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Contact:

Kurt Watkins

214-891-7624

kurt_watkins@richards.com

National Parks Conservation Association Kicks Off Centennial Celebration of U.S. National Park Service at Earth Day Texas

Celebration includes speakers, interactive activities and Junior Park Ranger training

DALLAS (April 14) – The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) kicks off the centennial year of the U.S. National Park Service with a three-day celebration at Earth Day Texas 2015. The park service turns 100 in 2016 and oversees the 407 parks and historic sites maintained by the U.S. government.

The centennial celebration will kick off a second century of stewarding America’s natural treasures and engaging communities through recreation, conservation and historic preservation programs.

Earth Day Texas will take place on April 24, 25 and 26 at historic Fair Park in Dallas.

Distinguished speakers include Suzanne Dixon (NPCA Texas regional director), Alan Spears (NPCA historian) and author Brian Shellum (*Black Officer in a Buffalo Solider Regiment*). Dixon, Spears and Shellum will discuss the heritage of the National Park System, the resources it provides for Americans across the nation and the system’s bright future.

In a special outdoor exhibit, the U.S. National Park Service is bringing real park rangers, explorer guidebooks, conservation trading cards and park mascots to Earth Day Texas. Children and families will have the opportunity to learn about park conservation through games, interactive activities and even official Junior Park Ranger training.

Participating U.S. national parks and historic sites include Big Bend National Park, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Big Thicket National Preserve, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park, LBJ National Historical Park, Amistad National Recreation Area, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and Padre Island National Seashore.

Lone Star Coastal and Waco Mammoth Site, two proposed parks, will participate as well.

For more information about the more than 1,100 exhibit spaces and activities at Earth Day Texas 2015, please visit www.earthdaytx.org.

About Earth Day Texas

Each April, Earth Day Texas hosts the world's largest public exhibition devoted to environmental stewardship. The show is a platform that brings businesses, environmental organizations, academic institutions and government agencies together to positively influence the way Texans think, live and work. By providing enlightening talks, unique showcases and interactive workshops, EDTx catalyzes meaningful conversations that will shape a sustainable future.