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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Galveston Bay Foundation begins fourth year of Rain Barrel Program

Houston, TX – February 23, 2017 – The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) is entering the fourth year of its Rain Barrel Program. This program aims to educate the communities surrounding the Galveston Bay of the benefits of harvesting rainwater. It is a low maintenance, low cost method for easily conserving water at home.

Rain barrels are placed at downspouts to divert rainwater that would otherwise be directed to a storm drain. By reducing stormwater runoff, we can reduce the amount of bacteria that is being introduced into the water in our Bay, as well as into our beaches. Rain barrels can also reduce flooding from heavy rain events.

Each barrel can potentially save up to 1,050 gallons of water per year, and if every single-family housing unit in Houston had one rain barrel, the total water conserved would fill the Astrodome from floor to ceiling three times over.

Since the program's establishment in 2013, GBF has distributed 1,528 barrels into the communities surrounding Houston, potentially conserving over 3.6 million gallons of water.

GBF will be kicking off its 2017 Rain Barrel Workshop season on Saturday, March 4 from 9:30am - 11:30am at Texas A&M University at Galveston's Sea Aggie Center. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$35, which includes one rain barrel + connector kit, and admission to the workshop for two people.

Attendees at this workshop will learn the environmental benefits of rain barrels, how to use them, as well as proper location and installation. This workshop is part of GBF's efforts to reduce stormwater pollution, conserve water, and keep Galveston Bay fishable and swimmable.

To register, visit www.galvbay.org/rainbarrel. Contact Kaitlin Grable at kgrable@galvbay.org or 281-332-3381 X 220 for more details.

This workshop is made possible thanks to LyondellBasell and Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

About Galveston Bay Foundation

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve and enhance Galveston Bay as a healthy and productive place for generations to come. The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, and is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GBF is located at 1100 Hercules Avenue, Suite 200 in Houston, Texas. For further information contact GBF at 281-332-3381 or visit the website at www.galvbay.org.

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