



# The Pelican Post

Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation Newsletter  
Summer 2000



First Place - Open Flora - Jeff Cernyar  
More photos on pages 2 - 3.

## Foundation Announces Photo Winners

Eighty - one excellent entries were received in the first photo contest co-sponsored by the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation and the Weeks Bay NERR. The contest, which included three categories of flora, fauna and habitat in both an open and junior division, was for photographs taken within the boundaries of the Reserve between July 1999 and July 2000.

Based on the participation, an expanded contest is planned for next year, according to **John Borom**. "We are pleased with the response and the excellent caliber of the photographs," he said. "The judges had a difficult time reaching a consensus. We are glad that so many area residents and visitors are coming out to enjoy the natural beauty of the Reserve and documenting it in beautiful photographs."

First place award winners are featured in this issue of *The Pelican Post*. Watch future issues of the newsletter and the Foundation's Web site at [www.weeksbay.org](http://www.weeksbay.org) for additional photos.

## Weeks Bay Volunteers Honored by County Commission

Two active volunteers for the Weeks Bay Reserve and Foundation were honored by the Baldwin County Commission with Outstanding Individual Citizen Environmental Awards. **John Borom** and **Fred Nation** were among those recognized at the Aug. 1 County Commission meeting, based on the recommendations of the County's Environmental Advisory Board.

John Borom has been a leader over the past 25 years in establishing partnerships between private organizations and public agencies to preserve the natural environment in Baldwin County. He played a vital role in the development of the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to his work as Director of the Fairhope Campus of Faulkner State Community College, he currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation, chairs the Advisory Committee for the Weeks Bay NERR, and is active as a board member and officer with numerous environmental organizations, including Forever Wild, the Alabama Coastal Foundation, the Mobile Bay Audubon Society, Baldwin County Historical Development Commission and Baldwin County Archaeological Commission. *continued on page 3*



Tom Schmitz, (far right) vice chairman of the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Board, presents awards to (l-r) Ron McClinton, Gene Labrato, Fred Nation, Charlene Dindo, John Borom and Stillman Knight.

## PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



*First Place - Junior Habitat - Ryan Rasinen*



*First Place - Open Habitat - Delores Lyles*



*First Place - Open Fauna - Jennifer Wolff*

### **Photography Contest Winners Open Division**

#### **Flora**

First - Jeff Cernyar, Bay Minette  
Second - Porter Marco McKnight,  
Daphne  
Honorable - Shannon Leigh  
Anderson, Daphne

#### **Fauna**

First - Jennifer Wolff, Savannah,  
Ga.  
Second - Shannon Leigh Anderson,  
Daphne  
Honorable - Joni Plomp, Daphne

#### **Habitat**

First - Delores Lyles, Daphne  
Second - Neil McEwin Quinn,  
Montrose  
Honorable - Bob Wright, Fairhope



First Place - Junior Flora - Frances Mosteller

**Junior Division  
Flora**

- First - Frances Mosteller, Mobile
- Second - Curry Trice, Daphne
- Honorable - Frances Mosteller, Mobile

**Volunteers Honored** *continued from page 1*

Fred Nation is a self-taught authority on native plants. As a citizen volunteer, he leads tours for school children, teachers and environmental groups at the Weeks Bay NERR. He is a frequent speaker at community meetings on using native plants for landscaping and the problems of invasive exotic plants. Currently he is assisting the City of Daphne in identifying and planning protection of outstanding trees in city parks. He also is assisting the Fairhope Tree Commission in identifying specimens for educational tree trails on public property.

Other award recipients included **Ron McClinton**, Ace Hardware Distribution Center, Large Business Award; **Gene Labrato**, Wolf Bay Watershed Watch, Environmental Organization Award; **Charlene Dindo**, The Pelican's Nest Science Lab, Fairhope K-1 Center, Educational Program Award; **Stillman Knight**, Audubon Park Apartments, Small Business Award; **The Utilities Board of Gulf Shores**, Government Award; and **Joey Bunch**, Director of Editorial Services for CNN, formerly with the Baldwin Press Register, Media Award.



First Place - Junior Fauna - Casey Rasinen

**Fauna**

- First - Casey Rasinen, Gulf Shores
- Second - Casey Rasinen, Gulf Shores

**Habitat**

- First - Ryan Rasinen, Gulf Shores
- Second - Bryan Quinn, Montrose
- Honorable - Justin Smith, Silverhill

**ExxonMobil Interns Assist with Research**

Two interns assisted with research projects this summer through an intern program funded by ExxonMobil Production. **Alisa Sheldon**, a 15-year old student at the Alabama School of Mathematics and Science in Mobile returned for a second summer to work with graduate researcher **Krista Van Amerongen** searching for the diamondback terrapin, a turtle that lives in salt marshes along the coast. In order to catch turtles, they baited modified crab traps and checked for terrapins at regular intervals during the week. At press time, no diamondback terrapins had been caught in Weeks Bay, but the study will continue through the end of August.

**Lauree Stober**, a senior majoring in biology with a minor in geology at the University of South Alabama, worked with **Dr. Douglas Haywick** in the Department of Earth Sciences at USA studying grain size distribution in two-meter long sediment cores that have been extracted from various locations in Weeks Bay. The variation in grain size may reveal subtle changes in deposit patterns over the past 6000 years associated with changing environments and sea levels.

Of particular interest in the sedimentation study is the impact of hurricanes on estuarine environments along the Gulf Coast. Previous work by geology students at USA has suggested that sand layers deposited within the central part of the bay are derived through episodic storms and floods. Lauree's work will help establish the recurrence interval of these events in Weeks Bay and southern Alabama coastal area.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### **Coastal Cleanup 2000 Coming**

The 13th Annual National Coastal Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 16, 2000. Registration will be at the far end of the parking lot at the Weeks Bay Marina (Big Bob's) beginning at 8 a.m. A free lunch for volunteers will be offered at the Reserve's Interpretive Center.

Please be sure to register before heading out to pick up debris. At registration, volunteers receive a data record form, trash bags and a specific site assignment.

Encourage a friend or two to join you in donating a few hours toward this worthy environmental cause. Come join more than 3,500 other Alabamians who clean our coastline of 45,000 pounds of debris each year!

### **Coast Weeks 2000 Planning Underway**

During the three-week Coast Weeks 2000 autumn event, the Weeks Bay Reserve is hosting a variety of activities for the public (see Calendar on page 6 for September and October). For information on other area Coast Weeks 2000 events, contact the ADECA Coastal Programs Office at 626-0042.



*Hundreds of shoppers and volunteers attended last year's Native Plant Sale.*

### **Native Plant Sale Set for Oct. 6 - 8**

The Weeks Bay Volunteers will hold their seventh annual Native Plant Sale on Friday, Oct. 6, Saturday, Oct. 7 and Sunday, Oct. 8. This year's sale will again be held at the Safe Harbor R.V. Resort, located across Highway 98 from the Reserve. This property, which was recently acquired by the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation, is a wonderful location for the Native Plant Sale, with plenty of parking.

According to Volunteer Coordinator

Maureen Nation, the native plant sale has become one of the largest of its type in the southeast and is a great opportunity to obtain native plants at a reasonable price. Many plant experts, including local Master Gardeners, will be on hand to answer questions.

Volunteers are needed before, during, and after the plant sale. If you are interested in helping with the plant sale, call the Reserve at 928-9792.

### **Invasive Exotic Plant Workshop Sept. 23**

On Saturday, Sept. 23, the Weeks Bay Reserve and the Weeks Bay Volunteers will co-sponsor the second of three planned workshops on invasive exotic plant species. The workshop will be held at the Auburn University Research Experiment Station on Highway 104 in Fairhope. A small registration fee will be charged to cover lunch and materials. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged.

Invasive exotic plant species cause great damage to natural ecosystems throughout the world. Some of the most damaging plant species that are well established here in Baldwin County include kudzu, popcorn trees and cogongrass.

Unfortunately, new exotics are being introduced all the time. A new threat, especially to undeveloped wild areas, is the air potato. This attractive, exotic vine grows aggressively and will quickly overwhelm native vegetation including large trees. The air potato reproduces by bulbils that resemble potatoes. These round bulbils float in water and are easily carried into new areas.

For more information on invasive exotic plants or to register for the workshop, call the Reserve at 928-9792.

### **Conservation Easement Workshop Report**

Our area's first workshop concerning the basics of conservation easements was held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Mobile on May 9, 2000. Co-sponsored by the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation, the Weeks Bay Watershed Project, The Alabama Forest Resources Center, The Land Trust Alliance and US EPA Region IV, the one-day workshop included presentations from attorneys and conservation easement specialists from North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Alabama. More than 90 people attended, including landowners, realtors, attorneys and accountants.

Additional workshops are in the planning stages. For more information about conservation easements, contact The Alabama Forest Resources Center office in Mobile (334) 304-0043.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Jane Jeffers

The sound of her smooth, Southern voice distinguishes her from a group and the excitement she conveys in conversation no doubt keeps the attention of children and adults alike. Who is this intriguing volunteer? **Jane Jeffers** is in the spotlight this issue.

Jane has been a volunteer since 1993 when she drove by the Reserve and stopped to "see what all the commotion was about." That day she learned what an estuary was and even helped out by answering the phone. She was hooked!

Jane has volunteered in many capacities at the Reserve. She says, "By volunteering I have learned so much, including new facts about native plants, birds, bird migrations and trees. The Reserve is such a fun place to be. Every time you visit there is something going on. There's always a buzz!"

These days Jane's primary volunteer responsibility is assisting **Margaret Holcombe**, Education Coordinator, with presentations and "hands-on" activities for visiting school groups. She enjoys working with the children and especially enjoys taking school groups down the boardwalk to identify various trees and plants. If she had to choose, Jane's favorite group would be first graders because of their participation in the "touch lab," a hands-on experience where children

identify different fish and natural objects. Jane is proud to say that no school group leaves without knowing the definition of an estuary.

In addition to her volunteer duties at the Reserve, Jane is a Master Gardener and works with independent floral designer **Kitty Chew** of Jubilee Flowers, assisting in the creation of floral arrangements for weddings and parties.

When she's not volunteering or working, you might find Jane in a library. Jane enjoys storytelling and is a member of a story-telling guild. Members travel to nursing homes and libraries to tell stories including ghost stories, children's Bible stories and even Grimm's Fairy Tales.



*Reserve staff are often made aware of injured animals that would die without assistance. **Dr. David R. Dykes**, a local veterinarian in Foley, volunteers his service by evaluating injured animals, assisting in recovery, and aiding release back into the wild when possible.*

*Dr. Dykes has removed fishing lures from Brown Pelicans, patched up broken turtle shells, and recently evaluated an ill Broad-winged Hawk. He uses his scientific knowledge and skills for the protection of animal health and the relief of animal suffering. The staff at Weeks Bay Reserve on behalf of all the recovered animals wish to say "thank you Dr. Dykes for your professional and compassionate volunteer service."*



*Weeks Bay Reserve staff and volunteers enjoyed a summer field trip to Gailliard Island, also known as "Pelican Island" in Mobile Bay. **Roger Clay**, non-game wildlife biologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, conducted a tour of the island and its various bird habitats. According to Clay, about 1,000 pairs of nesting pelicans were on the island this summer. The group was able to see nests with eggs and many fledgling birds of all ages.*

## CALENDAR

The Weeks Bay Reserve Interpretive Center is open to the public Monday – Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, call the Reserve at (334)928-9792 or fax (334)928-1792.

### September

White shrimp are migrating from estuaries to spawn in the Gulf. Submerged aquatic grassbeds reach their maximum sizes.

4 Labor Day Holiday. Interpretive Center will be closed Monday. All trails and boardwalks will remain open.

5 Citizens Advisory Committee of the Weeks Bay Watershed Project meeting, 6 p.m. at the Reserve.

12 Guest Lecture Series. "The Alabama Red-bellied Turtle, the Official State Reptile" presented by Dr. David Nelson of the University of South Alabama 7:30 p.m., Faulkner State Community College, Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. A Foundation event.

13 Alternative Wastewater Treatment Systems Workshop. 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Weeks Bay Reserve. Contact the Reserve at 928-9792 for further information. A Coast Weeks event.

14 Weeks Bay Advisory Committee meeting, 2 p.m. at the Reserve

16 13th Annual Coastal Cleanup, Saturday 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Registration at the Weeks Bay Marina (Big Bob's), Hwy. 98 at Fish River. Please register at the marina and return all trash for weighing. Free lunch for volunteers at the Interpretive Center. Contact Bob McCormack at the Reserve, 928-9792 for more information. A Coast Weeks event.

23 Non-Native and Invasive Plant Species Workshop. Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Contact Maureen Nation at the Reserve, 928-9792 for more information. A Coast Weeks event.

23 Tour Mobile Tensaw Delta aboard the Wildlife Expectations passenger vessel "Gator Bait." A two-hour narrated field trip. Leave Chickasaw Marina at 8 a.m. Limit 20 people. \$15 each. For more information contact John Borom at 990-0420. A Foundation event.

27 Weeks Bay Reserve Symposium & Site Review. Learn about recent research activities at the Reserve. The public is encouraged to attend. Faulkner State Community College in Fairhope, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information contact the Reserve at 928-9792. A Coast Weeks event.

30 US Coast Guard Boating Course. Alabama requires all boat operators to obtain the necessary certification. Attend course to receive certificate. To register and for further information, contact Bob Gibson at (334) 990-5534. A Coast Weeks event.

### October

Striped mullet spawning season. Many species of hawks are migrating through the area.

3 Citizens Advisory Committee of the Weeks Bay Watershed Project meeting, 6 p.m. at the Reserve.

6-8 Native Plant Sale. Friday – Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Annual event sponsored by the Weeks Bay Volunteers. Contact Maureen Nation at the Reserve, 928-9792 for more information. A Coast Weeks event.

9 Columbus Day Holiday. Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open.

10 Guest Lecture Series. "Wild Flowers and Native Plants of the

Mobile Area" presented by Dr. Michael Lelong, botanist, at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. A Foundation event.

21 Field trip to Ft. Morgan to observe migrating hawks and neo-tropical migrants. Meet at Ft. Morgan at 8 a.m. A Foundation event.

24 Guest Lecture Series. "Nutrients in the Mobile Bay Estuary" presented by Dr. Jonathan Pennock of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. 7:30 p.m. at Faulkner State Community College, Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. A Foundation event.

### November

Red-breasted Mergansers are common in the estuary. Look for secretive Henslow's Sparrows around the Kurt G. Wintermeyer Boardwalk.

13 Guest Lecture Series. "Brainless, Spineless, But Are They Clueless? Explorations of Jellyfish in the Northern Gulf of Mexico" presented by Dr. Monty Graham of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. 7:30 p.m., Faulkner State Community College, Fairhope Campus, Centennial Hall. A Foundation event.

18 Field trip to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Estuarium. Meet at the Estuarium at Dauphin Island Sea Lab at 9 a.m. Cost is \$2.50 per person. A Foundation event.

## Substrate Resident



Gulf Ghost Shrimp  
(*Callinassa jamaicensis*  
*louisianensis*)

Many creatures live their lives unnoticed and have no commercial value, however they play important roles in estuarine productivity. Gulf Ghost Shrimp (*Callinassa jamaicensis* *louisianensis*) are about three inches long,

smooth, glossy, white and delicate. The first pair of walking legs are unequal in size, flattened and end in sharp pinchers.

They typically live along the edges of tidal marshes on the northern Gulf, where they construct complex, branching burrows in fine, sandy mud sediments. The animals feed on the organic matter in the sediment which they excavate, and this burrowing behavior makes them an important part of the estuarine environment.

During feeding and burrow construction, they are continuously processing the sediment causing mixing and transportation of particles and gases. By enhancing the mixing of nutrients, oxygen and bacteria in the sediments, ghost shrimp create conditions under which vital processes occur. The ammonia is oxidized by bacteria to nitrate, then

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continued from page 6

converted by other bacteria to nitrogen gas. Without burrows, nitrogen removal from the bay water would be reduced. The presence of burrows ultimately increases the oxygen content of the sediment leading to a healthier estuary.

## Nature's Calendar

The bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) mating and calving season primarily occurs from February through May, but additional breeding may also take place during summer and fall. Females give birth to a single calf only once every two or three years, after a 12 month gestation period. A lifetime total of eight calves is believed typical for females.

The fetus emerges flukes first, and the whole birth process seldom requires much more than 20 minutes. A "midwife" dolphin usually attends, and together the mother and midwife push the newborn to the surface for its first breath of air, and it begins to swim from the moment of birth.

Newborn calves are about three feet long at birth, weigh 20 to 30 pounds, and nurse up to two and a half years following birth. "Babysitting" has been observed, in which nearby adults remain with the calf as its mother forages for food. As they age, young dolphins become more independent, tasting "scraps" of food in the wake of feeding adults and gradually learn to hunt on their own. Males mature at 10 to 13 years of age when they are approximately eight feet long, and females mature at 5 to 12 years at approximately seven and a half feet in length.



Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)

## Fertile Fisheries Crescent

Estuaries are partially enclosed bodies of water formed where turbid, nutrient rich freshwater from rivers and streams flows into the ocean, mixing with the clear, nutrient poor salty sea water. When sunlight penetrates these shallow coastal waters, a high zone of biological activity occurs—primary productivity. Soon, the phytoplankton begin to grow, zooplankton come along to graze on them, then smaller fish, then larger fish, and the food web is built.

Many species of fish and shellfish rely on the nutrient rich, sheltered waters of estuaries as protected places to spawn, giving them the

nickname "nurseries of the sea." Hundreds of marine organisms, including most commercially valuable fish species, depend on estuaries at some point during their development.

In the 1960's, the late **Dr. Gordon Gunter** at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi named the northern Gulf of Mexico the "Fertile Fisheries Crescent." In 1975, the late **Dr. George Rounsefell** at the Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory in Alabama estimated that fully 95% of the annual commercial catch in the Gulf of Mexico is dependent on coastal wetlands.

According to the National Marine Fisheries Service, the 1998 commercial landings for all species combined in Alabama, Florida west coast, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas was 1,570,315,578 pounds valued at \$776,961,394. According to **Dr. Rick Wallace** at the Auburn University Marine Extension and Research Center in Mobile, the economic impact on the Gulf Coast can be roughly estimated by multiplying the commercial landings by 3.5. In 1998, that value was \$2,719,364,879. Preserving estuaries is well worth the effort!

### Observations by John Borom

*A cryptic Marsh Rabbit  
swimming silently in a tidal creek,  
Alert American Alligator eyes  
above the water's surface taking a peek,*

*The clattering of Clapper Rails  
making quite a noise,  
the grunts of Pig Frogs  
sitting on lily pads with poise,*

*An elegant Great Egret  
perching in a Bald Cypress tree,  
A Salt Marsh Mallow flower  
yielding pollen to a Honey Bee,*

*The breaching of Bottlenose Dolphins  
swimming along in the fog,  
The splash of a Nutria  
as it jumps off a log,*

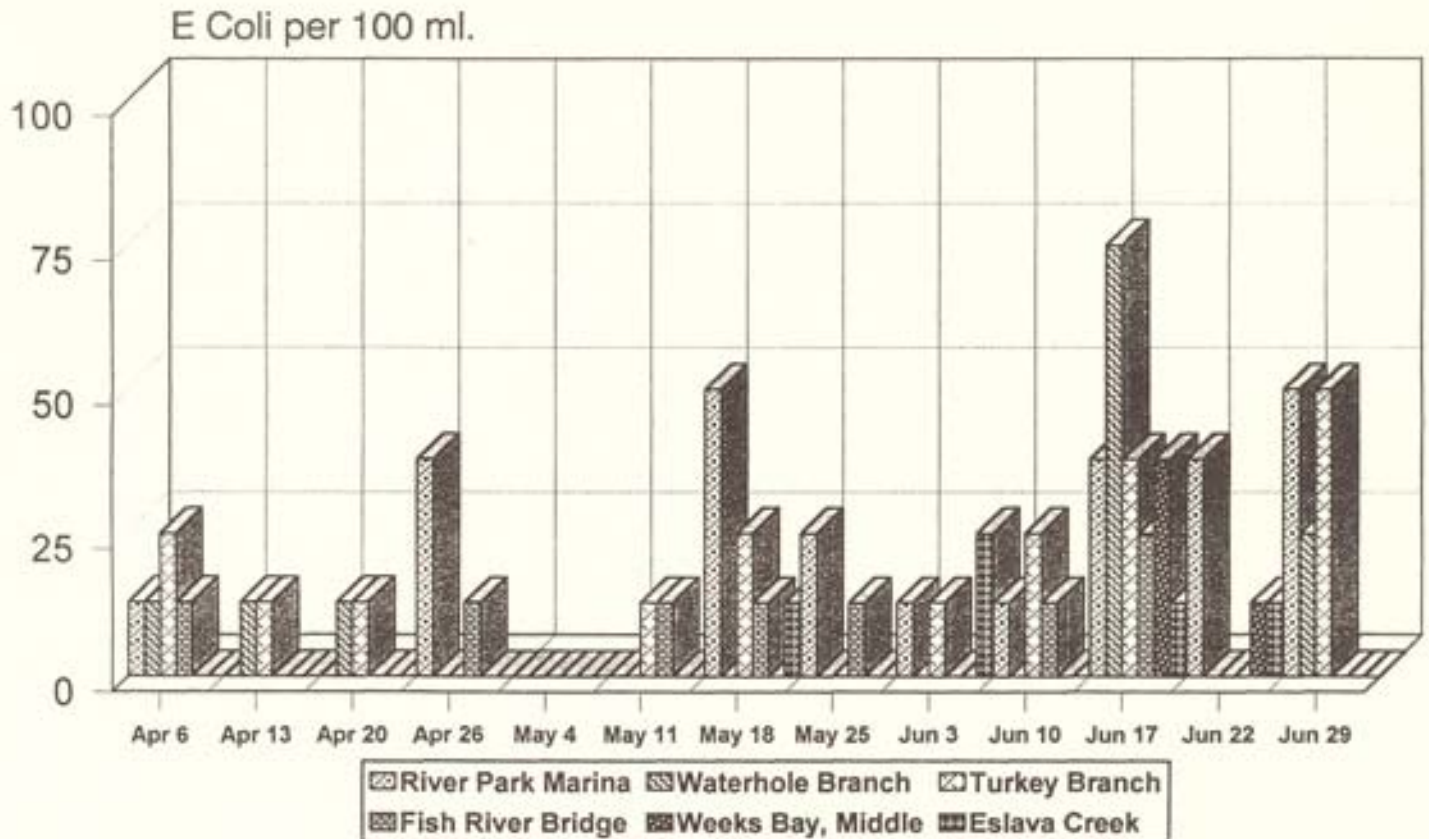
*Long-winged Black Skimmers  
skimming in graceful flight,  
A beautiful Blue Crab  
molting near Wigeon Grass at night,*

*A silent Brown Pelican  
diving into the water with ease,  
The rustling of Smooth Cordgrass  
caused by a soft and gentle breeze,*

*Delicate Monarch Butterflies  
migrating and fluttering by,  
A lone Great Blue Heron  
tall and still against a blazing sky,*

*Only in the Estuary  
can you hear and see,  
All these things—  
where rivers meet the sea.*

## Weeks Bay Watershed E. Coli Counts: April - June 2000



Note: EPA Limit is 295

### THE WEEKS BAY RESERVE FOUNDATION THANKS OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS AND DONORS

*Summer 2000*

Hodge & Allison Alves  
 Arden & Charmaine Ball  
 John Borom  
 Lucy Buffett (Lulu's Sunset Grill)  
 Earl & Dianne Burts  
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 Jim and Betty Thompson

*In Memory of Jonathan B. Newman*  
 Wade E. Carden  
 Mr. & Mrs. Emmett L. Carden

**Safe Harbor RV Resort Open for Fun!**

The Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation invites you to visit the new and improved **Safe Harbor RV Resort** located directly across Highway 98 from the Weeks Bay Reserve.



**CALL TODAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS  
FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!**

**Safe Harbor RV Resort**  
 11401 U.S. Highway 98  
 Fairhope, AL 36532  
 (334) 928-2629 or (800) 928-4544  
 New Manager: Roger Plemons

## Reserve Welcomes New GIS Technician

In May the Weeks Bay Reserve welcomed a new addition to the team, **Sarah Johnston**. Sarah is the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technician for the Reserve, a new position created by the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and mandated for all reserves.

Sarah, a geography major who is fond of the outdoors, creates computer-generated maps for the Reserve as well as the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Coastal Programs. In the field, Sarah snaps digital photos of sites and uses the Global Positioning System (GPS) to take site coordinates.



Sarah Johnston

What is the draw for Sarah? It seems a love of science and drawing steered this young woman into map-making. She describes her career as "a good way to combine both interests." Her interest in science includes collecting rocks while her interest in art leads her to drawing cartoons in her spare time.

Sarah, a Baldwin County native of Magnolia Springs, attended the University of South Alabama in Mobile and graduated with a geography major and an art minor. During college, Sarah made initial contact with the Reserve through an internship.

Currently Sarah is working on an exciting new project involving the creation of water quality monitoring maps. Each map shows pertinent water quality data, all of which was collected by the Reserve's own volunteers, as well as a map of the area and a digital photo.

## Kudos for River Cleanup Volunteers

Sixty-five people of all ages gathered at the Weeks Bay Reserve on June 3 for River Cleanup 2000, a national program in its fourth year at the Reserve. The group plucked more 1,500 pounds of trash and debris from the waterways of the Fish and Magnolia Rivers and Weeks Bay.

Dozens of individuals, several families, and group participants from Home Depot, the Soil & Water Conservation District, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Weeks Bay Watershed Project gave their time and efforts. River Cleanup Co-Coordinator **Eve Brantley** said "The community contacts and returning cleanup veterans' efforts really boosted the number of participants this year for a record crowd and record results."

In addition to all the participants, special thanks are offered to the volunteers assisting with registration and preparing the free lunch. Watch your mail for news about next year's River Cleanup, planned for early May, 2001.

## Drugs from the Deep

Osteoporosis is a crippling disease marked by a wasting away of bone mass. As many as 25 million Americans are affected, 90 percent of them postmenopausal women, at an expense of 10 billion dollars a year, according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation. The disease is believed to be responsible for 1.5 million fractures of the hip, wrist and spine in people over 50 and may cause 50,000 deaths. Experts say it is crucial to have therapy alternatives for patients who cannot tolerate estrogen, the first-line treatment, or for whom estrogen is not an option.

A hormone called calcitonin is secreted by the thyroid gland of mammals and by the ultimobranchial gland of nonmammalian vertebrates. Calcitonin helps regulate calcium and decrease bone loss. It inhibits the activity of specialized bone cells called osteoclasts that absorb bone tissue. This allows bone to retain more bone mass. For osteoporosis patients, taking salmon calcitonin is 30 times more potent than human calcitonin.

Calcitonin in drugs is based chemically on salmon calcitonin. It is now synthesized in the lab in a form that copies the molecular structure of salmon ultimobranchial gland extract. Synthetic salmon calcitonin is a simpler and more economical way to create large quantities of the product.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the first drug based on salmon calcitonin, Calcimar, an injectable form, in 1975. Since then, two drugs marketed under the trade name Miacalcin—one injectable form and one administered through a nasal spray—were approved. An oral version is presently in clinical trials. It is important for us to remember that wild salmon populations depend on estuaries for their survival.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Sand tiger sharks (*Odontaspis taurus*) have an unusual survival-of-the-fittest strategy in the womb. Six to eight embryos are produced in each of the mother's two oviducts. The largest, strongest sibling kills and consumes the others, so that sand tigers typically have two babies, one per oviduct. This system allows only the most likely to survive to be born. They are big, up to two-fifths the length of the mother and have a good head start.



Sand tiger shark (*Odontaspis taurus*)

### Board of Directors

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### Newsletter Committee

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 Carey Bentley  
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 Skipper Tonsmeire

Suggestions and comments from readers on future topics of interest are welcome. If you know of others who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, call the Foundation at 990-5004. *The Pelican Post* is produced quarterly by PRADCOM, Inc. of Fairhope, AL. Karen McGuire Moore, President. Funds for publication are provided by members of the Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation.

## JOIN US!

### Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation

Weeks Bay Reserve Foundation is a non-profit organization whose members provide assistance and support to the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's goals and programs.

As a member, you will be joining a group of people with similar interests and concerns for natural resources. You can become directly involved with the Reserve's research and educational programs by volunteering to help with field trips, seminars, cultural events, newsletters, and special projects.

You will be regularly informed of Reserve activities through newsletters, special mailings, and meetings. The opportunities for involvement are unlimited. Whatever your talents or interests, the Reserve can use your support. You, the environment, and your community will benefit as a result of your membership. If you are not a member and would like to join, please mail this form along with your tax-deductible donation.

NAME _____	
COMPANY/ORGANIZATION _____	<u>Memberships</u>
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Fairhope, AL 36533	<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____</b>
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 - John F. Kennedy

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Willet  
*(Catophorus semipalmatus)*

