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For information contact:  
William J. Mitsch (614) 946-6715 (cell)  

Celebrate Earth Day on Monday, April 22, With a Tour of FGCU’s New Everglades Wetland Research Park in Naples

FORT MYERS, Fla. – Florida Gulf Coast University’s (FGCU) newest research facility, the Everglades Wetland Research Park in Naples, celebrates Earth Day on Monday, April 22, with an open house for the public.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can tour the laboratory and offices, meet the research team, see real-time data displays, view research posters and slide shows of lab activity and enjoy Florida wetland-themed food and Key lime pie.

Located in the Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden, 4940 Bayshore Drive, the facility’s main research laboratory features state-of-the-art technology that will enhance and accelerate research in wetlands and river biogeochemistry and ecology. Scientists as well as graduate and doctoral students already have begun using the facility for research on Everglades restoration, carbon presence and methane emissions in local ecosystems and coastal mangrove restoration. The center recently completed its first “Moonlight on the Marsh” lecture series featuring distinguished scientists from around the world.

The EWRP provides teaching, research and outreach opportunities under the direction of William J. Mitsch, a prize-winning wetland scientist with an international reputation in ecological engineering. Mitsch holds the Juliet C. Sproul Chair for Southwest Florida Habitat Restoration and Management; the position is funded by an endowment from Sproul, a Naples developer and philanthropist, to promote the study of habitat restoration and management.

For more information, contact Mitsch at (614) 946-6715 (cell) or wmitsch@fgcu.edu. For more on the EWRP, go to www.fgcu.edu/swamp.

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