

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Advisory
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Dameron Marsh and Hughlett Point natural area preserves host open house

(KILMARNOCK, Va.) – A field day of exploring Virginia’s rarest natural resources will be held at Dameron Marsh and Hughlett Point natural area preserves on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009. Hosted by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, activities include guided tours of both preserves and an informational open house at Shiloh School House.

Who: DCR Natural Heritage staff, local officials, local interest groups and members of the general public

What: This event is one of several being held statewide to showcase Virginia’s Natural Area Preserve System, through which the state’s most significant natural places are protected. It includes some of the rarest natural communities and species habitats. The federally threatened northeastern beach tiger beetle is protected at both Dameron Marsh and Hughlett Point. Statewide, there are 59 dedicated natural areas totaling 49,531 acres. In those areas, 356 unique, significant natural communities and rare plant and animal species are protected.

When: The open house at Shiloh School will run from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. A guided tour of Dameron Marsh will be at 11 a.m., and the guided tour of Hughlett Point will be at 1 p.m. Meet at Shiloh School, then caravan to the preserves. Both preserves are open all day to visitation.

Where: Shiloh School is at the intersection of routes 606 and 605 roughly four miles north of Kilmarnock.