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Contact: Wendy Larimer  
Association of Marina Industries  
202/350-9623 [wlarimer@marinaassociation.org](mailto:wlarimer@marinaassociation.org)

Tampa, FL—Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park in Miami, Florida is the recipient of this year's National Marina Day (NMD), Marina of the Year award. The award was announced this evening at the International Marina and Boatyard Conference in Tampa, FL. National Marina Day is managed by the Association of Marina Industries (AMI).

Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park best exemplified the intent of National Marina Day as a time to celebrate the value of marinas as gateways to our nation's waters, and to recognize the role that marina managers play as stewards of the environment. Marinas across the country choose various ways to celebrate and AMI asks that the local community, especially non-boaters be invited to the event to introduce them to boating and educate them on the value of the marina industry to their communities.

In celebration of NMD, Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park celebrated NMD by dedicating the completion of the 10-year marina expansion project, which took the marina from 39 slips to 150. The marina hosted an all day event that included tours of their facility, fishing demos, canoe and kayak rides, dragon boat rides and races, safety vessel tours and many other activities highlighting the marina and the waterfront environment. One of the highlights was when 75 summer camp youth embarked on their first fishing trip courtesy of the marina and two donated drift fishing boats. The marina was presented with from Miami-Dade County recognizing NMD.

“The deciding factor on choosing Bill Bird was their effective use of the media to reach out to the entire community and invite them to the day and then ensure that their visitors were introduced to the marina lifestyle and water recreation. Their event gave a positive light to what marinas do everyday in providing access to our waters and beautiful waterfront vistas and hopefully some new boaters were born from their experience at this event,” said Wendy Larimer, coordinator of National Marina Day for the Association of Marina Industries.

Besides receiving a plaque and recognition for their efforts, the marina will also be the site of the kick-off event for National Marina Day 2010, to be held Saturday June 12.

Kathy Haley, Public Facility Manager commented, “The reason that that we chose to celebrate National Marina Day is that we felt that it was the perfect day to dedicate our newly expanded marina. It was also a perfect opportunity to educate the public that the role that Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department plays in the marine industry. It is an honor for our Department was recognized for this prestigious award and we look forward to hosting the 2010 National Marina kick-off.”

Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park is located in the 180-acre Haulover Beach Park between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intercoastal Waterway. The marina is the home of the largest charter/drift fishing fleet in South Florida and is also designated a Clean Marina. In addition to the marina, Haulover Beach Park features Haulover Beach, a 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, an ice cream shop, souvenir shop, bicycle rentals, powerboat rentals, picnic pavilions, and kite rental concessions. For more information visit [www.miamidade.gov/parks](http://www.miamidade.gov/parks).