



OCEAN RESEARCH & CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

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DR. EDITH WIDDER TO SPEAK AT FLORIDA CENTER FOR OCEAN SCIENCE EDUCATION PUBLIC LECTURE AT IRSC

February 11, 2011 – Dr. Edith Widder, renowned international marine biologist and deep sea explorer will be the featured speaker at a public lecture on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. The newly formed Florida Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSSE Florida) welcomes the public to this free event which will be held in the Science Center Auditorium 135 on the Main Campus of Indian River State College (IRSC) on Virginia Avenue and 30th Street in Fort Pierce. Registration is not required.

In 2005, Dr. Widder cofounded the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA) in Fort Pierce, FL, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of marine ecosystems and the species they sustain through development of innovative technologies and science-based conservation action. Based on her work with ORCA, she was awarded a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in 2006.

Dr. Widder is a specialist in the amazing phenomenon of bioluminescence (the light chemically produced by many ocean organisms). Her presentation, “Exploring and Protecting Planet Ocean,” will share entertaining and informative highlights of her oceanographic research and deep sea discoveries. A gifted speaker, Dr. Widder translates the scientific aspects of her work into a greater understanding of marine habitats that offers insight on the impact humans have on the oceans of the world.

COSEE Florida is a partnership between IRSC, ORCA, the Smithsonian Marine Station, and Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne. COSEE Florida is based at the IRSC Science Center at the Main Campus in Fort Pierce, Florida and joins the national network of 12 centers and a Central Coordinating Office funded by the National Science Foundation’s Division of Ocean Sciences. For more information about COSEE Florida, visit www.coseeflorida.org or contact Center Director, Dr. Sue Cook at scook@irsc.org or by calling 772.462.7503.



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