



Pelican Post

A quarterly publication - Weeks Bay Foundation

Fall 2009
Vol. 24, No. 3



Best of Show
Weeks Bay Photography Contest



Best of Show
Priscilla Ray

1st Place
Robert Hicks
2nd Place
Sherry Stimpson Frost
3rd Place
Sherry Stimpson Frost
Honorable Mention
Dorie Parsons
Honorable Mention
Kathy Hicks

1st Place
Kathy Hicks
2nd Place
Susie Wallace
3rd Place
Connie Hicks
Honorable Mention
Robert Hicks
Honorable Mention
Sarah Diard

1st Place
Sherry Werner
2nd Place
Kathleen Carlen
3rd Place
Kathleen Carlen
Honorable Mention
Sherry Stimpson Frost
Honorable Mention
Susie Wallace

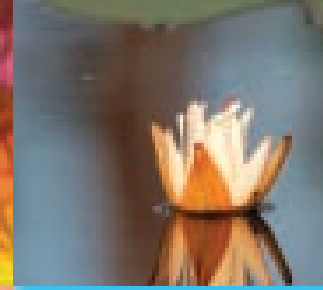
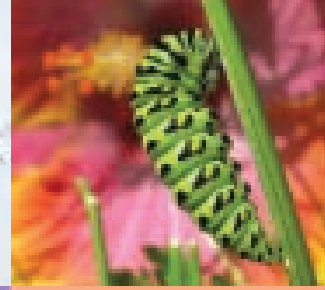
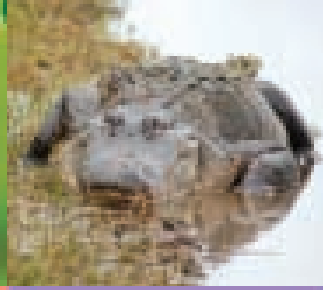
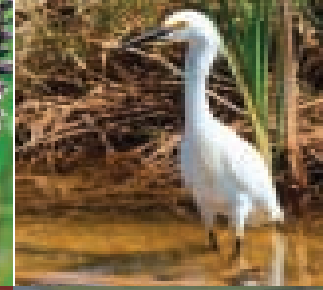
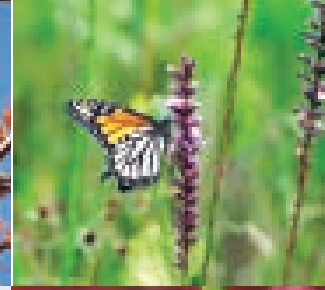
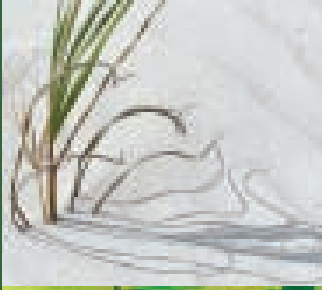
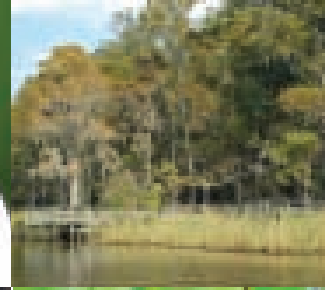
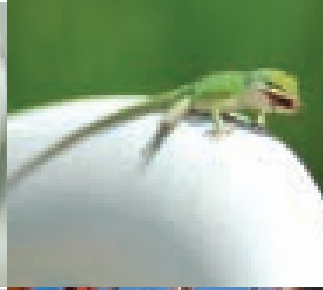
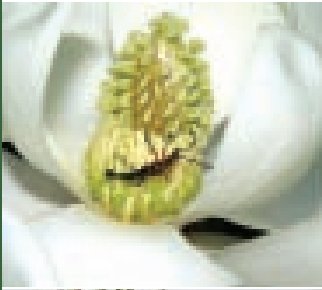
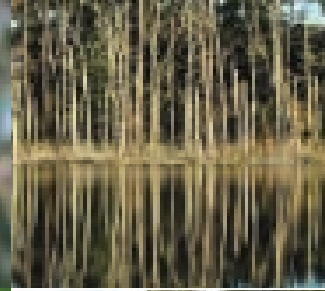
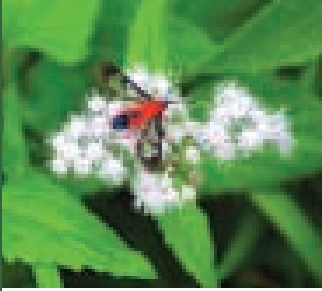
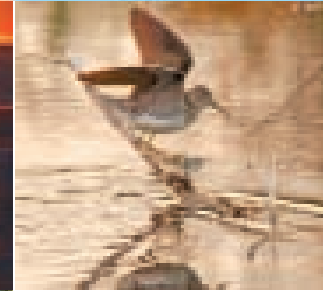
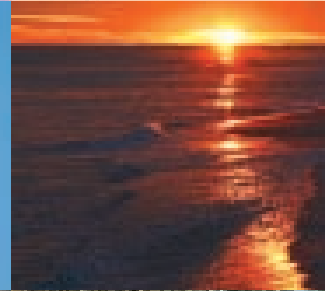
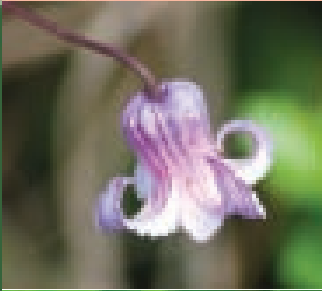
1st Place
Chase Diard
2nd Place
Chase Diard
3rd Place
Bess Diard
Honorable Mention
Bess Diard
Honorable Mention
Bess Diard

Open Flora

Open Fauna

Open Habitat

Junior



2009 Photography Contest Winners

The 10th Annual Weeks Bay Photography Contest had 80 beautiful entries. The sponsors were the Foundation, the Reserve and the Eastern Shore Art Center. The yearly event is a time to focus on the natural beauty of coastal Alabama and to share that beauty with others. The winning entries were displayed at the Art Center's Wilson Gallery during the month of July. They can also be seen on the Foundation's website at www.weeksbay.org along with previous years' winners on the Past Projects page.

From the Executive Director...



We have had a busy summer. The Foundation has completed work on the Land Trust Accreditation process, expanded the boundaries of the Foundation's Juniper Preserve and conducted our Annual Photography Contest. We could not have accomplished our work in conservation without your support.

One of the things that I am thankful for is the natural beauty of the flora and fauna of coastal Alabama. The Foundation's Annual Photography Contest is a great way to demonstrate that beauty.

Mark your calendar for the 6th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest. This year's event will be held on October 15-18. For more information, visit www.weeksbay.org. Look for the Foundation's food booth at the Bird and Conservation Expo on the Fairhope Campus of Faulkner State Community College on Saturday, October 17.



The Foundation looks forward to hosting a special event celebrating the creation of the new **Legacy Circle**. The Legacy Circle will recognize our donors who have contributed more than \$5,000 to the Foundation. Members of the Legacy Circle will be honored during an evening at the new Arthur C. "Skipper" Tonsmeire III Weeks Bay Resource Center, highlighted by a tour on the *Weeks Bay Explorer*.

Now is the time to consider year-end conservation easement or land donations to the Foundation. Enjoy the Fall issue of *The Pelican Post*.

Working for Conservation,

Walter

Make a Difference!

Your contributions to the Foundation will help the Foundation continue promoting stewardship and developing the next generation of conservation leaders. Please consider making a donation designated to one of the following funds:

Land Acquisition Fund: This is designed to assist in the costs associated with land acquisition activities.

Scott Ireland Memorial Water-Quality Fund: This is designed to assist with water quality monitoring and testing activities.

The Weeks Bay Foundation is now part of the **Southwest Alabama Combined Federal Campaign**. To donate, look for the Foundation - Charity Code 37621 - in the index of the CFC brochure.

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The Weeks Bay Foundation is a non-profit organization whose members work to protect the natural resources of coastal Alabama and to provide assistance and support for the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's goals and programs.

Layout and Design by
Kelly Anderson
KellyAndersonDesigns.com

Volunteer Spotlight

Sally DeMott is often seen in the conference room at the Reserve, buried under every manner of scientific journal articles. She is eminently qualified for this work but, just as importantly, she is willing to work her way through piles of paper, to catalog and organize these scientific resources into a database, to make them retrievable to researchers. Sally says that she particularly likes this work because it offers her the flexibility to work when she wants and for as long she likes.



Sally came to Baldwin County because she was tired of fighting the traffic in the Washington, D.C. area. While visiting friends in Fairhope over the years, she became attracted to this area, and chose to settle here when she had the chance. She was born in upper New York State and was raised in central Pennsylvania. She has a B.A. from Bucknell University and a Master of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania. Sally did additional graduate work at the Virginia Biological Station and the Rocky Mountain Biological Station.

Sally has over 35 years of experience in the biological sciences. During that time, she taught biology and Advanced Placed Biology to high school students. In addition, she taught A. P. Biology workshops for teachers. Sally also worked in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in the Mammal Division for two years, and in their Resident Associate Program, providing programs for elementary students who live in the D. C. area.

When asked why she chose to volunteer at the Reserve, Sally said that she wanted to do something science related, where she might be able to use some of her experience. **Scott Phipps**, the Research Coordinator at the Reserve, says

that he is very glad that Sally's contributions to the Reserve are being recognized, "She is making it possible for me and other researchers to work more effectively. Sally is just such a wonderful and interesting person to work with and to engage in conversation. We are very lucky to have her skills here at Weeks Bay Reserve."

ExxonMobil Summer Intern

The Foundation was the recipient of a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation to fund an intern for the 2009 ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program. **Erin Sanford** was selected from among the many qualified applicants to assist the Foundation and Reserve for eight weeks this summer.



Erin graduated from Millsaps College, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. Erin will begin her graduate studies in the fall of 2009 at the University of South Alabama where she will be pursuing her Master of Science degree in Marine Sciences. She will also be conducting research at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. Although her exact thesis has not been determined, she will be studying marine microbes and their environments.

During the summer, Erin helped with the Discovery Day Camp and the Art Without Limits program, performed data entry for the Weeks Bay Watershed Project, assisted with water-quality testing after receiving training at an Alabama Water Watch class, helped with the Foundation's Weeks Bay Photo Contest and assisted high school international baccalaureate students with a research project.

JOIN US!

Volunteers are indispensable to our education and conservation efforts at the Reserve. For more information on becoming part of this interesting program

Please contact:
Maureen Nation, Volunteer Coordinator
frednmoe@bellsouth.net

2009 BirdFest

Registration for the 6th Annual John L. Borom Alabama Coastal BirdFest is now open, organizers said. "We're

ready to accept reservations for our 19 guided tours and two evening events," said **John Borom**, chairman of the festival. The four-day, eco-tourism event takes place October 15-18, 2009.



An addition this year to BirdFest is a donation drive with a drawing that should appeal to locals and visitors alike, explained **Fran Morley**, BirdFest nestkeeper. "Corporate donations are down this year, so to help support BirdFest and Weeks Bay Foundation, we are seeking donations. For a little extra incentive, we are going to draw names for three wonderful vacations. We have a three-night stay on Alabama Gulf Coast beaches, courtesy of Meyer Real Estate, a luxurious overnight package with dinner and golf from the Marriott Grand Hotel in Point Clear and a three-night stay at Vieh's Bed & Breakfast, which is in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, a prime spot for serious birding."

The drawing is part of a donation drive by BirdFest and the Foundation, which will share in the profits. "A donation is not required to be part of the drawing, but we hope that readers will want to help support BirdFest and the Foundation," said Morley. Entry forms are available at the Foundation office, from Foundation board members and from BirdFest volunteers. The suggested donation amount is \$5 for one entry or \$20 for five entries. The drawing will be held at the Bird & Conservation Expo on Saturday, October 17.

To register for this year's Alabama Coastal BirdFest, visit www.AlabamaCoastalBirdFest.com, or call (251) 625-0814 and request a brochure by mail.

Marsh Bird Survey

As many readers may recall, there has been ongoing research looking at the secretive behavior of marsh birds in the Weeks Bay area. This is part of the biological monitoring initiative of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System where many reserves around the nation have conducted similar research following the same protocols and sampling methods. This work has continued in 2009 with a project funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with the University of Arizona. Researcher **Sybil Glenos** has spent much of the summer rising before day-break to be at her sampling stations at first light. Her training is from Auburn University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine



Clapper Rail slips through the marsh near the mouth of Weeks Bay in Alabama, photo by Fred Nation

Biology. Ms. Glenos describes her work as very interesting because you never know what you will see or hear when you broadcast bird calls in the early morning hours.

Ms. Glenos coordinates her methodology with **Dr. Courtney Conway** of the University of Arizona. The current study includes field work at Weeks Bay Reserve and also at the Grand Bay Reserve, located just across the Mississippi state line. The survey is looking at specific species of secretive marsh birds of conservational concern at reserves nationwide.

Ms. Glenos' study is looking at 16 species of interest and trying to answer three questions: 1) What is the vocal peak of the secretive species of interest; 2) How do tides affect the vocal peaks; and 3) How do birds from different parts of the country vary in their dialects and response to the broadcasting calls of the researcher. Sybil Glenos continued her summer work through August and has made contact with many interesting birds living in the lush emergent marshes of Weeks Bay.

Watershed Project

The Weeks Bay Watershed Project celebrates 15 years of constant effort to improve water quality in the Fish and Magnolia Rivers. It began in 1994 when **Patti Hurley** of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and **Larry Morris** of the Natural Resource Conservation Service started talking of funds available for addressing problems in the watershed. Today **Mike Shelton**, Watershed Coordinator, and the **Citizens Advisory Committee** continue to make great strides at addressing water-quality issues, identifying strategies for resolution and bringing together partners to implement best management practices in the watershed.



Larry Morris works with former CAC Chair Gena Todia

When the first of several grants was secured, the lead committee was made up mostly of agency representatives. A second committee was formed for technical assistance, while a third, citizen-based committee was formed to represent the diverse stakeholders in the community. Over the years, this Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has continued to be the sounding board for water-quality issues. Many members of the CAC are familiar faces of the watershed efforts including **Carey Bentley**, **Bob Miller**, **Randy Roach** and **Everette Weeks**. Others have since joined the CAC efforts, making up the diverse group that today continues to address water-quality problems with on-the-ground solutions. **Bill Penry** has for many years taken a lead role with the CAC in his capacity as chairman of the Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District (District). It is with much appreciation that the Watershed Project continues to benefit from the District.

It had been recognized from the inception of the Watershed Project that good leadership was critical to accomplishing the goals set forth in the

grant. The first Watershed Coordinator, **Tina Lynn**, was hired and based at the Reserve from 1995-97. She organized volunteer water-quality monitors in coordination with **Bill Deusch** of Auburn University and the Alabama Water Watch. When Tina moved to New Jersey, **Eve Brantley** took the lead as Watershed Coordinator from 1998-2001. She made great strides in pulling together all the stakeholders to rally around the common goal of ensuring that the rivers run clean. As monitoring continued, an emphasis on identifying the sources of water-quality problems in the watershed increased. When Eve left, **Richard Coram**, volunteer extraordinaire, became acting coordinator. In 2002, Mike Shelton took on the challenge of coordinating watershed efforts. During his early tenure, the state identified 303 (d) listed streams and impaired waterways in the Weeks Bay watershed. Monitoring was refined, cutting edge techniques were explored and source tracking began.

The Weeks Bay Watershed Project has experienced staff changes, retirements, floods, rapid development, budget constraints and a storm of other challenges. What endures is the commitment to keep our waterways clean and address problems on the land that cause water-quality impairments. The realization comes to many that what is bountiful for our common use comes with a commitment of good stewardship. The Weeks Bay Watershed Project continues to be effective through good leadership, partnerships and the commitment that no challenge is too great to be addressed. Celebrate 15 years of this watershed effort with your own personal commitment to contribute where you can to improve water quality in the Weeks Bay watershed.

The Reserve and the Foundation would like to recognize the 2009 Citizens Advisory Committee members for their dedicated service and ongoing support of Weeks Bay Watershed Project: **Miriam Boutwell**, Chair; **Everette J. Weeks**, Vice Chair; members, **Carey Bentley**; **Frank Leatherbury**; **Robert Miller**; **W.H. Penry**; **Everett Smith**; **Gena Todia**; **Mary Ann Underwood**; **Leslie Weeks** (affiliated but not active); **Jeff Boone**; and advisors, **Patti Hurley**, ADEM; **Larry Morris**, NRCS (retired); **Randy Roach**, USFWS TAC Advisor (retired); and Watershed Assistant, **Richard Coram**.

Coastal Training Program

The Coastal Training Program (CTP) at the Reserve conducted several training events for coastal decision-makers. Training events included one on wetland regulation and compliance issues targeting a realtor and legal audience and a wildland/urban interface workshop. The wetland regulation workshop was conducted with help from the Alabama Coastal Foundation, the Mobile Area and Baldwin County Associations of Realtors and Hand Arendall, LLC. CTP Coordinator, **Mike Shelton** worked with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission, the Forestry Commission and the Cooperative Extension Service to help the audience better understand the challenges and concerns arising in the interfaces between the rural and urban environments.

The upcoming months will be filled with additional training events. Grand Bay and Weeks Bay Reserves will host a wetland restoration workshop featuring wetland expert **Dr. Andy Clewell**. Dr. Clewell has worked on projects along the Pascagoula and Pearl Rivers in Mississippi, projects on reclaimed coal mines in Kentucky and projects in phosphate-mined areas in Florida, to name only a few. Also, submerged aquatic vegetation restoration will be the topic of a workshop done in coordination with ADCNR Coastal Section, Barry Vittor & Associates, the Department of Environmental Management and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab. See the calendar on page 10 for dates, or for more information, contact Mike Shelton (251) 928-9792.

Water Quality Protection in Theaters

The Reserve, the Foundation, Dauphin Island Sea Lab and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance are using a different approach to get the environmental message to local citizens. Over a six-month period, an animated spot will be shown before each movie - about 19,000 times - at the Rave Motion Pictures theater in Daphne, Alabama. The message delivers information about the damage caused by polluted stormwater runoff and directs viewers to a website, www.gulfallianceeducation.org.

Graduate Research

John Eric Ezell, Starkville, Mississippi, is a recent recipient of the Graduate Research Fellowship program. He is working on his Master of Science degree from Mississippi State University. His study will take a look at two little known areas, the biogeochemistry of the sediment in the bay and the distribution of very low oxygen concentrations (hypoxia) in the water column.



John Eric Ezell works on field samples in a make-shift lab in the Weeks Bay Auditorium

For the proposed hypoxia research, ten sediment cores will be taken from selected sampling locations in Weeks Bay. Microelectrode profiles will be conducted on these cores to measure oxygen (O₂)

and sulfide (H₂S) concentrations as well as measurements that reveal the potential for bottom sediments to consume oxygen. This data will provide an understanding of the geochemistry of the sediment in Weeks Bay during hypoxic events and normal oxygen conditions and will provide a measure of the differences among the sampling locations.

Water column measurements including dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, salinity and specific conductivity will be recorded at the selected locations on a day/night cycle primarily in the summer months but also throughout the year when phytoplankton blooms are present. The analyzed data will identify which areas in Weeks Bay are most likely to undergo seasonal hypoxia and will shed light on the interplay between the water column and the bottom sediments. The resulting information may be applied to studies concerning a wide range of topics and should be a good asset to the Reserve staff and future researchers.

River Cleanup

Number thirteen brought no bad luck for the volunteers taking part in the 13th Annual Weeks Bay Area River Cleanup. Eager volunteers met at the Weeks Bay Resource Center on Saturday, May 9, 2009, to pick up debris by boat, by car or by truck from Weeks Bay, Fish and Magnolia Rivers and their tributaries. Eighty-seven cleanup participants recovered about 4,500 lbs of trash. Many participants were lucky enough to be rewarded with some great door prizes. Everyone who attended River Cleanup left knowing they had done their part to keep the water clean.



Charlie Shelton helps fill the dumpster with trash removed from Weeks Bay

For the third year, Weeks Bay Area River Cleanup was part of Alabama Power's Renew Our Rivers campaign which generously provided t-shirts and cleanup materials. The Weeks Bay Reserve, ADCNR Lands Division Coastal Section along with the Weeks Bay Watershed Project and its Citizens Advisory Committee, Baldwin County Soil and Water Conservation District, Baldwin County Commission, **Greer Radcliff**, Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, Bay Animal Clinic North, Weeks Bay Foundation, and NOAA provided support for the 2009 cleanup event. Baldwin County Sewer Service provided lunch for hungry volunteers. Mark your long-range calendars for the next River Cleanup on May 8, 2010.

EstuaryLive Broadcast

On May 15, Reserve staff teamed up with other Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources employees to broadcast two, one-hour EstuaryLive (ELive) shows. ELive is a virtual fieldtrip, via the internet, that brings est-

uaries from around the country directly to classrooms. On May 1, three other reserves broadcast ELive programs using satellite technology, but Weeks Bay was the first reserve to use the direct to the internet broadcasting method.

The theme for the Weeks Bay Reserve programs was "Threatened and Endangered Species of Coastal Alabama." The programs focused on three coastal habitats and some of the threatened and endangered animal species that live in them. Several experts from the area brought live animals to display and discuss during the programs. The Reserve would like to thank the following on-camera talent: **Dan Everson**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *Gopher Turtles*; **Roger Clay**, ADCNR Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, *Black Pine and Indigo snakes*; **Rick**



Cast and crew of the Weeks Bay Reserve EstuaryLive broadcast
O'Connor, Washington High School in Florida, *Diamondback Terrapins*; **Susan Clement**, Mobile County Public Schools Environmental Studies Center, *Brown Pelicans*; **Dr. David Nelson**, University of South Alabama, *Alabama Red-bellied Turtles*; and **Wesley Moore**, Alligator Alley, *American Alligators*.

All indications are that the Weeks Bay Reserve ELive broadcasts were a great success! Estimates are that between 1,500 and 2,000 students viewed the broadcasts. The "Live" component of the program involved students emailing their questions during the shows. The experts answered as many questions as time allowed during the live broadcasts, but this year over 400 questions were received from students across the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The Weeks Bay Reserve programs received more questions than the other three ELive programs combined! In the weeks following the broadcasts, the education staff at the Reserve replied to every question. Go to www.estuaries.gov under the EstuaryLive archives section if you wish to view the programs.

Regional Training

The Foundation's Gulf Regional Training program recently hosted several workshops throughout the Gulf Coast. In collaboration with the Apalachicola Reserve Coastal Training Program (CTP), an Innovative Floodplain Strategies workshop was held in Cedar Key, Florida. Attendees learned how conservation planning and protection of marshes, floodplains and other wetlands can protect coastal resources while also helping to reduce storm and flooding impacts.

The Gulf Regional Training program collaborated with the Rookery Bay Reserve CTP in Naples, Florida, to host a Living Shorelines workshop.

Living Shorelines are a habitat-friendly alternative to traditional waterfront property stabilization techniques such as bulkheads and seawalls. Speakers discussed the barriers and benefits of living shorelines while walking attendees through the complicated permitting process in Southwest Florida.



Attendees of the Innovative Floodplain Strategies workshop in Cedar Key, Florida participate in a conservation planning mapping exercise

In addition to those in Florida, events were also held in coastal Texas and Mississippi. Two geographic information systems (GIS) training sessions were held at Texas A&M Corpus Christi in partnership with the Mission-Aransas Reserve CTP and the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Both introductory and advanced courses were offered, and gave participants the opportunity to understand the basics of GIS through hands-on computer training. Lastly, a Wetlands and Water Quality workshop was held in early August in each of Mississippi's three coastal counties in partnership with the Grand Bay Reserve CTP.

Planning for the fall's Gulf Regional Training events is well underway. October will be a busy month, with wetland workshops planned for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. For more information on upcoming Gulf Regional Training events, contact **Amy Gohres**, Gulf Regional Training Coordinator at the Foundation office, (251) 990-5004.

Thanks to Our Donors

May - July

L. G. & Margee Adams	Mayor Tim Kant
In memory of Chris C. DeLaney	Michael & Cindy McBrearty
Alabama Coastal BirdFest	Joe & Kate McNeel
Anonymous	James & Helen Moffat
Baldwin County	In honor of Skipper Tonsmeire
Commission	Patricia A. Portier
Baldwin County	Marion & Jamie Quina
Department of	In memory of Bill Ireland
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to Our Environment!

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Weeks Bay Foundation!

Join us by returning the enclosed membership envelope or look for the link on our home page at www.weeksbay.org.

Annual Memberships

Individual \$30	Family \$50
Business \$250	Lifetime \$1000

Fall 2009 Calendar

September

- 1 **Wetland Regulation and Compliance for Landowners Workshop.** Mobile, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information, contact **Mike Shelton**, (251) 928-9792.
- 7 **Labor Day.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.
- 8 **Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting for the Weeks Bay Watershed Project.** Weeks Bay Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 **Guest Lecture Series "East Africa, Tanzania 2009: Ngorongoro Conservation Area World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve, Lake Manyara National Park, Ruaha National Park, and Zanzibar"** presented by **John Borom**. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.
- 9 **Weeks Bay Advisory Committee Meeting.** Arthur C. "Skipper" Tonsmeire III, Weeks Bay Resource Center, 2:00 p.m.
- 15-17 **Hydric Soils Workshop.** 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Mike Shelton, (251) 928-9792.
- 19 **22nd Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup.** Weeks Bay Marina, 8:00 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact the Reserve, (251) 928-9792.

October

- 3 **Reception for Legacy Circle members.** Arthur C. "Skipper" Tonsmeire III, Weeks Bay Resource Center, 5:00 p.m.

6-7 **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation/Seagrasses Workshop.** 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Mike Shelton, (251) 928-9792.

9-11 **Weeks Bay Native Plant Sale.** Safe Harbor at Weeks Bay, across U.S. Highway 98 from the Reserve Interpretive Center, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

12 **Columbus Day.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.

13 **Guest Lecture Series "Plastic Bags and Our Environment"** presented by **Tom Herder**, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

15-18 **Alabama Coastal BirdFest.** For information and registration for guided tours and free events, go to www.weeksbay.org and click on Alabama Coastal BirdFest.

17 **Flying Wild Workshop.** Training on birds for Alabama teachers. Bell Building, Faulkner State Community College, Fairhope Campus, 9:00 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact **Margaret Sedlecky**, (251) 928-9792.

28-29 **Wetland Restoration Workshop.** Grand Bay Reserve, Mississippi, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact Mike Shelton, (251) 928-9792.

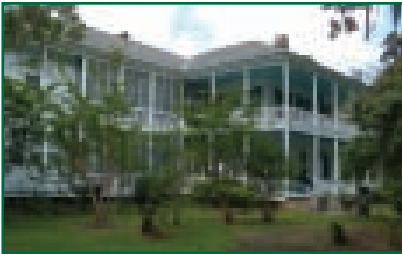
November

10 **Guest Lecture Series "Dauphin Island, Alabama: America's Birdiest City and the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries"** presented by **John Porter**. 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend.

11 **Veterans Day.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.

26 **Thanksgiving.** The Interpretive Center will be closed. All trails and boardwalks will remain open for your walking and sightseeing pleasure.

Swift-Coles Historic Home Tour



On Sunday, May 24, the Foundation hosted a fund-raising event at the **Swift-Coles Historic Home** in Bon Secour, Alabama. About 100 visitors viewed the house and grounds, with tours guided by members of the Baldwin County Historical Society.



Foundation Board Members Carey Bentley and Bob Holk greet visitors at the Swift-Coles Home tour

The Swift-Coles Home is one of the oldest tidewater mansions in Baldwin County. The house on Bon Secour Bay was originally built in 1882 as a four room home for the **Charles Swift** family. In 1902, the home was expanded to 16 rooms. **Nik Coles** purchased it in 1976 and began a lengthy and thorough restoration. Upon Mr. Coles' death, it was bequeathed to the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission which manages the property along with the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History. For more information, visit www.co.baldwin.al.us and click on the link for the Swift-Coles Historic Home.

The Foundation thanks the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History and the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission for the allowing us host the fund-raising event at the Swift-Coles Home.

Summer Programs



Joanne from the DISL teach students about marine organisms during a touch lab

The new Weeks Bay Resource Center provided ample room to host a variety of summer programs for local students. The hard work of Reserve staff, Dauphin Island Sea Lab staff, Beckwith camp

counselors and art instructors from the Eastern Shore Art Center allowed this year's summer educational programs to be a great success. Over eighty local students participated in a range of creative and learning activities.



Students show-off their masterpieces created at the Reserve's Art Without Limits summer camp

Seining, creating art, hiking nature trails and investigating the microscopic world were just a few of the activities in which the students participated.

**16th Annual
Native Plant Sale!**
at Safe Harbor - Weeks Bay
Friday, Saturday & Sunday
October 9, 10 & 11
9 AM - 4 PM

*Shrubs + Perennials
Butterfly Plants + Trees
Hummingbird Plants
Weekend Plants
Dune Plants + More*

**Safe Harbor at Weeks Bay
is across US Highway 98
from Weeks Bay Reserve.**

Weeks Bay Foundation

11401 US Highway 98
Fairhope, Alabama 36532
(251) 990-5004
www.weeksbay.org

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Permit # 1226



Photo by John Borom

Boat-tailed Grackle
(*Quiscalus major*)

*"The doors we open and close each day decide the lives we live."
-Unknown*

Juniper Preserve Expanded

In August, the Foundation purchased a 3.2 acre parcel that adjoins an 8.5 acre tract purchased last year. This acquisition increased the size of the Juniper Preserve to 29.7 acres of restored pitcher plant bog and wetland habitats. The additional acreage will serve as a wetland buffer and sustain critical habitat for migratory birds and wildlife. Funds from the **Jack Edwards Conservation Fund** - a portion of which was donated by the Alabama Coastal BirdFest - were utilized for this purchase.



The southern white-fringed orchid, *Platanthera conspicua*, flowers in late summer and is one of the showiest native orchids. This beautiful, immaculate white orchid was first discovered by **Dr. Bill Summerour** at the Juniper Preserve in 2006 at which time only 20 plants were found. In response to the Foundation's prescribed burn program the population has now increased to over 400 plants. The Juniper Preserve is the only site along the Alabama Gulf Coast where this rare orchid is known to occur, making the Juniper Preserve and the acquisition of a buffer zone especially important.

The Foundation works to protect this and other ecologically-sensitive lands in coastal Alabama, serving as a land trust for the area, and can accept donations of land and conservation easements. For more information about conservation options, call (251) 990-5004.



Southern white-fringed orchid at the Foundation's Juniper Preserve, photo courtesy of Dr. Bill Summerour