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Tom Tryon, Editor
Sarasota Herald Tribune
1741 Main Street
Sarasota, Florida 34236

Dear Tom:

“Individual commitment to a group effort-that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” - Vince Lombardi.

The Summit for Environmental Action will be held at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens on February 29, 2008. More than 200 community leaders from all walks of life will spend the day reaching consensus on 3-4 environmental actions to move our region to the forefront of local sustainability and environmental stewardship.

The Summit originated from SCOPE’s natural environment indicators. A small group saw that environmental issues could be a catalyst for diverse groups to work together and inspire collective action. The idea was to pick issues which had both broad appeal and would not be divisive. The following issue areas will be considered by Summit participants:

- **Florida-Friendly Landscaping** – Landscape changes everyone can implement that save money and are safe for our wildlife, native plants, bays, rivers and streams.
- **Water Issues** – Using less water and finding innovative sources for water needs.
- **Living Locally** – Supporting walk-ability and local businesses to strengthen our area’s economy and build community.
- **Energy Use** – Choosing appropriate energy strategies that will be more efficient, save money, and make us part of national and global efforts to address climate change.

Several local groups are partnering with the Summit to help produce this community-based effort for environmental action and we welcome more participation. Among them: Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Mote Marine Policy Institute, Ruden McClosky, Aspire Green Branding and Social Marketing,

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Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice and SCOPE.

The Summit will employ technical innovation to help Summit participants form consensus in “real time.” The Summit will also feature facilitators and “resource experts” for substantive input on the issues. To reduce paper use, virtually all Summit information will be disseminated electronically.

Summit participants will be selected from nominations from diverse groups such as environmental, business, community, civic, academic and faith-based organizations. Breakout groups will also be divided into diverse interests and backgrounds to balance discussion.

At the end of the day, the Summit will result in truly actionable plans, based on community consensus. Many political leaders are aware of the Summit planning and are going to be listening and participating.

The Summit will also have a keynote speaker who will draw upon the environmental sustainability movement globally and synthesize it to local efforts. Everyone is encouraged to nominate themselves or a friend. Nomination enrollment is open through January 31 on line at www.scopexcel.org. The event will be followed-up with focused measurement toward its objectives. It will truly be a community inspired event with long-term implications for our region and our environment.

<p>The Summit for Environmental Action Friday, February 29 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Marie Selby Botanical Gardens There is a suggested fee of \$25.00 per person to cover the cost of food and other refreshments. To participate, sponsor or volunteer, visit www.scopexcel.org or call 941-365-8751.</p>

Sincerely,

Nick Gladding, Esq.
Ruden McClosky
Chair, Summit for Environmental Action