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During Bay Day and other GBF events we have shirts made for our volunteers and participants. Recently we looked at our overstocked inventory and realized these shirts could be made useful rather than sitting in storage. We are pleased to inform you that two boxes of GBF shirts were sent to Haiti aboard *Integrity*, along with other earthquake relief materials, to help those affected by the earthquake. Thank you to the out-of-state volunteers in Miami-Dade County, FL that made these efforts possible.

Celebrating Galveston Bay Bay Day 2010

The 2010 Bay Day festival was held Saturday, May 15th from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Kemah Boardwalk in Kemah, Texas. Despite the rainy conditions, 85 volunteers, 18 exhibitors, and 13 sponsors helped make Bay Day a successful celebration of Galveston Bay. Families enjoyed live entertainment, interactive exhibits, and the popular Blue Crab Scavenger Hunt. Featured acts included environmental entertainers Billy B, Mad Science, and Mr. Habitat. Music was provided by DJ Michael Robertson, Percussion One, and L.T. and the Zydeco Mob.

Texans cheerleaders and Toro were on hand to meet festival visitors. Children and adults alike had fun learning about the multiple uses and importance of the Galveston Bay system at exhibitor booths. Visitors met different types of bay wildlife, including crabs, baby alligators, and birds.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, exhibitors, and sponsors who made Bay Day shine, regardless of the rainy weather! Please see page 4 for the 2010 Bay Gazer Photo Contest winners.

Thank you *Bay Day* Sponsors!



Houston Endowment, Inc.

John P. McGovern Foundation



Galveston Bay Foundation

News from the President

By Bob Stokes

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As I write this story, it is day 77 of the Deepwater Horizon Gulf oil spill. Tar balls have just been found on the Bolivar Peninsula and on Galveston Island. They were found in very small quantities, and some suggest it is a short-term anomaly. It is hard to take any solace in that fact, even if true, as oil continues to pour into the Gulf and the impacts from this spill have historically been very difficult to predict. Although it has taken over two months for this small amount of oil to reach Texas beaches, we simply don't know how much more might wash up on our beaches or when it might hit. What is striking to me about this whole event is how little we really know about every facet of the oil spill—from our inability to plug the spill, to our inability to predict the movement of the oil, to our inability to truly understand the impacts on the marine environment of the oil and the dispersants being used. We know a little bit about each of these areas, but the rest is playing out in front of us in a giant outdoor classroom.

Fortunately, to date, much of this classroom has been several hundred miles east of Galveston Bay. GBF, however, has taken steps on many levels to increase our readiness to respond to something like this if it were to occur locally. To begin with, a GBF staff member continues to participate on the Central Texas Coastal Area Committee (CTCAC). CTCAC is a statutorily mandated Area Committee that comprises federal (USCG, EPA, and MMS), state (TCEQ and TGLO), local (CERT-Harris County Citizen Corps), industry, and non-governmental organizations. The idea behind it is to maintain the Area Oil Spill/ HazMat Response Plan (The One Gulf Plan) and establish and maintain sound working relationships across the spectrum of the membership. If we do have any impacts from

this spill or any others, we will coordinate our response with all CTCAC members.

In addition, GBF staff members are completing training that will allow them to assist with oiled wildlife response. This training includes several FEMA emergency response classes, HazWoper training (dealing with hazardous wastes), and an oiled wildlife workshop given by longtime partner Wildlife Rehab and Education Center. Finally, we have created an oil spill page on our website that gives updates and information on the spill. We also have a website where volunteers may sign up to help respond to any local impacts should they occur.

Our next quarterly meeting in September will include a panel of local experts on oil spill response in Galveston Bay from agencies such as the Texas General Land Office and the U.S. Coast Guard. We will ask those experts to discuss the planning, training, and response plans applicable to Galveston Bay. We are fortunate to have some of the most sophisticated response capabilities in the nation in Galveston Bay.

Thus, despite the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the Gulf oil spill and its local impacts, GBF is taking concrete steps that will increase our response expertise as an organization. We are also continuing to communicate with the various natural resource agencies who would respond to an event like this in Galveston Bay. We will update you on these efforts and others in person at our quarterly meeting in September. Until then, we'll hope that the impacts to the Texas coast and Galveston Bay remain limited and that our full response efforts locally are never needed!



GBF is a 501(c)(3) organization affiliated with EarthShare of Texas and with Restore America's Estuaries.

GBF Land Trust Program

The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) is dedicated to preserving and enhancing natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system. One of the most visible ways GBF is working to accomplish this mission is through land conservation. GBF has protected over 3,000 acres of critical upland and aquatic habitat in three counties as a part of our growing land trust program.

GBF accepts donations of land and conservation easements on a case-by-case basis. Conservation easements are an excellent tool for landowners who wish to protect habitat from future development, but who also wish to retain family ownership of the land. Donors of land or easements often qualify for federal tax benefits depending on the value of their donation. When GBF accepts a title to a property or a conservation easement on that property, we accept the responsibility of maintaining that property or easement forever. For that reason, GBF evaluates each tract carefully to determine whether or not the tract supports GBF's conservation goals and strategic plan.

When GBF protects a tract of land, we assume a perpetual responsibility to manage the property for the benefit of plants and animals native to the region. Management activities necessary to maintain, enhance, or restore the conservation properties are often continuous and time consuming. Listed below are some ongoing projects on GBF properties:

- Rich Sanctuary (Chambers County): Chinese tallow control, brush management, and wetland restoration.
- Shipe Woods (Chambers County): Hurricane Ike debris cleanup and shoreline stabilization.
- Sweetwater Preserve (Galveston Island): Brush management, prairie restoration, and fence construction.



Rich Sanctuary: (L) Overgrown moist soil unit that does not function; (R) tallow treatment that we will follow up on in July.



Shipe Woods: Completed Hurricane Ike debris removal project. (L: Before; R: After)



Sweetwater Preserve: (L) Created freshwater wetland; (R) shoreline stabilization.

Meet New GBF Conservation Lands Manager Matt Singer



Please join us in welcoming Matt Singer to the Galveston Bay Foundation staff. Matt is the conservation lands manager responsible for addressing issues on our properties and monitoring our conservation easements.

Other responsibilities include identifying future property acquisition opportunities and guiding GBF through the national land trust accreditation process. GBF is excited about Matt's role and looks forward to everyone meeting him.

Welcome, Matt!

2010 Bay Gazer Photo Contest Winners



First Place
Congratulations, Ryan Martin!
"Texas Broad-Banded Water Snake"
8th Grade Seabrook Intermediate



Second Place
William Blalock
"All Caught Up!" - Blue Crab
8th Grade Seabrook Intermediate



Third Place
Emily Hansen
"Of Grace" - White Pelican
9th Grade Clear Lake High School

2010 Bike Around the Bay Registration Open

October 16-17, 2010



The Galveston Bay Foundation is pleased to announce that Shell is the new title sponsor of Bike Around the Bay 2010, and that the ride is now a BP MS 150 Recommended Ride.

We are also excited to announce that registration for Bike Around the Bay is now open.

Visit the ride website,
www.bikearoundthebay.org,
to register today!



Join us for a fully supported 2-day 150 mile fun ride around Galveston Bay!

Spotlight on ...GBF Corporate Supporter Wiredin.cc



Eddie Harper and Chiquita Taylor, owners of Wiredin.cc, at GBF's first annual Oyster Restoration Benefit in April 2010.

The Galveston Bay Foundation is pleased to spotlight Wiredin.cc, "the first and premier online resource for what's happening in the Bay Area" and a major advocate for GBF for the last several years.

Eddie Harper founded Wiredin.cc in 2001 as an online newspaper for League City, focusing on city government and social events. Chiquita Taylor became his business partner in 2007, expanding the website geographically to cover all of the bay area, from Kemah and Seabrook to Galveston Island.

Wiredin.cc promotes and attends festivals, galas and fundraisers throughout the bay area. Now in its 9th year, Wiredin.cc has documented the bay area's happenings with more than 100,000 photos, 250 videos on YouTube, and thousands of daily visitors to their website. Their weekly e-newsletter, "eTalk of The Bay," is delivered to more than 6,000 contacts.

Chiquita says, "Eddie and I are both advocates for our environment, but we really had not done anything to promote living green." In 2008, Wiredin.cc and GBF president, Bob Stokes, met to discuss promoting GBF, and that's when "The Green Thing" was born.

"The Green Thing" is the icon of living green. He promotes weekly tips and ideas of how to live green. He can be seen on the GBF website or in Wiredin.cc's e-newsletter.

While covering some of the events that GBF hosts, Wiredin.cc realized the outreach potential of events like Bay Day and Marsh Mania. "The events that are hosted by GBF are educational, fun and hands-on; perfect events for Wiredin.cc to help get the word out," says Eddie. Wiredin.cc is on board again this year to promote the 5th annual Redfish Raft Up, an event started by the late Tom Lober, owner of Star Fleets, to bring boaters together to Redfish Island to enjoy a concert by singer/songwriter Kelly McGuire, all for the benefit of GBF.

Wiredin.cc said, "We've now had the opportunity to work with several different people in the GBF office. It quickly became apparent that they are very well educated, passionate, and care about their work and our bay area." The Galveston Bay Foundation looks forward to continue working with Wiredin.cc to promote, protect, preserve, and enhance Galveston Bay.



Left: Chiquita and Eddie on the *Star Gazer* at Redfish Raft Up 2009. Redfish Raft Up is Sunday, September 5, 2010. Visit our website, www.galvbay.org, to purchase tickets to cruise out to Redfish Island on the *Star Gazer*, purchase tickets for our raffle, and purchase this year's GBF membership and shirt combo packs.

"GBF has become our 'go to' source and guidance for environmental questions and challenges," Chiquita says. When Ike devastated the area, Wiredin.cc went along to document the damage and the cleanup first hand. "Now, with the oil spill in the Gulf, we are once again taking our cues from GBF."



Above: Chiquita interviews a "Clean Up Around the Bay" volunteer in 2008.

Boater Waste Education Campaign

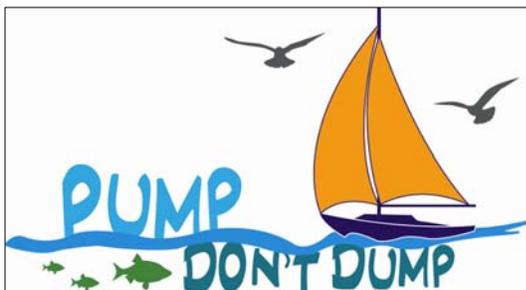
GBF's Boater Waste Education Committee and TMDL Workgroup are working together to reduce illegal boater sewage discharge in Clear Lake and Galveston Bay through targeted education and outreach.

As we are now in the middle of the boating season, GBF would like to remind you that untreated boater sewage may never be discharged into Texas waters inside 3 miles of the Gulf Coast. In order to properly dispose of boater waste, you must use an approved pumpout device, station, or service. Please go to the GBF website, www.galvbay.org, to get more information about pump out locations, watch our "How to" pumpout video, and take our survey for boat owners.

GBF would also like to announce our TMDL public meetings that will take place in July to update stakeholders about the oyster waters TMDL Implementation Plan. The dates and locations of the meetings are:

- July 20, 2010 at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Facility at 4700 Avenue U (NOAA) in Galveston at 7:00 pm
- July 21, 2010 at American Legion Hall in Anahuac at 7:00 pm
- July 22, 2010 at Clear Lake Park in Seabrook at 7:00 pm

At these meetings, each workgroup chair will discuss the management measures they are recommending for the Implementation Plan. Refreshments will be served.



New Board Chair James Doyle



Trial lawyer and partner in the law firm of Doyle, Restrepo, Harvin, & Robbins, LLC, James E. Doyle grew up around Galveston Bay and is the newly appointed board chairman of the GBF executive committee.

He shares his second home on the bay with children and grandchildren, and when asked what motivated him to get involved with GBF, James said, "It's the single most dominant and important natural feature of our community. To preserve, protect, enhance and encourage the use of such a feature and asset is a special opportunity and responsibility."

James has enjoyed experiences with his great-grandfather and grandfather who made Bolivar Peninsula, the Bay, and the Gulf a part of their lives. He also shared stories with his great aunt, who traveled by carriage and summered in tents at Rollover Pass 100 years ago.

James is interested in the creation of greater access and outreach of the Bay to a broader community of the surrounding counties, and a continued effort to protect and improve the water's quality and the shoreline's amenities.

We look forward to James' leadership as chairman of the Galveston Bay Foundation executive committee.

Welcome new GBF Accounting Manager Janice Christensen

We are excited to welcome new GBF Accounting Manager, Janice Christensen. Janice has a diverse accounting background, having worked for several large organizations in San Antonio, Austin, and the Houston area. She is responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, grant billing, and financial statements. Please join us in welcoming Janice to GBF!

Marsh Mania 2010

Marsh Mania 2010 was held on May 1st at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Nassau Bay, Sheldon Lake State Park, and Terramar, and again on June 5th at Sportsman Road and Virginia Point. 339 volunteers, a.k.a. "Marsh Maniacs," helped restore an estimated 5.68 acres of wetlands by planting approximately 43,715 plants. After their hard work, volunteers were treated to lunch, t-shirts, and door prize drawings.

In twelve years, Marsh Mania has involved 5,878 community volunteers in the restoration of an estimated 172 acres of vital salt marsh habitat at 61 sites around Galveston Bay. Thank you to all those who made Marsh Mania 2010 a huge success!



Friends and family of Marsha Hill, pictured above, planted marsh in her honor on June 5th.

Marsh Maniacs all over Galveston Bay helped restore 5.68 acres of wetlands!

Thank you to our Marsh Mania 2010 sponsors!



Oyster Restoration Benefit and Call for Volunteers

The Galveston Bay Foundation hosted its first annual Oyster Restoration Benefit on Saturday, April 24th at the 18th Street Pier Bar & Grill in San Leon. Guests enjoyed food catered by TopWater Grill and live music played by local bands Zentropy, Spiny Norman, and Kicking Klouds. Several lucky raffle winners walked away with prizes donated by: Bass Pro Shop (Pearland), Cabela's, CCA Texas, E-Z Wade, Fish-N-Hunt, Holiday Inn (Webster/NASA/Clear Lake), Pei Wei Asian Diner, Say It With Sweets, Texas Parks and Wildlife, The Children's Museum of Houston, The Houston Museum of Natural Science, and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

Proceeds from the benefit will be used in GBF's efforts to restore Galveston Bay's oyster reefs. Two of those efforts are through involvement in community-based projects that involve restoring oyster reefs on the western shoreline of Galveston Bay near Eagle Point and Kemah. GBF is currently recruiting volunteers who are willing to participate in the Kemah oyster reef restoration project. Volunteers will be essential in the oyster gardening process, helping to bag reclaimed shell, shown left, and then hang and monitor the bags from piers. Shell bags hang during peak oyster spawning months, maximizing the amount of oyster larvae that attach to the shell. "Spat"--the pre-adult oysters--will continue to develop on the shell before the shells are ultimately dispersed over artificially-constructed reef beds.



Volunteers bagging shells.

This restoration project is *not* gardening oysters for consumption; all reef sites will be off-limits to commercial fishing. GBF's oyster restoration projects aim only to add ecological services to Galveston Bay. Email tanders@galvbay.org to get involved!



Bill Rodney, right, is a member of Zentropy as well as an oyster restoration biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. GBF and TPWD are working together to restore oyster reefs in the Bay.



GALVESTON BAY FOUNDATION

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The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system for present users and for posterity.

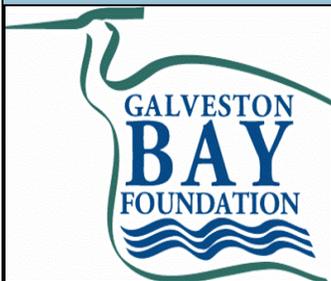


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Photos in this month's issue of the GBF Gazette contributed by:
Bay Day Photo Contest Winners
GBF Staff
Gene Fisseler
Wiredin.cc

For event details and volunteer opportunities, visit our website at www.galvbay.org.

ADVOCACY
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
RESEARCH



We hope you'll join us for **Bike Around the Bay 2010!** See page 4 for all the details and visit www.bikearoundthebay.org to register today!

Save these dates!

August 10, 2010

GBF featured as Astros Play Green group
(Look for ticket request via email soon)

Sunday, September 5, 2010

Redfish Raft Up
Redfish Island

(See page 5 for more details)

Wednesday, September 15, 2010

Guardian of the Bay Luncheon
Hotel ZaZa

Saturday- Sunday, October 16-17, 2010

Bike Around the Bay
(See page 4 for all the details)