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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 29, 2007**

**PHILIP L. GREENE TO BE HERON FESTIVAL  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER APRIL 28, 2007, AT CLEAR LAKE STATE PARK**

**LAKE COUNTY, CA** — Philip L. Greene, internationally known photographer, will be the keynote speaker at the Heron Festival, which will be held April 27 – 29, 2007, at Clear Lake State Park.

The annual Heron Festival and Spring Wildflower Brunch will be presented by the Redbud Audubon Society and the Clear Lake State Park Interpretive Association. The fun, family-oriented event features pontoon boat tours, birding and nature walks, an art show, exhibits, nature talks, and children's activities.

Greene will present at 10:00 a.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 28, 2007, about the nesting cycle of herons, with special emphasis on mating behaviors, nest building, and fledging.

Philip L. Greene is a world-renowned photographer of herons and egrets and has had his work featured in museums around the world, including the California Academy of Science and the British Museum. He has been published in *Country Living*, *Aperture*, *California Wild*, and *Bay Nature*, and his photos also were used to illustrate the *Annotated Atlas and Implications for the Conservation of Heron and Egret Nesting Colonies in the San Francisco Bay Area* (Audubon Canyon Ranch).

Greene was instrumental in establishing the Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge, having helped secure a \$1 million Land and Water Conservation Grant for purchase of the islands with a presentation he gave in front of the House of Representatives. His photographs were entered into the Congressional Record.

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Greene has taught classes on the ecology of herons at the California Academy of Science, University of Pittsburg, University of Virginia Institute for Shipboard Education, State University of New York Cobleskill, and the University of California Berkeley. He currently teaches classes on the art of color printing from slides, as well as field classes in nature and avian photography.

The Heron Festival Art Show opening reception will be held at Main Street Gallery Friday, April 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., where guests are invited to mingle with artists and enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres. The bird and nature art will be on display at the gallery for the entire weekend of the Heron Festival.

The Spring Wildflower Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and features "Fill Your Own Omelet" dishes. The cost for brunch is \$12. Advance brunch reservations and payment are requested and may be made online by visiting [www.heronfestival.org](http://www.heronfestival.org) or by calling (800) 525-3743.

On Saturday and Sunday, pontoon boat excursions will leave from the Clear Lake State Park marina and take visitors along the shoreline of Clear Lake to view nesting herons, egrets, grebes, and other shorebirds. The 90-minute boat trips will be offered from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Experienced Audubon birding guides will accompany each boat to share information about the birds and wildlife seen on each trip. A donation of \$15 per person is requested and advance reservations are required and may be made online by visiting [www.heronfestival.org](http://www.heronfestival.org) or by calling (800) 525-3743.

Also on Saturday and Sunday, the Visitor Center at Clear Lake State Park will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring interpretive displays of Lake County's natural and cultural resources. In addition to Philip L. Greene's presentation, the Visitor Center Auditorium will feature other speakers, slide shows, and videos on local birds and wildlife. Topics will range from the weekend's featured herons and wildflowers to bats and hummingbirds.

Nature and bird walks will be given by local park docents and Audubon guides who are specialists in the park's birds and wildlife. A self-guided "Habitat Hike" will be available for families. A nature fair with numerous outdoor exhibit booths will present conservation and nature displays, nature-related artists, and educational materials.

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On Saturday evening, activities aimed at kids and parents will feature bird and nature stories around the campfire and an evening wildlife walk in the park with flashlights.

During Heron Festival weekend, admission to Clear Lake State Park is free. Except for the boat rides and brunch, all other festival activities also are free. Camping sites are available through the State Park reservation system. Local resort, motel, and bed-and-breakfast reservations are available through [www.lakecounty.com](http://www.lakecounty.com) or by calling (800) 525-3743.

Clear Lake State Park is located at 5300 Soda Bay Road in Kelseyville. Main Street Gallery, the site of the Heron Festival Art Show, is located at 325 N. Main Street in Lakeport. For more information on all festival events, call (800) 525-3743 or visit [www.heronfestival.org](http://www.heronfestival.org).

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