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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

Artistic Astronaut: Nicole Stott comes to Palatka

One Book One Putnam's 2018 Reading Season will wrap up on Wednesday, March 8th from 6-8pm at the GFWC Woman's Club of Palatka with a Finale Event featuring retired NASA Astronaut and engineer Nicole P. Stott. She served as a Flight Engineer on ISS Expedition 20 and Expedition 21 and was a Mission Specialist on STS-128 and STS-133. She worked for NASA for 27 years. Her eARTh from Space project aims to share the awe of her spaceflight experience through artwork.

Ms. Stott will be talking about her career and the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in schools. This will be a family-friendly event. Parents are encouraged to bring their children. This year's book, *Rocket Boys* by Homer Hickam, Jr. is the true story of a boy growing up in coal country West Virginia who dreamed of becoming a rocket scientist. He would go on to win the National Science Fair and eventually work for NASA.

"The evening's festivities will also include a 'Celestial' Art Show and Contest in honor of our guest speaker. There will be cash prizes awarded to first, second, and third place winners," said Bob H. Lee, chairperson of the One Book One Putnam Committee. "Entries will be judged by those in attendance." Refreshments will also be provided by the members of the Woman's Club.

"The Putnam County School District and the Putnam County Library System have been working hard recently to bring more STEM opportunities to the youth of Putnam County," said Jeremy Yates, Special Projects Coordinator for the Putnam County Library System. "More STEM events and workshops are planned for the near future at the public library."

One Book One Putnam is an initiative designed to encourage reading throughout Putnam County by creating common experiences that crosses the geographic, social, and economic boundaries in the county. For more information, contact jeremy.yates@putnam-fl.com. Visit FunInPutnam.com for an events calendar, online catalog, e-books and more.