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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WFCR'S TRAVEL PROGRAM TO VISIT PANAMA WITH "FIELD NOTES" HOST LAURIE SANDERS**

**Amherst, Massachusetts (12 April 2007)** 88.5FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, will offer a **Panama Expedition**, as part of its travel program on September 9-18, 2007. The tour, produced for WFCR by Cross-Culture Journeys of Amherst, will be hosted by WFCR's "Field Notes" producer and host Laurie Sanders.



According to Sanders, who worked in Panama for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, the country's mix of tropical habitats provide outstanding opportunities for birding and other wildlife sightings. During the first part of the trip, WFCR travellers will visit historic parts of Panama City, the Gamboa rainforest region, the Panama Canal and Lake Gatun, and an Embara Indian village. The group will also spend time exploring Barro Colorado Island Natural Monument, one of the most important sites for tropical research in the world. During the last half of the trip, participants will fly to northern Panama's mountainous region where they'll visit a local coffee plantation, the cloud forests of Baru National Park, and the half-million acre La Amistad National Park, which straddles both Panama and Costa Rica.

The tour includes round-trip air from Hartford, all local domestic flights and transportation, deluxe accommodations and all meals, plus admissions to museums parks and other attractions. A portion of the price includes a tax-deductible contribution to WFCR.

Tour prices for WFCR's Panama Expedition with Laurie Sanders are \$3,695.00 per person, double occupancy if booked and paid in full before April 20, 2007 (and \$3,995.00 per person, double occupancy after April 21, 2007). Single supplement is: \$695.00 Airline ticket taxes, fuel surcharges and governmental fees are extra (approximately \$215.00 per person).

For a complete itinerary and registration forms, call WFCR at 413-545-3372 or email **Christopher Daly**.

WFCR's Travel Program has offered over 26 international and domestic travel programs since 1998, including: tours to cultural capitals of Prague, Berlin, Barcelona, Paris, Edinburgh, Santa Fe and St. Petersburg; natural history tours to Galapagos, Costa Rica, Iceland, and Barbados; jazz festival tours to France, Spain and Denmark, and cross-cultural programs to Cuba, Japan, Italy, Vietnam, and Australia.

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88.5FM WFCR, NPR News and Music for Western New England, is an affiliate of National Public Radio, American Public Media, and Public Radio International serving over 170,000 listeners in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York with regional news and information programming, and locally produced classical, jazz, Latino, and world music programming at 88.5FM, 101.1FM North Adams, 96.3 Williamstown, HD2 at 88.5FM, and on 640AM WNNZ. The University of Massachusetts is the license holder for 88.5FM WFCR, which operates with the advice and support of Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. For more information about 88.5FM WFCR's programs and services, call 413-545-0100 or visit our website at [www.wfcr.org](http://www.wfcr.org).