zoo to help residents learn how to attract songbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife. More at: www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/

When: **October 1, 2002 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

Where: *Caribbean Gardens: The ZOO in Naples* at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road near Coastland Center mall.

Why: This will be a chance for Stewards from different communities to meet and learn about the various Community and Backyard Wildlife Habitat projects that are underway in Florida and how to build on these successes. They will also hear special presentations by guest speakers.

Photo Ops: Habitat Stewards touring Caribbean Gardens including reviewing the site for the zoo's upcoming exhibition Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

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