

NEWS RELEASE

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Manatee America Going Back Into the Wild

In Honor of Manatee Awareness Month Miami Seaquarium will release Manatee *America* with the Help of Students from MAST Academy

In honor of *Manatee Awareness Month* Miami Seaquarium will be releasing manatee America with the help of students from MAST Academy on Wednesday, November 14, 2007.

Animal loading will begin at **10:00am at Miami Seaquarium**. Media advised to arrive by 09:45am at the park and go through the gate to the right of the main entrance. In an effort to educate students of the importance of wildlife preservation, Miami Seaquarium will offer a first hand look at manatee care and release. MAST Academy's Marine Research Class will accompany Miami Seaquarium animal care staff throughout the process. An animal care speaker will educate the students on the importance of preserving these protected species. Once the manatee is loaded into the truck, animal caregivers and students will depart from the park promptly. Media is welcome to follow the manatee and students to the drop off area. Manatee America will be released in the Naples area.

Manatee 'America' background:

America was rescued near the Isles of Capri on July 4th 2007, the date that rendered her name. The young adult female manatee sustained severe injuries from a boat propeller accident. After several months of around the clock care by Miami Seaquarium animal care and veterinarian staff, America has fully recovered and is ready to be returned to the wild. The female manatee was fed intravenously, for she sustained head trauma as a result of the accident and was unable to eat solid food or drink on her own. She slowly showed signs of improvement when she began to move her upper lip, grind her teeth, and twitch her nose. America has now made a full recovery and is ready to go back into the wild.

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